



## Psyc 2301.032 or .033 General Psychology (8 week Hybrid) Course Syllabus: Fall 2024

*“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”*

**Instructor: Dr. Karyn Skaar**

**Office:** H128A

**Phone:** 903.434.8293

**Email:** kskaar@ntcc.edu

Office	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
Hours	1:30-4:00pm	1:30-3:00pm	1:30-3:00pm	1:30-5:30pm		

*This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.*

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** Three hours of lecture each week.

General Psychology is a survey of the major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

### **Core Curriculum Purpose and Objectives:**

Through the core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Courses in the foundation area of social and behavioral sciences focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

## **Core Curriculum Objectives for the social and behavioral sciences:**

### **Critical thinking:**

CT1: Students will demonstrate the ability to 1) analyze complex issues, 2) synthesize information, and 3) evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of data.

CT2: Students will demonstrate the ability to 1) make informed decision, 2) arrive at reasoned conclusions, 3) solve challenging problems, and 4) use knowledge and understanding in order to generate and explore new questions.

### **Communication Skills:**

CS1: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through written communication. CS2: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through oral communication within a specific timeline.

CS3: Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas using visual communications components.

### **Empirical and Quantitative Skills:**

EQS1: Students will manipulate numerical data or observable facts by organizing and converting relevant information into mathematical or empirical forms (e.g. equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, or words).

EQS2: Students will analyze numerical data or observable facts by processing information with correct calculations, explicit notations, and appropriate technology.

EQS3: Students will draw informed conclusions from numerical data or observable facts that are accurate, complete, and relevant to the investigation.

### **Social Responsibility:**

SR1: Students will demonstrate understanding of intercultural competence.

SR2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility.

SR3: Students will demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### **Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

You will be using Lumens Waymaker with the OpenStax Psychology textbook. There will be 13 modules divided into 4 Units. Each module/chapter has multiple assessments to help you practice and learn the material. You will receive a **completion grade** of 10 points for completing the Show What You Know pre-quiz, Try it embedded questions, and Self-check quiz for each module. This is to encourage practice and means that this grade will not be determined by the number you answer correctly. Each module will have a separate **graded quiz** worth 15 points based on the number correct. You may take the graded quiz twice. The higher attempt will be used. Together, the completion grade and graded quiz will represent the homework for each Module. In total, homework will be worth 325 points almost a third of your total grade. **Homework cannot be completed after the due date.** The due date for each completion grade is listed in the calendar. The due date for all graded quizzes in a unit is 11:59pm the evening before the unit exam. Dates listed on class calendar.

**There will be 4 exams:** All exams will be in a multiple-choice format. Dates for exams are listed on the class calendar. Make-up exams may be scheduled prior to the missed exam and will occur within 1 week of the exam date posted in the calendar. No make-up exams are given after the following exam has been given or after the last day of class. It is a good idea to take the exam as soon as you return to class so you do not get behind. Unit 1 covers only two modules and will have an exam worth 50 points. Unit 2, 3, and 4 exams will each count 100 points. The final exam, Unit 4, must be taken at the scheduled time to obtain credit in the course.

**Experimental Design Worksheet:** You will design and critically think through all aspects of your own psychological experiment on a worksheet. This will be a typed, double spaced paper written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person and in complete sentences addressing the specific questions provided. It will be worth 100 points. Due date is listed on the class calendar.

**Research Summary Papers:** You will write two summary papers. You will choose an article to read from blackboard. You may only use Summary Paper 1 articles to write Summary Paper 1. There will be different articles for Summary Paper 2. You will summarize each section and label each section in your paper. Your paper will be typed, double spaced and written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person and in complete sentences using APA format. Each Summary paper will be worth 50 points.

APA format is different from MLA! There are PowerPoint Instructions in Blackboard. If, in any section of a written paper, you give information that comes from your textbook or another written source, you must use in-text citations and list the reference in the APA format. Sources, which are cited in the text, must also be referenced at the end of the paper on your References page. I will explain what you need to know for the purposes of our class. If you wish to know more, you may look up the APA guidelines on the LRC homepage so you know how to write correctly in APA format.

**Reflection Paper:** Following COVID-19 we have been unable to visit the Hospitality House. Therefore, a replacement assignment has been developed. Students will watch two half hour videos and read a portion of Zeb Larson's Origins article: The first video is an Amazon Prime episode (#3) of Modern Love titled "Take me as I am, whoever I am". The second video is a BBC 2014 production from Films on Demand titled "Bedlam Behind Bars: Mental Health Problems in American Prisons". The article is titled "America's Long-Suffering Mental Health System". This paper will be worth 100 points. Due date is listed on the class calendar.

Always put your name, course number and section on all assignments submitted. **Late papers will lose 20 percentage points and will not be accepted later than 1 week after the due date.** Paper due dates as listed in class calendar.

**Additional points:** Syllabus quiz worth 10 points, APA quiz worth 15 points, assigned email to professor 5 points, 5-minute office visit with professor worth 5 points to discuss Experimental Design 2 days before due date, 5-minute visit with writing tutor to check APA in-text citation and Reference on first Summary Paper at least 2 days prior to the due date worth 5 points, and a second 5-minute office visit with professor worth 5 points any time before 7<sup>th</sup> week.

## Grades

Grades will be computed as follows:

Lumens homework	=325 points
4 Exams:	=350 points
Experimental Design paper	=100 points
2 Summary papers	=100 points
Reflection Paper	=100 points
Additional points	= 45 points
Total points	=1020 points

**The grading scale below will be used to determine your final grade.** In general, a course grade of a "C" represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents substantial effort and achievement. It is clearly a grade for the better than average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only in the case of both outstanding efforts and quality in the required products. The grades will be awarded on the following basis:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
918-1020	90-100%	1080-1200	= A
816-917	80-90%	960-1079	= B
714-815	70-80%	840-959	= C
612-713	60-70%	720-839	= D
Below 611	Below 60%	BELOW 719	= F

Also, five (5) additional bonus points may be added for perfect attendance and submission of all work.

If you have 12 credit hours, earn a "B" or better average in your psychology course(s) and your cumulative GPA is 3.25 or higher, you will qualify for membership in Psi Beta, which is the National Honor Society in Psychology. If interested, ask me about what Psi Beta does here on our campus.

**Required Instructional Materials:** Format: Waymaker / OHM Courseware with eText embedded  
Course Name: Introduction to Psychology

**Publisher:** Lumen Learning

**ISBN: 978-1-64087-237-0**

**Optional Instructional Materials:** None

### Course Structure and Overview:

This class will be delivered in an 8-week Hybrid format. This means you will spend approximately 3 hours per week in class working on assignments. You should expect to spend **no less than 10 hours a week outside of class** in preparation for this course. Please complete the assigned reading and Lumens completion grade on the date the Module is listed in the calendar. Lectures for each Module have been recorded and posted to Blackboard in the appropriate unit. Use the completion grade is good practice for the graded quiz; and the graded quiz is good practice for the Unit Exam.

**Class attendance is required.** Students are responsible for completing all assignments regardless of when they enroll or if they were absent. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for all information provided/discussed that day. The instructor will not repeat the lecture. It is the student's (including student athletes) responsibility to inform the instructor if they will be absent with as much advanced notice as is logistically possible. The instructor considers 3 absences excessive. A student may be dropped from class due to excessive absences (3) prior to the drop date.

**Late Enrollment of Students.** Students that have enrolled in the course after the start of the semester are still responsible for all course material from the start of the semester. Due dates will not be changed for late-enrolled students. Late assignment policies will apply.

Plan to participate in class and be interested in the subject matter. It is always a good idea to smile and have a positive attitude in class. Come to class prepared and ready to be an active learner. **Earning the grade and learning should go hand-in-hand.**

Pay close attention to deadlines for all assignments. It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for important information/announcements regarding the course. Students should be working on course material via Blackboard every week. Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit assignments in case of technology issues. Technical difficulties are no excuse for late assignments. **YOU CANNOT PASS THIS COURSE WITH OUT COMPLETING THE ASSIGNMENTS!**

If you do not understand an assignment or something that is said in class, talk to your professor (me) in person **BEFORE THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE!** Come see me during office hours.

Students are always expected to be respectful toward classmates and professor! Review Student Conduct in the Student Handbook.

Cell phones and computers are permitted in class. With instructor permission, students may use audio recording devices to record lectures or portions thereof. All recorded materials are for the sole purpose of aiding the student in the completion of requirements for the course. Content recorded remains the property of NTCC and may not be duplicated for distribution and may not be sold to another party or uploaded to the internet.

- Anyone who wishes to withdraw from class must take the responsibility to formally drop with the Registrar; otherwise a failing grade will be given if you just stop attending. You should consult with me about your grade before withdrawing. At any time, you are concerned about your grade, please talk with me. **Withdrawal Date (Drop Date) Tuesday, November 18.**

### **Communications:**

NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college. You should check your NTCC email daily. Email communications from non-NTCC email addresses will not be answered. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours Monday through Friday. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, then the email was not received. When you email the professor, **include your class and section number in the subject line.** I will also post reminder information through Blackboard announcements. **DO NOT** message your professor through Blackboard (you will receive no reply).

## **Minimum Technology Requirements:**

You must have access to a computer to take this course. Your computer needs to have Windows XP SP3 or later or MAC OS X10.3 or higher. You will need Office 2003 or higher, and you will need broadband internet access. You can check your operating system by right clicking on the My Computer icon on the home screen. You can check your word processing program by going to Start and clicking on All Programs. You will find your Office program there. As a student, you can download Microsoft Office for free.

## **Required Computer Literacy Skills:**

Students should be comfortable with and possess the following skill sets: 1. Self-discipline 2. Problem solving skills 3. Critical thinking skills 4. Enjoy communication in the written word.

In order to be successful in this course, students should minimally possess the following technical skills:

- 1) The ability to properly use email, attach documents to email, and open, download, and save attachments
- 2) The ability to properly update personal computer settings
- 3) The ability to properly utilize online help when needed
- 4) The ability to properly use a word processing application
- 5) The ability to properly print an electronic file to a printer
- 6) The ability to properly submit files in the Blackboard assignment windows
- 7) The ability to properly save documents in a .docx or .pdf format and save in an electronic form in multiple places, e.g. computer hard drive, portable flash drive, cloud storage, etc.
- 8) The ability to properly connect to a broadband internet system
- 9) The ability to properly search for and locate information on the internet
- 10) The ability to properly scan documents for electronic submission. *NOTE: Free mobile phone applications are available that can substitute for a scanner. Scanned assignments must be submitted in pdf format through Blackboard.*

## **Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

## **Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:**

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation). Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt. Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards-- accessed August 31, 2023)**

#### **NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

**A ZERO WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY WORK THAT IS PLAGIARIZED. A ZERO WILL ALSO BE GIVEN FOR COLLUSION AND COPYING OF ANOTHER'S WORK.**

#### **ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

#### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

**Tentative Course Timeline (\*note\* instructor reserves the right to adjust this timeline at any point in the term):**

You will find a calendar with the course due dates listed in the Start Here folder. Please print and bring to class.

## Calendar

Week 1: Syllabus and Module 1 (Psychological Foundations) and Module 2 (Psychological Research)

Week 2: Module 3 (Biopsychology)

Week 3: Module 4 (States of Consciousness) and Module 5 (Sensation and Perception)

Week 4: Module 6 (Memory) and Module 7 (Learning)

Week 5: Module 8 (Lifespan Development), Module 9 (Motivation and Emotion), and Module 10 (Social Psychology)

Week 6: Module 11 (Psychological Disorders) and Module 12 (Therapy and Treatment)

Week 7: Module 13 (Stress, Lifestyle and Health)

Week 8: Final



## Syllabus Quiz for Psyc 2301

1. What is your class and section number? Psyc \_\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many absences does your professor consider excessive? \_\_\_\_\_
3. To communicate with your professor, you should use Blackboard messages?  
Yes No
4. Where will you find the course due dates listed? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do your papers have to be typed and double-spaced? Yes No
6. What is the penalty for turning in papers late? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the latest a late paper will be accepted? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What grade will be given for any plagiarized work? \_\_\_\_\_
9. If you do not understand an assignment or something said in class, you should  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. When you email your professor, include \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the subject line.

**\*Complete online prior to the first Friday of the semester. Failure to complete will result in your removal from this class.** This quiz is worth up to 10 points when submitted with your signature. You will find the syllabus acknowledgement quiz in the START HERE folder in Blackboard.

My signature below indicates that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements of this class. I understand that it is in my best interest to attempt all assignments and discuss in person with the professor anything I do not understand.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature