PSY 301: Introductory Psychology
Texas Common Number: PSYC 2301

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Wendy Domjan, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None.

How This Course Works
This course is online and is self-paced. Exams must be taken in-person at an approved testing center. More information about taking exams is available on the University Extension website.

Students have five months from their date of enrollment in which to complete all coursework. While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading will be ignored, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

If all other coursework is complete and you have requested the final exam through the course exam manager by your designated completion date, an additional 30 days will be provided for you to study for and take that exam. If the final exam has not been requested by your completion date, you will be dropped from the course.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.
Course Overview
Psychology 301 is designed to provide you with an overview of the broad field of psychology. The course starts by examining various perspectives held by psychologists and by reviewing research methods. Subsequent lessons discuss the brain and other biological systems, exploring in detail the ways in which these systems work together to influence mental processes and behavior. These lessons integrate discussions of sensation and perception, consciousness, learning and memory, thought and language, intelligence, motivation and emotion, and human development. The later lessons discuss personality, psychological disorders, social cognition, and responses to social influences.

Required Materials

Course Organization
There are five modules containing fifteen lessons, a midterm exam, and a final exam in this course. In each lesson, you will find most of these components: an overview and reading assignment, objectives and checklist, lesson notes, learning resources, thought exercises, computer-graded assignments, and instructor-graded essays.

You must receive a grade on all assignments in a module before the next module will open.

Lesson Components
- The Overview is equivalent to the beginning of a lecture you would hear in a face-to-face class. It highlights and clarifies important information from the readings, and it may present pertinent additional information.
- Objectives list the goals for each lesson
- The Checklist complements the Objectives with an outline of important concepts from each lesson. It provides a visual checklist of your progress in mastering the material; it also provides a good indication of the subject matter on which you will be tested.
- Lesson Notes is a section of written commentary, containing what you might expect to hear in a traditional classroom lecture. This section continues the thread(s) introduced in the overview section, and often incorporates activities to enrich your understanding of the material.
- Learning Resources will point you to Web sites and other resources intended to enrich your experience in the course. These sites provide additional resources for understanding, applying, and extending lesson materials. Use these resources to improve your mastery of the lesson and to increase your opportunities for success in this course.
- Thought Exercises present interesting issues for your consideration. While these exercises are not submitted for grading, working through them will give you meaningful practice in recalling information and clarifying the relationship of ideas. Spending a few minutes working with each exercise can help you to appreciate the impact of psychology on your everyday life, to boost your understanding of course readings and materials, and to prepare you for the midterm and final exam.
Instructor-Graded Assignments
There is an instructor-graded essay in several lessons. You will be asked to consider a concept, scenario, or psychological phenomenon and write a short (usually one to two pages) essay in response. These essays will help you to develop a richer understanding of the material.

Computer-Graded Assignments
Some lessons have computer-graded assignments. These are multiple-choice quizzes that ask questions about the material found in the textbook. Some items ask for the definition or identification of key ideas in psychology, while others ask about the relationship or application of ideas. The information requested in these assignments builds the "vocabulary" you will need to address more complex questions, such as those found in the instructor-graded essays. Computer-graded assignments may only be taken once.

Exams
This course requires you to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam includes sixty multiple-choice questions and two essay questions. The midterm covers material from the first seven lessons, and the final exam is comprehensive (i.e., it covers material from all fifteen lessons), but with a somewhat greater emphasis on the final eight lessons. Both exams must be taken in a proctored testing center. You cannot request the final exam until you have submitted all assignments and received a grade on the midterm exam.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

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Grade Calculation
Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 15 Assignments  50%
- Midterm Exam  25%
- Final Exam  25%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

- A  100-93%  B+  89-87%  C+  79-77%  D+  69-67%  F  59-0%
- A-  92-90%  B  86-83%  C  76-73%  D  66-63%
- B-  82-80%  C-  72-70%  D-  62-60%

Getting Help
- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, exam proctoring, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

University Extension Contact Information
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