

**Introduction to Psychology
PSYC 1301-001
University of Texas at Tyler
Spring 2025**

Instructional Information

Instructor	Office	E-mail address	Virtual Office hours
Dr. Ralph	HPR 209	<u>yralph@uttyler.edu</u>	<u>Tues & Thurs 11-12:30</u>

Course Materials and Resources

Required Textbook

Psychology 2e

This text is available for free to students at:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

Other materials

Bag of supplies including:

- A small bag of multicolored candy such as Skittles
- At least 6 pipe cleaners of different colors
- 4 (or more) small tubs of different colored PlayDoh
- Colored pencils

NOTE: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Required Canvas Use

Check the course Canvas page daily: you are responsible for any information I convey through Canvas, UT-Tyler email, or in class, as well as information contained in documents in the “Modules” tab. Pay special attention to the Course Calendar and the Assignments and Activities descriptions. Go to Canvas settings and set up your notifications to “subscribe” to such announcements and comments from me so you will not miss anything. I give feedback on some assignments through the comments feature. You will find those in the same place you submitted an online assignment on the right-hand side reading “comments.” I often attach drafts of documents here with tracked changes and comments; make sure you know how to view tracked changes and comments in Word if they are not automatically visible for you.

Technology

You will need to submit some assignments in .doc format. Use of Microsoft Word is strongly encouraged instead of Apple’s Pages, Google Drive documents, or any other programs. If you do not have Microsoft Word, please visit the following page for instructions for how to download it for free:

<https://www.uttyler.edu/it/office365/365-proplus-students.php>

E-mail

Please check e-mail and Canvas **daily** on weekdays. Before asking a question via e-mail, always check the syllabus and recent Canvas announcements first. E-mail me using your patriot mail, **NOT** Canvas inbox messaging. I check e-mail 8-5 on weekdays and usually avoid it in the evenings or weekends. I will do my best to return emails within one business day and I expect a similar turnaround time from you. I get hundreds of emails a week. **For all emails, please put PSYC 1301 in the subject line.**

Course Catalog Description

A survey of empirically based knowledge of behavior and mentation of individuals.

Student Learning Outcomes

Content

At the end of this course, you should be able to master course content (remembering and understanding) in major areas such as:

- 1) Critical Thinking Skills (includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information). Students will be able to apply their critical thinking skills throughout this class. Through lecture time, students are presented with published research studies from psychology and information on how to critically analyze them.
- 2) Communication Skills (includes effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication. Students will be able to apply their communication skills through expression of ideas from psychology during class lecture time.
- 3) Empirical and Quantitative Skills (includes the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts and results in informed conclusions). Students will be able to apply empirical quantitative skills that illustrate an understanding of the techniques and methods of psychology.
- 4) Social Responsibility (includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities) Although psychology is the study of individual characteristics, students are exposed to topics such as social psychology, in which interactions between people becomes the focus, including race relations and prejudice. Individual difference is explored in relation to both “nature and nurture,” the latter including contextual differences such as culture. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the factors which affect human interactions and relationships.

Course Policies

Drop-in hours and one-on-ones

Drop-in hours: Each week I will set aside a few hours (Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:30) just for students. During this time, I invite you to join me in an open Zoom room to discuss any questions or ideas you have about the course or your education in general. The room will be open, and everyone can come and go as they please so multiple students may be in the “room” at a time. If you would rather have a one-on-one meeting, we can schedule that as well (see below).

One-on-one meetings. If you want to meet with me one-on-one, just email me (with the course number in the subject line) to work out a time that works for both of us. Sometime during this semester, I hope to switch to a calendar where you can just select an available time. For now though, we’ll just set it up via email. Even if we discuss meeting when we are face-to-face (like in class or bumping into one another in the hall) please email me. That way, I make sure I get it in my calendar.

Make-up and Late Work

I will consider make-up or late work on a case-by-case basis. If you know that you will not be able to take an exam, turn in an assignment, ect. by the due date, see me **as soon as you know this so we can discuss it.** The exception to this is the weekly reading quizzes. These cannot be turned in late for credit.

Course and Meeting Information

Structure of Course

This course is completely online which gives you a lot of flexibility on when you complete readings, watch lecture videos, etc., but this is not a “work at your own pace” course. We will all move together week by week and assignments will all have firm due dates. Part of the reason for this is to help keep you on track and part of it is to facilitate discussion etc. With online classes it can sometimes be easy to feel a bit isolated and anonymous. Especially with classes as large as ours (over 100 students!). To help reduce the likelihood of that in this class, we will have group conversations, discussion boards and “in-class” activities. Because of this, modules won’t be available in advance to help keep us all on the same pace.

When I teach this class in person, I use an interactive approach that includes activities, discussion, and lecture rather than just lecture. The same will be true for our online course. Each week you will have a “brief” lecture video for each of the sections that we are covering. These will generally be 20-ish minutes a piece and there will usually be 4-5 videos. All together that will be about 100-120 minutes. Classes are usually 160 minutes a week. That means that the rest of the time (about an hour) each week will be devoted to “in-class” activities. These will each have a walkthrough video and something that you will turn in at the end. Just like any other class you will also have “out of class” assignments as well. That means when you look at each week’s checklist, it can seem like a LOT, but they activities and assignments have been carefully selected to make sure that they are manageable. And, of course, if you are uncertain or struggling, let me know! I’m here to help guide you in your learning adventure.

Your grades will come from:

Assignments:

1. **Reading Assignments:** These are designed to be completed as you do the reading each week. Sometimes, when reading textbooks, it is easy to find your mind slipping to other things. By completing these assignments as you read, you can make sure that you are engaged and absorbing the material. These are graded, and make up 20% of your overall grade, so make sure you are keeping up with them.
2. **“In-class” activities:** In addition to watching the lecture videos, you will have one or more “in-class” activity due each week. These are the types of activities I would do in an in-person class (but modified for online) so they will be generally short (hopefully enjoyable) activities to help the material stick. You will have something to submit for each of these, but what that is will vary greatly. Sometimes it will simply be a discussion board post, other times it will be something you will physically do (like drawing and labeling parts of the brain). These are meant to be enjoyable but are not unimportant which is why they make up such a large portion (40%!) of your grade. Each activity will have an introduction video or document to help you know what to do.
3. **Exams:** Each exam will be a multiple-choice exam that will cover the previous 3-5 weeks’ worth of content (readings, slides, videos). The exams will take place over Canvas. You will have 90 minutes to complete each exam.

Grading

The following table displays the number of points devoted to each type of assignment.

Grade breakdown.

Assignment	Category Total
Reading Assignments	20
Exams	40
"In-Class" Activities	40
	Total = 100

Final grades:

A=90.0-100%, B=80.0-89.9%, C=70.0-79.9%, D=60-69.9%, F=0-59.9%

UT-Tyler Department of Psychology & Counseling Research Requirement

The Department of Psychology and Counseling requires that all students taking 1000-, 2000-, and 3000-level psychology courses to complete a research requirement. (Note that the Research Methods course, PSYC 2331, is exempt from this policy). Some 4000-level courses offer research participation as a means to gain extra credit.

In order to fulfill this requirement or access extra credit opportunities, all students should register in Sona within the first week of class. The registration will take only a few minutes, and will include a brief survey to collect demographic data. This data will serve as a screening tool to determine potential survey eligibility. Once you register in the system, there are two ways to fulfill the research requirement:

Options:

- You may complete research credits by participating in psychology studies. One credit is earned for every 30 minutes of research participation. Most studies are worth one credit.
- The number of credits required varies from one course to the next, and you must complete 4 credits for this course.
- In lieu of the research participation, you may instead complete a 5-page research report on a topic that you are interested in psychology. This could mean looking more closely at a topic we've covered in class. Your paper must be written in APA style (7th edition) and includes a cover page and at least 5 scholarly resources. To ensure that your topic is appropriate, you must check it with me before you start to work on your paper.

Timeline: If you choose to complete the research participation, at least 3 of the credits must be submitted on or before March 4th. Failure to do so will result in a 5% reduction to your final course grade. The remaining 3 credits needed to fulfill the requirement must be submitted on or before the last day of the regular semester (i.e., before the start of finals week). Failure to submit the remaining credits by this date will result in an additional 5% reduction to your final grade. If you choose, instead, to complete the research report, the final report must be submitted to your instructor no later than April 1st. Failure to do so will result in a 10% reduction to your final course grade. If you are caught plagiarizing or engaging in other forms of academic dishonesty with regard to the research report, you will face university disciplinary measures in addition to the 10% reduction to your final grade.

Initial Registration and Account Setup: The psychology pool administrator maintains the student credits in the department's online research participation system, which is called Sona Systems. Students are required to register with this online system to track and submit their credits.

How to Create an Account for the Research Sign-up System

Go to the following website: <http://uttyler.sona-systems.com> Please follow these steps:

- (1) On the right-hand side of the page, click the link that says, "Request Account."
- (2) Type in your information. Your user ID can be anything you wish. However, note that YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS MUST BE ACCURATE!!!! You will also enter your telephone number and select the psychology course(s) that you enrolled in this semester.
- (3) The system will use your email address to send you a password.
- (4) Log into the system at the web address above with your username (that you created) and password (that the system will email to you). You may change your password upon logging in to the system for the first time.
- (5) Click the link that says "Study Sign Up"
- (6) Click the link of the study you wish to participate in (the number of credits the study is worth will be listed on the webpage).
- (7) Click the link that says, "Timeslots Available." Note that a specific study is available until the study is completed, after which you can no longer sign up for it. New studies are posted throughout the semester, but the timing of new study availability depends on the individual researchers in charge of those specific studies. Start

early!!!! Do NOT wait until the end of the semester to start your research participation. There will NOT be a large number of studies available toward the end of the semester because the researchers and their student assistants are trying to analyze the data from their semester projects before the semester ends. Check Sona each week throughout the semester in order to find new studies in which you can participate!!!!

(8) Select a date and time that will work for you. Some studies are completely online, so you can complete that study immediately. Other studies require that you show up to one of the psychology research laboratories on campus. There are three psychology laboratories on campus, so please note which one you need to attend.

(9) The Sona system will send you an email reminder about your study sign-up (including information about the day, time, and location of the study) at 5:00 pm the night before the study is to take place.

(9) Repeat Steps 5 - 8 until you have completed all credits that are required for your course. Any credits you complete beyond those required for your course(s) can potentially be used for extra credit, at the discretion of your instructor.

Once you participate, the system will track the number of credit hours you have completed. This information is available by clicking the “My Schedule/Credits” link.

Types of Studies: There are two basic types of studies. The first is a laboratory study, and you will meet with a researcher at a specific location on the UT-Tyler campus. The second type is an online study. With this type of study, you can complete it from any computer connected to the internet. Although the majority of studies are of the first type, a few online studies may be posted during the semester for your convenience. The type of study will be listed in the description of the project on the website.

Canceling an Appointment: If you need to cancel an appointment for a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the My Schedule / Credits page on the website. Select this link, and you will see all the studies you have signed up for, as well as those you have completed. Click “Cancel” on the appointment you need to cancel, and you will see a confirmation page. Note, however, that you should avoid canceling an appointment unless absolutely necessary. Aside from not receiving the credit from the study, you are also inconveniencing the student researchers who are waiting at the laboratory to greet you. If you do need to cancel, you may try to contact the researcher in charge of the study (listed on the website) to reschedule.

To assign credits to specific courses –in the event that you are in more than one course that requires participation and/or offers extra credit for participation – please do the following:

- Click the “My Schedule/Credits” link.
- Assign the credits for each study in which you have participated to a specific course. This may include volunteer hours for student counseling.
- The system will allow you to assign any number of the total credits you have accumulated to any specific course. However, you only have your total number of accumulated credits to distribute to your course(s). For example, if you have two courses that require participation and you have 10 accumulated credits, you can allocate those 10 credits to one course, the other course, or divide them in some way between both courses. Before the end of the semester, be sure that you “apply” the credits that you have accumulated to the course(s) that require research participation and/or that offer extra credit for participating in research or volunteering for counseling. If you have any questions about Sona or the research participation requirement for your course, please talk with your course instructor. Or, you may contact the Sona System administrator, Dr. Stocks, directly at estocks@uttyler.edu.

University Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler is a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs, please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your right and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for any forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refund for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (session changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions for waivers through Financial Aid.

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Tyler at Texas offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The **Student Accessibility and Resources** (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with an Accessibility Case Manager. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any students who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another students' test paper;
- Using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- Possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- Using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- Discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- Divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- Paying or offering money or other valuable things to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- Taking, keeping misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and,
- Misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumés, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

- (ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- (iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignment offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- (iv) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

College of Education and Psychology Vision and Mission and Program Standards

Vision. The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

Mission. The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service. Additionally, the College is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, and scholarship.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021. This is the open-access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Note: this document is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced.

Course Calendar

Wk.	Week of	Topic	Readings	Due Dates
1	Jan 13th	Welcome/Syllabus Intro to Intro	Ch.1	Ch 1 Reading Assignment
2	Jan 20th	Psychological Research	Ch. 2	Ch 2 Reading Assignment
3	Jan 27th	Biopsychology	Ch. 3	Ch 3 Reading Assignment
4	Feb 3rd	Exam Prep Exam 1		Exam 1 review sheet
5	Feb 10th	Sensation, & Perception	Ch.5	Ch 5 Reading Assignment
6	Feb 17th	Learning	Ch.6	Ch 6 Reading Assignment
7	Feb24th	Thinking Memory	Ch. 7.1-7.3 Ch. 8	Ch 7&8 Reading Assignment
8	Mar 3rd	Lifespan Development	Ch. 9	Ch 9 Reading Assignment
8	Mar 10th	Exam 2 Emotion	Ch. 10	Exam 2 Review Sheet
10	Mar 17th	SPRING BREAK		
11	Mar 24th	Emotion and Motivation Stress	Ch. 10 Ch. 14	Ch. 10 Reading Assignment
12	Mar 31st	Stress cont. Exam 3		Ch. 14 Reading Assignment Exam 3 Review Sheet (optional)
13	Apr 7th	Personality Social Psychology	Ch. 11 Ch. 12	Ch 11-12. Reading Assignment
14	Apr 14th	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 15	Ch 15. Reading Assignment
15	Apr 21st	Therapy and Treatment	Ch. 16	Ch 16. Reading Assignment
16	Apr 28th	Finals Week	N/A	Exam #4

*Dates are subject to change and are at the discretion of the professor.