Syllabus – Spring 2026 – PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology ONLINE

Instructor Information: Angeline Watts

Hi everyone! My name is Angeline Watts. I am a 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 CANVAS. I will usually respond within one business day (Monday-Friday). My weekend availability may vary. You can also email me at awatts9@patriots.uttyler.edu.

Each Monday I will be available from 10am-11:30am via ZOOM for Virtual Office Hours. If this time does not work for you, send me an email and we can try and schedule a meeting. You can use this link to access our meeting room:

https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/89448410043?pwd=NGODzUdmF0EA9IEHxneW8NmJNaN4t3.1

This course is online meaning that we have interact with each other via discussion posts. I do my best to make these worth your time and try to cultivate a meaningful discussion that promotes our learning. With that said, please treat others with respect during discussions. Approach each topic and feedback with a kind and open-mind.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Show familiarity with major concepts with the biological, cognitive, social, research methods, historical, and environmental elements of psychology
- Analyze and describe the key theoretical viewpoints in psychology
- Students will develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing psychological research and media
- Identify the differences between scientific and non-scientific methods of analyzing concepts
- Understand the diversity present in psychology and how it has impacted the field

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 course will take a similar amount of time and effort as in person class. This class is divided up into Modules. Each module will have chapter readings, power-point slides, and sometimes video clips or supplemental readings. Due dates will always be on Sundays at 11:59pm, except for your final reflection paper. Each new module will open on Monday at 8:00am.

It is important that you read over the chapter, watch the lecture, and review additional module material prior to taking each quiz.

Evaluation and Grading:

Discussion Post: Every week there will be a discussion post that pertains to the topic we discussed in the lecture and chapter for that week. Sometimes they will be opinion pieces, other times a demonstration of knowledge, most of the time a question answer. Your initial post should be 2-4 paragraphs in length (a paragraph is 4-6 sentences per APA) and will be worth **3** points. You are required to respond to at least two of your peers' posts and your response will be worth **1** point each. PLEASE **do not** just reflect what your peer said back to them (e.g., "Wow Donny, you made a great point about Freud and his weird controversial theory... I was also thinking that was weird. Great post.") Look – I've been there, but also lets just try to not do that if we can. Practice and demonstrate your critical thinking and research skills here! It will help you with your final paper. **Total Possible Points:** 60

Quiz: Every week there will be a 10 point quiz on the material we covered for the week. These quizzes are not going to have trick questions or be worded in a way that is meant to trip you up. If you read and watch the lectures, you should get a 10 on every quiz. Please, if there is ever a quiz question that you felt was unfairly worded or too confusing, let me know and I will do my best to work with you on your point and reword the question. In psychometrics, it is important that we measure what we intend to which **is** your comprehension of the course material.. **not** your ability to decipher trick questions. You got this! **Total Possible Points**: 120

Final Paper: POP! Psychology Researcher. It is time to demonstrate your research skills and information comprehension! Pop psychology is a term that describes some psychological concept that has become popular through media. However, a lot of the time the original psychological concept becomes lost, over-exaggerated, conflated, or is just completely made up. For this final assignment, I would like for you to find a term, idea, concept, whatever it is that you often see in media that could be deemed "Pop psychology" and demonstrate what parts of the concept is empirically supported (if there are parts) and what parts may have been twisted through mass media. You must relate the pop psychology concept to some aspect of a concept we've discussed in class. For example, if you are researching different "personality" quizzes, you may refer to the "personality" section of course. The paper will be 4 pages where you will explain the concept and explain what you've learned. More information will be posted on Canvas as it gets closer. (This assignment was adapted from Dr. Amy Hayes Intro Course) **Total Possible Points:** 50

Final Reflection: One more small paper! I would like for you to reflect on your favorite concepts from the course and why. Demonstrate what you learned – what about it fascinated you? This should be 2 pages long. **Total Possible Points:** 10

SONA Research Requirement: There is a research requirement in this class. As a student, you must either participate in research at UT Tyler **OR** write a 5 page paper. The 5 page paper for this class would be a research paper over your favorite topic from a module of this course. It is **not** extra credit and is **mandatory** to complete one or the other. See below for further information about SONA and being a participant in research at UT Tyler. **Total Possible Points**: 10 points OR reduction in grade if not completed.

12 Quizzes: 120 points
12 Discussion posts: 60 points
1 POP psychology paper: 50 points
1 Course Reflection: 10 points
Research Participation: 10 points

Total Points – 250

Grading Breakdown

225-250 points: A

200-224 points: B

175-199 points: C

150-174 points: D

<150 points: F

Your lowest quiz will be dropped from your grade. There is also an extra credit opportunity worth 15 points that will go towards your overall grade.

Course Schedule *Subject to change at any time*:

Module 1: January 12th – January 18th
Introduction to Psychology and Psychology as a Science
Video Lecture
Sign up for SONA
Quiz 1
Discussion Board 1

Module 2: January 19st - 25th
Biopsychology
Video Lecture

Quiz 2
Discussion Board 2

Module 3: January 26th – February 1nd
Cognition
Video Lecture
Quiz 3
Discussion Board 3

Module 4: February 2rd – February 8th
Sensation and Perception
Video Lecture
Quiz 4
Discussion Board 4

Module 5: February 9th – February 15th
Learning and Memory
Video Lecture
Quiz 5
Discussion Board 5
2 Sona Credits **OR** Research Paper due February 15th

Module 6: February 16th – 22rd
Lifespan Development
Video Lecture
Quiz 6
Discussion Board 6

Module 7: February 23th – March 1nd
Emotion and Motivation
Video Lecture
Quiz 7
Discussion Board 7

Module 8: March 2rd – March 8th
Personality
Video Lecture
Quiz 8
Discussion Board 8

Spring Break: March 9th – March 13th
Social Psychology
Video Lecture
Quiz 9
Discussion Board 9

Module 9: March 16th – 22nd
Social Psychology
Video Lecture
Quiz 9
Discussion Board 9

Module 10: March 23th – March 29th
Stress, Lifestyle, and Health
Video Lecture
Quiz 10
Discussion Board 10

Module 11: March 30th – April 5th
POP Psychology Paper Work Week

Module 12: April 6th – April 12t^h
Psychological Disorders
Video Lecture
Quiz 11
Discussion Board 11

Module 13: April 13th-19th
Therapy and Treatment
Video Lecture
Quiz 12
Discussion Board 12
POP! Psychology Paper Due April 19th.

Module 14: April 20st – April 26th
Wrap Up Video Lecture
Final Reflection Due April 29th
Final Remaining SONA Credits due April 25th

UT-Tyler Department of Psychology and Counseling Research Requirement

The Department of Psychology and Counseling <u>requires</u> that all students enrolled in 1000-, 2000-, and 300-level psychology courses to complete a <u>research requirement.</u> (Note that the Research Methods course, Psyc 2331, is exempt from this policy). Some 4000-level courses offer research participation as a means to gain extra credit.

Generally speaking, 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**.

In order 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 <u>research credits by participating in psychology studies.</u> 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. **Generally speaking, the 1000-, 2000-, AND 300-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 <u>5-page research report on a topic supplied by your instructor.</u> The instructor will also supply more detail regarding the proper format of the research report.

Timeline:
      If you choose to complete the research participation, <u>at least 2 of the credits must be submitted on or before midterms.</u> 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. <u>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).</u> 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 <u>no later than midterms.</u> 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 with regard to 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 <u>NOT</u> wait until the end of the semester to start your research participation. There will <u>NOT</u> be a large number of 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 in order 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.

<u>**Types of Studies:**</u>

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 the majority of 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.

<u>**Cancelling an Appointment:**</u>

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 absolutely 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 –in the event that 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 <u>estocks@uttyler.edu</u>.

Artificial Intelligence Statement:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased.
Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy

AI is not permitted in this course at all.

I expect the work of the students be your own. I disallow the use of ChatGPT or any artificial intelligence tools for any stage of your work process. This means you are not to use ChatGPT for brainstorming, fact checking, resource finding etc. A big part of this course is learning how to

use our critical thinking and research skills and I believe forbidding the use of AI will assist you in strengthening that skill. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor code and academic honesty values.

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 of 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 of 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.

Student Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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 http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus- (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
 carry/index.php

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, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit.

Uttyer.edu/tobacco-free

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Fall 2024 Census Date – September 9
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 http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices, (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.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 agift, 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.