

## General Psychology (PSYC 2301)



**Credit:** 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

**Prerequisite/Co-requisite:** Passing the reading portion of COMPASS or other accepted testing instrument.

### Course Description

This course examines the principles of behavior and variables that affect behavior. Topics such as history and systems, scientific method, the biological foundations of behavior, perception, learning, memory, motivation, emotion, development, and personality are studied.

### Required Textbook and Materials

Gazzaniga, M. S., & Heatherton, T. F., D. Halpern (2015).  
*Psychological science* (5th ed.). New York: Norton.  
ISBN 978-0-393-93749-7

### Objectives

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Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

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 Objectives

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

## **Course Outline**

- A. Class Introduction & Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychological Science
  - a. Development of Scientific Foundations of Psychology
  - b. The Application Psychological Science
- B. Chapter 2 Research Methodology
  - a. Explaining Scientific Inquiry
  - b. The Types of Studies in Psychological Research
- C. Chapter 3 Biology and Behavior
  - a. Genetic Basis of Psychological Science
  - b. Basic Brain Structures and Their Functions
- D. Chapter 4 Consciousness
  - a. Understanding How Is the Conscious Mind Experienced
  - b. Understanding Altered Consciousness
- E. Chapter 5 Sensation & Perception
  - a. Explanation of the way We Sense Our Worlds
  - b. The Basic Perceptual Processes
- F. Chapter 6 Learning
  - a. The Development of Learning Behavioral Study
  - b. Understanding the Biological Basis of Learning
- G. Chapter 7 Attention & Memory
  - a. How Attention Determines What Is Remembered
  - b. The Brain Processes Are Involved in Memory
- H. Chapter 8 Thinking & Intelligence
  - a. How the Mind Represents Information
  - b. How We Understand Intelligence
- I. Chapter 9 Human Development
  - a. Understanding What Shapes a Child
  - b. Understanding What Brings Meaning to Adulthood
- J. Chapter 10 Motivation and Emotion
  - a. Understanding How Motivation Activate, Direct, and Sustain Behavior
  - b. Understanding How People Experience Emotions
- K. Chapter 11 Health and Well-Being
  - a. How Psychosocial Factors Affect Health
  - b. How a Positive Attitude Keeps Us Healthy
- L. Chapter 12 Social Psychology
  - a. How Attitudes Guide Behavior
  - b. How Others Influence Us
- M. Chapter 13 Personality
  - a. Understanding How Psychologists Have Studied Personality
  - b. How Personality is Assessed, and What It Predicts
- N. Chapter 14 Disorders of Mind & Body
  - a. How Mental Disorders Are Conceptualized and Classified
  - b. Explaining if Personality Disorders are Truly Mental Disorders
- O. Chapter 15 Treating Disorders of Mind & Body
  - a. How Mental Disorders are Treated
  - b. The Most Effective Treatments

**PSYC 2301**  
Course Syllabi

**Grade Scale**

89 - 100	A
79 – 88%	B
69 – 78%	C
59 – 68%	D
0 – 58%	F

**Course Evaluation**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Exam 1	5%	The final is mandatory and must be taken (20% of grade).
2. Exam 2	5%	
3. Exam 3	5%	
4. Exam 4	5%	
5. Exam 5 (Final)	20%	
6. Chapter Review	20%	
Quizzes		
7. Video Quizzes	10%	
8. Chapter Guided Reading	15%	
Assignments		
9. Critical Thinking (What to Believe)	10%	
10. State Core Assessment	5%	

**Course Requirements**

1. Students will participate in class discussions.
2. Students will complete reading assignments.
3. Students will take daily quizzes.
4. 5 Major Tests. The final test is mandatory and failure to take it results in an automatic “F” for the course.
5. Missing 2 tests results in an automatic “F” for the course.
6. See separate testing policy for specific testing requirements.

**Course Policies**

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off or silenced while in class.

3. **Students are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process.**  
Students who stop coming to class and fail to drop the course will earn an 'F' in the course.
4. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening, and /or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the LIT Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the disciplinary process.
5. Attendance will be monitored. **6 or more unexcused absences** will result in an **automatic letter grade reduction**.
6. Failure to be able to contribute to the class discussion when called on can result in point reduction.
7. Grading errors must be brought to the attention of the instructor. Posted grades will remain fixed after 10 days of initial posting.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Every LIT student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the student handbook. The University policy on academic honesty includes provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to LIT materials; misrepresentation/falsification of LIT records or academic work; malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials; malicious/ intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services; and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through LIT's established procedures. (My interpretation: **Don't cheat at any cost!**)

## **Disabilities Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

## **Contact information:**

**Email:** [algarza@lit.edu](mailto:algarza@lit.edu)

**409-880-8642**

**Course Schedule** (Schedule Subject to Change - See instructor for more information)

**PSYC 2301**  
Course Syllabi

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reference</b>
1	Class Introduction Introduction to Psychological Science	<b>Online:</b> Start Here Orientation Module 1 – 1 Introduction <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 1
2	Research Methodology	<b>Online:</b> Module 1 – 2 Research Methods <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 2
3	Biological Foundations <b>Test (Chapters 1 – 3)</b>	<b>Online:</b> Module 1 – 3 Biological Foundations <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 3
4	Consciousness	<b>Online:</b> Module 2 – 4 Consciousness <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 4
5	Sensation & Perception	<b>Online:</b> Module 2 – 5 <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 5 Sensation & Perception
6	Learning <b>Test (Chapters 4 – 6)</b>	<b>Online:</b> Module 2 – 6 Learning <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 6
7	Attention & Memory	<b>Online:</b> Module 3 – 7 Attention and Memory <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 7
8	Thinking & Intelligence	<b>Online:</b> Module 3 – 8 Thinking & Intelligence <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 8
9	Human Development <b>Test (Chapters 7 – 9)</b>	<b>Online:</b> Module 3 – 9 Human Development <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 9
10	Motivation and Emotion	<b>Online:</b> Module 4 – 10 Motivation and Emotion <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 10
11	Health and Well-Being	<b>Online:</b> Module 4 – 11 <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 11 Health and Well-Being
12	Social Psychology <b>Test (Chapters 10 – 12)</b>	<b>Online:</b> Module 4 – 12 Social Psychology <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 12
13	Personality	<b>Online:</b> Module 5 – 13 Personality <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 13
14	Disorders of Mind and Body	<b>Online:</b> Module 5 – 14 Disorders of Mind and Body <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 14

**PSYC 2301**  
Course Syllabi

15	Treating Disorders of Mind & Body	<b>Online:</b> Module 5 – 15 Treating Disorders of Mind & Body <b>Text Book:</b> Chapter 15
16	<b>Final Exam</b> (Chapters 1 – 15)	Online Materials and Text Book