



**PSY 301: Introduction to Psychology**  
*Texas Common Number: PSYC 2301*

**Course Format:** Online, Self-Paced

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**Course Instructor:** Stephanie Savicki, M.A. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

**Course Credits:** 3

**Prerequisites:** None

**Skills and Experience Flag:** Ethics

**How This Course Works**

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

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 or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, 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](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu) with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

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 is a field that examines how and why we think, feel, and behave in the ways we do. The goal of this course is for you to get a basic understanding of the major topics surrounding the study of mind and behavior to see how psychological theories relate to each other and to your everyday life.

## **Required Materials**

There is no required textbook for this class. Course readings and materials will be made available online.

## **Required Internet-Enabled Device**

All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Computer Hardware and Software Requirements:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- 2GB memory/RAM
- Modern (last 2-3 years) and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Chrome (highly recommended), Safari or Firefox
- 5Mbps internet connection speed

## **Course Organization**

The course is organized into 28 modules, which are units of course material that cover specific topics. Each module contains a set of common components, which includes: a lecture outline, learning objectives, lecture videos, readings, and a computer-graded benchmark (quiz). Ten of the modules contain an instructor-graded short answer assignment. There is also a midterm exam and a final exam as well as two additional writing assignments in this course.

### ***Instructor-Graded Assignments***

Instructor-graded assignments in this course consist of ten short-answer assignments and two writing assignments. Starting with the first lecture, you will complete a one-question free-response short-answer intended to have you synthesize the material and/or think “big picture” every third lecture. For most of these open-ended quiz questions, there is no “right” answer. To get full points, follow the instructions and thoughtfully compose your response in three to five sentences, thinking deeply about the question and how you can best integrate class material to address it. If you don’t earn full credit, you’ll receive feedback from the instructor on how to improve your future responses. The writing requirement for this course is to write two short “thought pieces” and complete an associated questionnaire. These writing assignments will be very different from standard essays.

### ***Computer-Graded Assignments***

You will complete regular computer-graded benchmark (quiz) activities in each module associated with the lecture segments and the readings. Lecture and reading benchmarks contain about five multiple-choice questions that cover lecture and reading content and are designed to reinforce your understanding of the course material. Although you will be free to access lecture material, lecture slides, and your readings as you complete these activities, you are expected to work alone and will be timed: You will have seven minutes to complete each multiple-choice benchmark. Your two lowest benchmark scores will be dropped.

## Exams

Students will take two proctored exams. The exams test students on all course content since the beginning of the course or the previous exam. The midterm exam will cover the reading and lecture material from Lectures 1-14, and the final exam will cover the material from Lectures 15-28. The exams will consist entirely of multiple-choice questions much like your lecture benchmarks.

The readings, lectures, benchmarks, and writing assignments are all designed to prepare you for the exams. There should be no surprises and you should do well if you do the readings, watch the videos, take notes, participate in the activities, complete the assignments, and pay attention to where you may need to allocate resources to study. You can also prepare for the exams by creating your own study guides and reviewing content as you move through the course.

**You must pass the final exam to pass the course.**

## Course Outline

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Introduction to Psychology	▪ 01: Instructor-Graded Assignment
2	Psychological Research I: Correlations	▪ 02: Computer-Graded Assignment
3	Psychological Research II: The Experimental Method	▪ 03: Computer-Graded Assignment
4	Psychology of Learning	▪ 04: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 05: Instructor-Graded Assignment
5	Neurons and Neurotransmitters	▪ 06: Computer-Graded Assignment
6	Sensation and Perception	▪ 07: Computer-Graded Assignment
7	The Brain and Hormones	▪ 08: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 09: Instructor-Graded Assignment
8	Nature, Nurture, and Evolution	▪ 10: Computer-Graded Assignment
9	Sleep, Dreams, and Consciousness	▪ 11: Computer-Graded Assignment
10	Conditioning	▪ 12: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 13: Instructor-Graded Assignment ▪ 14: Instructor-Graded Assignment
11	Early Development	▪ 15: Computer-Graded Assignment
12	Adolescent Development	▪ 16: Computer-Graded Assignment
13	Attention	▪ 17: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 18: Instructor-Graded Assignment
14	Intelligence	▪ 19: Computer-Graded Assignment
MIDTERM EXAM		
15	Memory	▪ 20: Computer-Graded Assignment
16	Money and Social Class	▪ 21: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 22: Instructor-Graded Assignment
17	Emotion	▪ 23: Computer-Graded Assignment

Module	Topics	Assessments
18	Personality	▪ 24: Computer-Graded Assignment
19	Snooping Around	▪ 25: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 26: Instructor-Graded Assignment
20	Anxiety and Depression	▪ 27: Computer-Graded Assignment
21	Aggression and Crime	▪ 28: Computer-Graded Assignment
22	The Psychology of Eating and Drinking	▪ 29: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 30: Instructor-Graded Assignment
23	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	▪ 31: Computer-Graded Assignment
24	Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy	▪ 32: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 33: Instructor-Graded Assignment ▪ 34: Computer-Graded Assignment
25	Race and Ethnicity	▪ 35: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 36: Instructor-Graded Assignment
26	Obedience and Group Processes	▪ 37: Computer-Graded Assignment
27	Persuasion and Social Perception	▪ 38: Computer-Graded Assignment
28	Helping and Social Influence	▪ 39: Computer-Graded Assignment ▪ 40: Instructor-Graded Assignment
FINAL EXAM		

### Grade Calculation

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

Final Exam	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Computer-Graded Benchmarks	25%
Writing Assignments	15%
Instructor-Graded Short-Answer Assignments	10%

**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: [gatewaytechsupport@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:gatewaytechsupport@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, 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

[uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu)

512-471-2900