

Syllabus – Fall 2025 – PSYC 1301/015 Introduction to Psychology

Instructor Information: Priscillia Ihionkhan, MA

Meeting Information: College of Business 214

Day/Time: Monday and Wednesday 2pm-3:25pm

Office Hours: Mondays 11am-12pm at HPR 244

Hi everyone! My name is Priscillia Ihionkhan. I am a 4th year Clinical Psychology PhD student here at UT Tyler. This course will be a general overview of many domains of psychology including personality, cognition, history, and human development. I remember taking Introduction to Psychology and how it furthered my passion for psychology. I hope this course can be that for you and that you use the information in this course to help further your goals in your education and career path!

The best way to contact me is through my UT Tyler email pihionkhan@uttyler.edu. Please put your name and class number in the subject line. I will try to respond within 24 hours but understand that if the email is sent Friday evening or on the weekend there may be no response till Monday. On Mondays, I will be available from 11am-12pm for Office Hours at HPR 244. No appointment is needed to meet with me during office hours. If this time does not work for you, send me an email and we can try and schedule a meeting.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This class is designed to give you a broad overview of the field of psychology and behavioral sciences. We will cover a brief history of the field of psychology, research methods and ethics in psychology, and spend time learning about the main branches of the field, including learning and memory, cognitive psychology, social psychology, developmental psychology, and clinical and health psychology. Please see the course calendar for the full range of topics.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Gain a familiarity with the biological, social, cognitive, and environmental underpinnings of human behavior.
- Apply the science of psychology to real world situations, including evaluating claims that you encounter in your environment.
- Students will foster critical thinking skills and apply these skills in analyzing psychological research and media.
- Students will practice communications skills (both written and oral) in the expression of ideas and analysis related to the psychology topics covered in class.
- Students will practice quantitative literacy skills by analyzing the findings in psychological research studies.
- Students will gain deeper understanding of the cultural and individual differences that are present in the range of topics discussed in class.

TEXTBOOK:

We will be using an online textbook *Psychology 2e*:
<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

You can either download it as a PDF or view it online. I prefer to use it on the web.

COURSE FLOW:

This is a face to face, in person class. I will generally introduce each topic with some background information and/or lecture on some selected aspect of each topic, but much of what you learn from the class will be information that you glean from the readings and class discussions. Active student attendance and participation will be required. **Classes will be delivered in person and will not be streamed on zoom.** It is important that you read over the chapter, come to class ready to participate.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

EXAMS: There will be 3 non-cumulative exams that cover material from class and the readings. The first 2 exams will take place during a regular class period, and the 3rd exam will take place during the final exam period (though it is NOT a cumulative final, it covers the last unit of material). Each non-cumulative exam will be worth **20% of your final grade**. The exams will utilize multiple choice and short answer formats.

MAKE UP EXAMS: Make-up exams will be given under *compelling* circumstances. If you need to make-up an exam, please let me know as soon as possible that you will not be able to take them exam on the scheduled day. Make-up exams will be in the same format as the regular exams, but will be an alternate version of the test (i.e., different questions than the rest of the class got). **Make up exams will be taken at the same time as your final exam during the scheduled exam period.** So, if you need to make up Exam 1, you will take an alternate version of Exam 1 and the regular Exam 3 in the same sitting.

FICTION MEETS REALITY PROJECT: CHARACTER ANALYSIS PAPER: In addition to your exams and class participation, you will choose a fictional character from a movie, TV show, book, or video game and analyze their thoughts, feelings, and actions using **at least three psychological concepts** from *different* chapters in our course. You will explain each concept in your own words, connect it directly to examples from your character's story, and support your analysis with **at least five scholarly sources**.

IN CLASS PARTICIPATION: I will enter your participation grade after our last in person class day. Your grade will be based on completing a series of in-class assignments that I will give out in class during the semester. I will not announce the dates of the assignments ahead of time, so it is important that you attend class. I will drop the lowest assignment grade, so it is ok if you miss one and I will not need any sort of documentation to drop this lowest/missing grade (that is, you won't need to bring me a doctor's note or worry about making it up).

SONA RESEARCH REQUIREMENT: There is a research requirement in this class. If you do not wish to sign up for the research assignments, then you are allowed to write **5-page research paper** that will be due at midterms. More information for this alternate assignment will be given in class.

PERCENTAGE OF GRADE

Exam 1 20%

Exam 2 20%

Exam 3 20%

Fiction Meets Reality Project 25%

In-class Participation Assignments 15%

Total points 100%

Course Schedule *Subject to change at any time*:

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Week	Due Date	Chapters	Notes
1	August 25th	Chapter 1: Psychological Foundation	
2	September 1 st	Chapter 2: Psychological Research	No class on Monday (Labor Day). There is class on the 3 rd .
3	September 8th	Chapter 3: Biopsychology	
4	September 15th	Chapter 4: States of Consciousness	Submit character choice, media source, and 2-3 possible psychological concepts from different chapters for approval.
5	September 22nd	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception	Exam 1 on Wednesday, September 24th
6	September 29th	Chapter 6: Thinking and Intelligence	Five APA-style references on how they support your character analysis. 3 must be from peer-reviewed journal articles.
7	October 6th	Chapter 7: Memory	No class Wednesday, 10/8
8	October 13th	Chapter 8: Learning	
9	October 20th	Chapter 9: Lifespan Development	Outline or partial draft of fiction meets reality paper.
10	October 27th	Chapter 10: Social Psychology	Exam 2 on Wednesday, October 29th

11	November 3rd	Chapter 11: Personality	
12	November 10th	Chapter 12: Emotion and Motivation	
13	November 17th	Chapter 13: Industrial Organization Psychology	Final Fiction Meets Reality Paper due
14	November 24th	Thanksgiving	
15	December 1st	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders	
16	December 8th	Chapter 15: Therapy and Treatment	Exam 3 on Wednesday, December 10th

UT-TYLER DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

The Department of Psychology and Counseling requires that all students enrolled in 1000-, 2000-, and 3000-level psychology courses to complete a research requirement. (Note that the Research Methods course, Psyc 2331, is exempt from this policy). Some 4000-level courses offer research participation to gain extra credit.

A course with the research requirement will require **6 credits**. If you are enrolled in more than one course with the research requirement, there is a **maximum of 12 credits required total – even if you are enrolled in more than two courses with the requirement**.

To fulfill this requirement or access extra credit opportunities, all students should register in Sona within the first week of class. The registration will take only a few minutes and will include a brief survey to collect demographic data. This data will serve as a screening tool to determine potential survey eligibility.

Once you register in the system, there are two ways to fulfill the research requirement:

Options:

- (1) You may complete research credits by participating in psychology studies. One credit is earned for every 30 minutes of research participation. Most studies are worth one credit.
- (2) The number of credits required varies from one course to the next, and your instructor will tell you how many credits are required to complete the research requirement in his or her specific course. **The 1000-, 2000-, AND 3000-level course research requirement is 6 credits each**. There is a **maximum of 12 credits total if you are enrolled in more than one course that includes the research requirement**.
- (3) In lieu of the research participation, you may instead complete a 5-page research report on a topic supplied by your instructor. The instructor will also supply more detail regarding the proper format of the research report.

Timeline:

If you choose to complete the research participation, at least 2 of the credits must be submitted on or before midterms. The specific due date for these credits will be determined by your course instructor. Failure to do so will result in a **5% reduction** to your final course grade. The remaining 2 credits needed to fulfill the requirement must be submitted on or before the last day of the regular semester (i.e., before the start of finals week). Failure to submit the remaining credits by this date will result in an **additional 5% reduction** to your final grade.

If you choose, instead, to complete the research report, the final report must be submitted to your instructor no later than midterms. The specific due date for this report will be determined by your course instructor. Failure to do so will result in a **10% reduction** to your final course grade. If you are caught plagiarizing or engaging in other forms of academic dishonesty regarding the research report, you will face university disciplinary measures in addition to the 10% reduction to your final grade.

Initial Registration and Account Setup:

The psychology pool administrator maintains the student credits in the department's online research participation system, which is called Sona Systems. Students are required to register with this online system to track and submit their credits.

How to Create an Account for the Research Sign-up System

Go to the following website: <http://uttyler.sona-systems.com>

Please follow these steps:

- (1) On the right-hand side of the page, click the link that says, "Request Account."
- (2) Type in your information. Your user ID can be anything you wish. However, note that **YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS MUST BE ACCURATE!!!!** You will also enter your telephone number and select the psychology course(s) that you enrolled in this semester.
- (3) The system will use your email address to send you a password.
- (4) Log into the system at the web address above with your username (that you created) and password (that the system will email to you). You may change your password upon logging in to the system for the first time.
- (5) Click the link that says "Study Sign Up"
- (6) Click the link of the study you wish to participate in (the number of credits the study is worth will be listed on the webpage).
- (7) Click the link that says, "Timeslots Available." Note that a specific study is available until the study is completed, after which you can no longer sign up for it. New studies are posted throughout the semester, but the timing of new study availability depends on the individual researchers in charge of those specific studies.

Start early!!!! Do NOT wait until the end of the semester to start your research participation. There will NOT be many studies available toward the end of the semester because the researchers and their student assistants are trying to analyze the data from their semester projects before the semester ends. Check Sona each week throughout the semester to find new studies in which you can participate!!!!

- (8) Select a date and time that will work for you. Some studies are completely online, so you can complete that study immediately. Other studies require that you show up to one of the

psychology research laboratories on campus. There are three psychology laboratories on campus, so please note which one you need to attend.

(9) The Sona system will send you an email reminder about your study sign up (including information about the day, time, and location of the study) at 5:00 pm the night before the study is to take place.

(9) Repeat Steps 5 - 8 until you have completed all credits that are required for your course. Any credits you complete beyond those required for your course(s) can potentially be used for extra credit, at the discretion of your instructor.

Once you participate, the system will track the number of credit hours you have completed. This information is available by clicking the “My Schedule/Credits” link.

Types of Studies:

There are two basic types of studies. The first is a laboratory study, and you will meet with a researcher at a specific location on the UT-Tyler campus. The second type is an online study. With this type of study, you can complete it from any computer connected to the internet. Although most studies are of the first type, a few online studies may be posted during the semester for your convenience. The type of study will be listed in the description of the project on the website.

Cancelling an Appointment:

If you need to cancel an appointment for a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the My Schedule / Credits page on the website. Select this link, and you will see all the studies you have signed up for, as well as those you have completed. Click “Cancel” on the appointment you need to cancel, and you will see a confirmation page. Note, however, that you should avoid cancelling an appointment unless necessary. Aside from not receiving the credit from the study, you are also inconveniencing the student researchers who are waiting at the laboratory to greet you. If you do need to cancel, you may try to contact the researcher in charge of the study (listed on the website) to reschedule.

To assign credits to specific courses –If you are in more than one course that requires participation and/or offers extra credit for participation – please do the following:

- (1) Click the “My Schedule/Credits” link.
- (2) Assign the credits for each study in which you have participated to a specific course. This may include volunteer hours for student counseling.
- (3) The system will allow you to assign any number of the total credits you have accumulated to any specific course. However, you only have your total number of accumulated credits to distribute to your course(s). For example, if you have two courses that require participation and you have 10 accumulated credits, you can allocate those 10 credits to one course, the other course, or divide them in some way between both courses.

Before the end of the semester, be sure that you “apply” the credits that you have accumulated to the course(s) that require research participation and/or that offer extra credit for participating in research or volunteering for counseling.

If you have any questions about Sona or the research participation requirement for your course, please talk with your course instructor. Or, you may contact the Sona System administrator, Dr. Stocks, directly at estocks@uttyler.edu.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Canvas has tools that shows when/if a student has plagiarized information. It will generate a report once you submit your work and any information matching other sources will be highlighted in a document. I am sure you know that this would be considered to violate our Academic Dishonesty Policy, and you will be turned into the Student Affairs office for review. Your work must be original and in your own words. I cannot stress enough; make sure ALL your work is ORIGINAL. If you aren't sure if the work, you are about to submit abides by the academic dishonesty policy of the university) don't submit it. You know if the work you are submitting is completely original. Make sure that you always include in-text citations as well as a Works Cited page in APA format with all your work. For assistance with APA formatting, you may visit the writing center on campus and find this site to be helpful:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at
<https://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quit lines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit. <https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/human-resources/wellness/tobacco-cessation/>

GRADE REPLACEMENT/FORGIVENESS AND CENSUS DATE POLICIES

Fall 2025 Census Date – September 8

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the

Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W, grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

STATE-MANDATED COURSE DROP POLICY

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

DISABILITY SERVICES

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/disability-services/> the SAR office located in the University Center #3150 or call 903.566.7079.

STUDENT ABSENCE DUE TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND FERPA STATEMENT

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

EMERGENCY EXITS AND EVACUATION

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

STUDENT STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Cheating, includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's test paper.
- Using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- Failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test.
- Possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes." The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test.
- Using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority.
- Discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination.
- Divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student.

- Substituting for another person or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment.
- Paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program.
- Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit.
- Taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and,
- Misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- "Plagiarism, includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for
- "Collusion, includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic
- All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism

CEP VISION AND MISSION AND PROGRAM STANDARDS

CEP Vision

The CEP will be a global leader in responding to needs in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling, with a focus on the East Texas region, by creating innovative academic and scholarly pathways and partnerships.

CEP Mission

The mission of the CEP is to prepare competent and passionate professionals in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling; to advance knowledge and expertise; and to impact these fields locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.