



General Psychology (PSYC 2301-2A0)

Course Syllabus

Contact Information

Instructor	Dr. Don Knox
Email	dknox@lit.edu
Office Phone	TBD
Office Location	TBD
Office Hours	<p>Summer 2025</p> <p>The instructor will respond to email and voice mail communication within 24 business hours or 48 hours on a weekend. Assignment grades will be published within 1 week of the assignment due date. The instructor will log on to the course and have online office hours from periodically Monday through Thursday 9:00 – 4:00 PM (3:00 PM on Thursday); ways of contact during office hours are by email. There will be no face-to-face meetings in the office this semester.</p>

Assignment Schedule (subject to change with or without notice)

Week	Assignment Name	Due Date and Time	Location
1	Introduction and Orientation Discussion	6/6	Module 1 Folder
2	Module 1 Chapters 1 and 2 Discussion Quiz 1	Discussion 6/11 and 6/13 Quiz 1 6/13	Module 1 Folder
3	Module 1 Chapter 3 Discussion Quiz 2 Exam 1	Discussion 6/18 and 6/20 Quiz 2 6/20 Exam 1 6/20	Module 1 Folder
4	Module 2 Chapter 4 Discussion Quiz 3	Discussion 6/25 and 6/27 Quiz 3 6/27	Module 2 Folder

5	Midterm Critical Thinking Analysis	Midterm 7/2	Module 2 Folder
6	Module 2 Chapter 5 Discussion Quiz 4 Exam 2	Discussion 7/9 and 7/11 Quiz 4 7/11 Exam 2 7/11	Module 2 Folder
7	Module 3 Chapter 6 Discussion Quiz 5	Discussion 7/16 and 7/18 Quiz 5 7/18	Module 3 Folder
8	Module 3 Chapter 7 Discussion Quiz 6 Exam 3	Discussion 7/23 and 7/25 Quiz 6 7/25 Exam 3 7/25	Module 3 Folder
9	Module 4 Chapter 8 Discussion Quiz 7	Discussion 7/30 and 8/1 Quiz 8/1	Module 4 Folder
10	Module 4 Chapters 9 and 10 Discussion Quiz 8 Core Assessment Project	Discussion 8/6 and 8/8 Quiz 8 8/8 Core 8/8	Module 4 Folder
11	Final Critical Thinking Analysis Exam 4	Final 8/14 Exam 4 8/15	Module 4 Folder

SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

Lamar Institute of Technology, a Member of The Texas State University System, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Associate degrees.

Course Title:	Introductory Psychology
Course Number:	PSYC 2301
Course Section:	2A4, 2B4
Department:	General Education
Instructor	Dr. Don Knox
Contact Information:	LIT email: dknox@lit.edu Office:TBD Phone:TBD

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introductory survey of the major areas of psychology such as learning, personality, social, testing, developmental, and physiological. Emphasis is on psychology as the scientific study of behavior and includes both human and animal behavior.

Note: A good liberal arts education allows students to appreciate a diversity of methods used to develop and test ideas. In some fields, these ideas may be called “theories,” in other fields they may be called “facts.” Many disciplines put forth notions and ideas about human behavior, and each has its own methods with inherent advantages and disadvantages. It is our task in this class to study the methods of psychology and to integrate the various findings. Psychology is a science and as such relies heavily upon the experimental method. However, within the field of psychology there is a plethora of opinions. Be prepared to experience and be challenged by the differing points of view.

This course is designed to help you learn the logic of psychology. Everything we do this semester will in some way, either broadly or narrowly, relate to improving your Applying of and thinking critically about psychological principles, theories, practice, and application to the workplace. The primary goal is for you to come to think as an psychologist would think.

COURSE LEVEL OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Learn the basic vocabulary associated with the field of psychology
- Demonstrate Applying of appropriate research methods, technologies, and ethical standards employed in psychological research with humans and animals
- Apply diverse perspectives in examining human behavior and emotions
- Analyze the complex interaction among biological, psychological, and environmental influences
- Apply the contributions of nature and nurture to human development
- Demonstrate the Applying of the application of psychological principles to our daily lives
- Apply the existence of individual differences and variety within the range of “normal” behavior and to differentiate these from psychopathology
- Explicate the logic of the discipline of Introductory psychology by identifying and analyzing its purpose, questions, sources of information, main inferences, key ideas, main assumptions, main points of view, and implications.
- Demonstrate critical thinking by analyzing the logic of the discipline of Introductory psychology by assent to the intellectual standards of clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, significance, depth, breadth, logicalness, and fairness.
- Exemplify the intellectual traits of intellectual humility, intellectual courage, intellectual empathy, intellectual autonomy, intellectual integrity, intellectual perseverance, confidence in reason, and fairmindedness.

ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES

- *Prerequisite: TSI Reading complete.*

COURSE SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGY SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

TECHNOLOGY PREREQUISITES

Students are required to have minimal technical skills to be successful in the class. Additionally, they should feel confident about their ability to navigate through typical online websites and their ability to use common word processing software in order to submit written assignments.

The minimum technical skills and the system requirements for this course:

BLACKBOARD Learning Management System (LMS)

Students will utilize the Lamar Institute of Technology’s Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard, for online courses. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

SOFTWARE USED IN THIS CLASS

PSYC 2301 students will use standard Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). No Apple files though! Convert them to Adobe pdf.

RESPONSE TIMES

The instructor will respond to e-mail and voice mail communication within 24 business hours Monday through Thursday except Finals Week. Assignment grades will be published within 48 business hours of the assignment due date.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Text:

1. **You will be required to have** access to Openstax Psychology 2e. The course will include the textbook content in electronic form.
 - a. **Optional** ISBN: 978-1-97507-644-3 if you would rather have the textbook in paperback form. You will have to purchase this option.

Recommended: N/A

Optional Material: N/A

GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION

Grading Scale:

A	B	C	D	F
100-90%	89-80%	79-70%	69-60%	59% - below

GRADING OF ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Grades will be based on: the number of items answered correctly on each of the chapter tests; chapter critical analyses; a final critical analysis paper; and weekly chapter exercises and online case studies. Each test may also include questions on chapter materials not covered by the text. Final grades will be determined by a breakdown of class scores after all tests have been taken using point totals.

Requirements:	Weight
Weekly Discussions	10%
Midterm Critical Thinking Analysis	10%
Unit Quizzes (8)	30%
Unit Exams (4)	30%
Common Assignment	10%
Critical Thinking Final Analysis	10%
Total	100%

Weekly Discussions:

10% of your total grade

There will 10 weekly discussions. Each discussion is worth a total of 100 points. The average of your graded discussions will count as 10% of your final grade. The column labeled "Participation" is a running average of your discussion grade. You will also see each discussion as a separate grade but only the "Participation" grade is in the weighted average column. This grade will/may change every Tuesday after items are graded. Late discussions are graded as a zero. There is no partial credit for late assignments. You will be able to see the grade of each weekly discussion so that I can help you prepare for the midterm and final critical analysis papers. Make sure that you click on the grade to see comments.

Midterm Critical Thinking Analysis:

10% total course grade; **due 7/2**

After completing all readings for each chapter students are expected to submit **one**, 500-word minimum critical thinking analysis that discusses all readings for the module, in **one** essay. The critical thinking analysis is a thoughtful analysis of the contribution that the readings provide rather than simply what the author(s) said. Avoid commentary such as "I liked this", observations such as "this seminal work by a brilliant theorist Joe Blow", or "the author should have done something else". These are all examples of things to avoid in your reflection. Focus instead on the purpose of what the readings are trying to convey, what is the big picture?

This is not simply a copy and paste of one of your discussion postings. This is a synthesis. You need to elaborate on one theme from chapters 1 through 8. The best approach is to find a topic in one of these chapters that appeals to you and then apply it to life. Make sure that you properly cite the page number that you are getting your information from in the textbook. Do not go "outside" of your textbook for this test.

A grading rubric is provided in the Resources content on Blackboard. Below are a few helpful writing tips for organization and clarity in your essay.

- Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
- Never use the passive when you can use the active.
- Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday equivalent.

Unit quizzes:

30% of your total grade

For each week there are quizzes that will require you to apply the chapter material to multiple choice questions. You may take each quiz a maximum of 2 times. Your highest grade will count. All 8 quizzes will be averaged together for a single grade worth 30% of your grade.

Unit exams:

30% of your total course grade

All tests are 50 questions with a 60-minute time limit. The tests cover only the material in the respective course section and are not comprehensive in nature, although some material may overlap sections. There are 4 Unit exams and they will be averaged together and count as 30% of your final grade.

Core Assessment Project:

10% of total course grade **Due 8/8**

Students are required to submit a short project paper that will assess:

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

Final Course Critical Thinking Paper

10% of total course grade **Due 8/14**

Students are required to submit a final 800-word minimum written assignment at the end of the semester. The expected content of the assignment will be provided in the course Resources and week 11. **The written**

assignment must be submitted electronically by the student into the course Safe Assign system. THE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN THE DATE AND TIME SET FORTH ON THE COURSE SCHEDULE. ABSOLUTELY NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Students can find the link to submit their written assignment by clicking on menu item titled "Critical Thinking Paper".

You should note that all assignments close precisely at 11:59 p.m. Submissions submitted at 11:59.01 will be rejected by the system, registered as a late submission, and result in an assignment score of zero.

Students may NOT submit the assignment via email inside or outside of Blackboard. Students may not cut and paste essays into the assignment window - the assignment MUST be uploaded as a WORD document ONLY and MUST be in ONE file. Do NOT upload more than one written assignment document! Assignments uploaded in any format other than WORD, such as a PDF, ZIP, etc., will automatically receive a zero. Assignments submitted via email will automatically receive a zero as will assignments submitted outside of Safe Assign. In summary, you MUST submit your paper:

- as one complete paper (no separate submissions of title pages or bibliographies);
- in Word format (no zip drives, PDF, or other forms of submission) from your computer;
- with the box checked for your agreement to submit your paper to the Global Reference Database.

A grading rubric is provided in the Resources content on blackboard. Below are a few helpful writing tips for organization and clarity in your essay.

Your written assignment should be typed with 12-point font and one-inch margins top, bottom, and side. All sources must be properly, thoroughly, and consistently cited. Careful attention to grammar, spelling, and the mechanics of presentation is expected. ***Wikipedia is not a reliable source of information. Any citation of Wikipedia, Dictionary.com, E-Encyclopedia, Spark Notes or anything similar in a term paper, Critical Thinking Analysis Discussion forum, or other assignment in this course will result in an automatic score of 0 (zero) on the assignment.***

Carefully read the Course Management Policies, "Academic Honesty Statement", for additional guidelines for your written assignments. Any cut and paste, plagiarized, or Wiki cited posts or papers will result in an automatic grade of zero for the overall assignment and possible expulsion from the course and Lamar Institute of Technology. **NO** late papers will be accepted including papers posted .01 seconds or more after the deadline. (All assignments in the course Blackboard system close EXACTLY at the time indicated on the Course Weekly Schedule below. Students have ONLY one chance to upload papers to Safe Assign - the version that is uploaded – and the paper that is uploaded is the paper that will be assigned a grade.

Extra Credit:

There will not be extra credit offered in this course. Students should not request extra credit or other types of special treatment as doing so could result in a five-point deduction in the overall course grade.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation is mandatory. The only excused absence is an official LIT sponsored event that prevents accessing the class. Students should log into the course each day and check emails and announcements. You should expect to spend 8 – 12 hours per work actively engaged within this course.

MAKE-UP WORK

There are no makeup opportunities. **No assignments are accepted via email**, only the assignment submission box in Blackboard. All assignments will have 2 and only 2 submissions in the event of an upload failure or some other event that prevents a successful first submission.

Deadlines must be adhered to to successfully complete this course on time. Outside activities such as vacations, weddings, etc. are not excused due to the restricted time frame.

DROP DATES

This course adheres to the add/drop standards for each term as stated by Lamar Institute of Technology. For more details, refer to <http://www.lit.edu> and search "Academic Calendar."

INCOMPLETE

Students opting to receive an Incomplete grade are still expected to have participated in class activities, assessments, and assignments throughout the semester with something unavoidable occurring that would prevent completion of the last 25% or so of the class.

COURSE EVALUATION

Instruction as well as student performance is subject to evaluation. Procedures for evaluation will be provided near the end of this course via email from the Institute of Technology and also within the Resources area of the course. Please respond to the evaluation link provided in each course or each email.

TESTING POLICIES

Students are expected to be able to take all tests at the scheduled time online.

All tests have a deadline at 11:59PM the date indicate in the course calendar. If a student has problems during the week/weekend, the computers at LIT are available. There are no test makeups so plan accordingly by not waiting until the deadline. NO TEST MAKEUPS!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Computer/Technology Requirements:

- Students will need regular access to Windows, MAC with a broadband Internet connection.
- Note: mobile devices (if you have mobile devices there are limitations)
The minimum computer requirements are:
 - Most current version of Firefox is recommended
 - *Please note that Blackboard may not support Internet Explorer, Safari, or Chrome.*
 - 8 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband myLITion (cable modem, DSL, or other high speed) required – some courses are video intensive
 - 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
 - Strongly recommended that you have a headset with microphone. You may also use webcam, and speakers
 - Example: Plantronics Audio 628 USB headset
 - Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
 - Students will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Be certain to download the free versions of the software.
 - Firefox (<http://www.mozilla.org>)
 - Adobe Reader (<https://get.adobe.com/reader/>)
 - Adobe Flash Player (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer>)
 - Java (<http://www.java.com>)
 - QuickTime (<https://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>)
 - Silverlight (<https://www.microsoft.com/silverlight/>)
 - Most home computers purchased within the last 3-4 years meet or surpass these requirements.
- At a minimum, students must have Microsoft Office 365 (<https://my.wip.lamar.edu>) click on MS Office 365). Microsoft Office 365 is available for all students.

Required Skills:

- Navigate websites, including downloading and reading files from them.

- Use e-mail, including attaching and downloading documents/files.
- Save files in commonly used word processing formats (.doc, .docx).
- Copy and paste text and other items in computer documents.
- Save and retrieve documents and files on your computer.
- Locate information on the Internet using search engines.
- Locate information in the library using the online catalog.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academic Support via the Learning Lab can be located at <https://lit.edu/onlineorientation/LearningLab.aspx>. Lamar Institute of Technology provides free tutoring assistance for all enrolled students in the Learning Lab/Media Lab. The lab provides a relaxed environment for studying in groups or learning one-on-one with a tutor. LIT employs peer tutors so that students can choose the person with whom they are most comfortable. The Learning Lab/Media Lab assists students in achieving their maximum level of performance in their coursework. The lab provides assistance in many areas including English, Math, Science, and Speech. Additionally, the labs have computers with numerous computerized tutorials available for student use.

STUDENT SERVICES

Information on Student services can be located at <https://lit.edu/onlineorientation/StudentServices.aspx>. The Student Services Division provides services and programs to enhance the general education and development of students, enrich the quality of student life, and support the teaching and service mission of Lamar Institute of Technology. The Office of Student Services is located in Beeson 121.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY STATEMENT

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to login to Lamar Institute of Technology's website's homepage (<http://www.lit.edu>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

***Be sure to update your MyLIT Account with the most current information. ***

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at

<https://www.lit.edu/pdf/3277/LIT%20Emergency%20Procedures.pdf>

These procedures may or may not apply to you:

Severe Weather:

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- **CALL-** 9-1-1
- **AVOID-** If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY-** Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- **DEFEND-** Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Tips for success:

Here are some tips for success in my classes. Some students have the mindset that Internet classes are easier because you can use your book or that it is self-paced. Both of these things are untrue. Students that struggle with the time element with my tests typically do not read the chapters. There simply is not enough time to look everything up in the textbook when you take the quizzes or exams. You get the same amount of time on them that my traditional classroom students get – you get three hours of college credit just like they do – why should your tests be any different? I have deadlines and I do not allow for late work or extra credit. Same is true in my traditional classrooms. I really want each of you to succeed in this class and do well in life. In a very small way, I get to be a part of your successes and failures from here on out and that is a privilege for me.

1. Get your work done early. I will not accept late work for any reason. Unfortunately, some will test this policy and wait until one minute has passed from the deadline and then attempt to give me a myriad of excuses. I will not accept late work or more importantly, treat students differently. Early work is encouraged! Some of you will wait until late in the day something is due to complete items. That is fine but there is no instructor support. I consider this waiting until the last moment. Items are typically available the weekend before they are due for those of you that can only get work done on the weekend. I urge you not to wait.
2. Do not copy and paste information from other sources - I will do my best to get you dismissed from the college if I catch you plagiarizing. I want your opinions not "wikipedia" or "course hero" and your opinions are so much more important to me.
3. I do not believe in extra credit. If you have time for extra credit assignments, then you have time to complete the needed assignments and study. Please do not ask for extra credit or special consideration. All students deserve the same opportunities and considerations.
4. I promise you that you will get the grade you earn. Those that complete all items tend to earn very good grades. Please exceed the minimum word count requirements. Assignments less than the minimum will not be graded. Just like in life, please exceed minimal expectations in college.
5. Please use your LIT student email account. While I usually reply to email within **24 business** hours but please allow 48 business hours. On weekends and holidays, please do not expect a response until 24 to 48 business hours after that period ends. If you cannot access your LIT email account, then please contact the IT support people. They do a fantastic job in helping people out with their email issues.
6. I will not open any email attachments. I will not open attachments sent through the Bb message system. Please do not send them. Only use the assignment links provided. It is preferred that you attach your exams and writing assignments there. I will open those attachments. Make sure that you only use *.doc. *.docx or *.rtf files. I cannot open any other file types.
7. If you decide that you need to use Chrome as your browser, please be aware that while the browser is compatible with Bb - your computer may not be set up in manner that allows that compatibility to be 100%. I urge you to clear out your Internet cache prior to loading assignments or taking exams. This is your responsibility. This has nothing to do with LIT or Bb - it is a problem that resides in your computer set up. There is a possibility that you will load a blank document or not have your answers saved while testing may happen if you do not follow this advice.