

Spring 2026

PSYC 3310.063 Health Psychology

Instructor Information

Anthony T. Lawson

Adjunct. No on campus office or regular office hours

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Canvas message is the preferred way to contact me. We can schedule a phone visit if necessary.

NOTE: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Catalog Description

A focus on health care systems and patient-physician relations, and how psychological research informs the understanding, prevention and treatment of a variety of health concerns, including stress, traumatic injury, pain management, addictions, and chronic illness.

Student Learning Outcomes & Assessments

- Students will be able to describe the science of the field of Health Psychology by identifying and discussing the interplay of psychological, biological, behavioral, and social factors (Biopsychosocial Model) in the study of health issues including mechanisms and pathways in disease processes such as the initiation, promotion, and management of disease.
- Students will be able to summarize the theory and research of the field of Health Psychology by reviewing and discussing the fundamental and more recent contributions to the science.
- Students will be able to critique and synthesize research on the factors involved in causing, maintaining, contributing to, preventing, and treating a specific health issue;

- Students will be able to better examine one's own health history and describe and enact a positive, proactive attitude toward healthy living for oneself.

Evaluation and Grading

- 3 Major Exams: 40%
- 15 Chapter Key Term Assignments: 30%
- 15 Chapter Quizzes: 20%
- 15 Chapter Discussion Forums: 10%
 - **A = 90 - 100**
 - **B = 80 - 89**
 - **C = 70 - 79**
 - **D = 60 - 69**
 - **F < 60**

Teaching Strategies

An online class is quite different than traditional face-to-face classes and is NOT an easy "A!" To be successful in this course, you will be required to do a lot of reading and writing. Instead of traditional "sit and get" lectures, you will be viewing presentations, videos, and other online activities in the modules on your own. This gives you a lot of flexibility on when and where you do your coursework, however you still have strict due dates during the course of the semester. Successful online students must be motivated, hard-working, and self-disciplined!

Below is some helpful information about the reality of online classes:

- Contrary to popular belief, online courses are just as hard and are often more time consuming than traditional courses. Rather than sitting in a physical classroom listening to your instructor lecture for 3 hours a week, you will be getting your materials through reading, online notes, presentations, videos, and activities.
- Online courses typically require much more reading and writing than traditional classes.

- Instead of asking questions and receiving an instantaneous answer from your instructor, you will be either posting or e-mailing your questions. While most online instructors will respond to your concerns as soon as possible, you will need to be patient.
- As you will not be in the classroom, you will need to be much more self-directed than it might seem. In other words, you have to take responsibility for your own learning.
- Some students truly need the face-to-face interaction with instructor and peers. Other students find that they lack the high level of responsibility it takes to tackle an online class.
- At a minimum, an online course requires students to use their time wisely, be organized, be self-directed, and be willing to try new modes of communication and learning.
- Successful students often use the weekly assignment sheets to create a course calendar so that they have an overview of all assignments. Good time management and planning are necessary skills.
- Students who do well are those who are willing to put in the needed time, read the text carefully (even the dull sections), and participate in the online activities.
- You will be expected to check your e-mail frequently, get all assignments in on time, not allow yourself to fall behind at all, discuss your concerns and questions with instructor and classmates, perhaps arrange to swap e-mail addresses with other students in the class, and participate fully each week.
- Just because this class is online does not mean there are no due dates or structure. The difference in online and lecture based classes is merely that the instructional method is different. This is not a correspondence class.

Required Text, Materials/Supplies, and Related Readings

Required Textbook: Sarafino, E. P., & Smith, T. W. *Health Psychology: Biopsychosocial Interactions* (8th). John Wiley & Son. Print or E-version are acceptable.

NOTE: You WILL do lots of reading in this on-line course, and you WILL need this textbook to do the coursework, so you MUST have this textbook to successfully complete this course.

Course Policies (attendance, make-up assignments, etc.)

This course is organized in 6 Unit Modules, each covering 2 to 4 chapters, and concluding with a Unit exam. Each chapter within the Unit Modules will include: Reading assignment, chapter notes, discussion question, chapter quizzes, key terms writing assignment, and online videos and external online activities.

The units will be open until due dates and late assignments are not acceptable.

- **Exams:**
 - The exams will be administered online and will be available up to the due date of the Unit (see Course Schedule in “Start Here” module for dates).
 - You are not required to take the exams at a college testing center, but you may take your exam from any convenient location as long as you have good internet connection.
 - Each exam is multiple-choice.
 - You will have 200 minutes to complete the exam. The timer doesn't stop if you log off, so you must have enough time to finish when you start.
 - If you get disconnected from the exam for any reason, you can log back in and continue where you left off as long as the timer has not expired. Log back in immediately so that you can finish within the time limit.
 - If you have any trouble while taking the test, please email me at alawson@uttyler.edu.
- **Chapter Key Terms Writing Assignments:**
 - At the end of each chapter, find the list of key terms.
 - List and define each term using your textbook chapter as your reference.
 - For each term, list the textbook page from the chapter where the material is found. (DO NOT copy directly from the glossary or use other sources.)
 - Use this document to help study for your exams.

- Each student must do their own assignment and submit original work. Copied assignments are considered academic dishonesty, will result in 0s for all students involved, and a report to UT Tyler.
- MUST be saved and submitted as either typed **Word doc, Pages (Mac) or PDF**.
- Submit assignment for grading by the due date.
- **Chapter Quizzes:**
 - 25 multiple choice questions from the chapter
 - Do not "surf the web" for answers. (Many times, a web search finds different information than what is in the text.)
 - Two attempts to make the best grade possible.
 - First attempt, use only your brain. Go back to your text to review the concepts you missed.
 - Second attempt. Use your textbook and notes as support to make the best possible grade.
 - No time limit.
- **Discussion Forum Participation:**
 - You will be required to participate in discussion forums which will focus on topics related to each chapter.
 - You are expected to post your own response, then reply to at least three other students' posts.
 - The chapter discussion forums are found in unit modules along with the other activities for each chapter.
 - Discussions are due at the Unit due date along with the other unit activities.
 - There is a "Meet and Greet" discussion in the "Start Here" module that everyone needs to do first day of the semester. It is not for a grade, but is used to determine your "class participation," will help everyone in the online class get to know each other a little bit at least, and get familiar with the chapter discussion forums. Students will have an opportunity to introduce themselves by writing a short biography including a little background on yourself, what you are majoring in, plans and goals for future, interests and hobbies, and whatever you feel comfortable sharing.

Topical Outline

See Course Schedule in Canvas for specific due dates

- Unit I: An Introduction: Basic Issues and Processes
 - Chapter 1 An Overview of Psychology and Health
 - Chapter 2 The Body's Physical Symptoms
- Unit II: Stress, Illness, and Coping
 - Chapter 3 Stress - Its Meaning, Impact, and Sources
 - Chapter 4 Stress, Biopsychological Factors, and Illness
 - Chapter 5 Coping With and Reducing Stress
- Unit III: Lifestyles to Enhance Health and Prevent Illness
 - Chapter 6 Health-Related Behavior and Health Promotion
 - Chapter 7 Substance Use and Abuse
 - Chapter 8 Nutrition, Weight Control and Diet, Exercise, and Safety
- Unit IV: Becoming Ill and Getting Medical Treatment
 - Chapter 9 Using Health Services
 - Chapter 10 In the Hospital: The Setting, Procedures, and Effects on Patients
- Unit V: Physical Symptoms: Pain and Discomfort
 - Chapter 11 The Nature and Symptoms of Pain
 - Chapter 12 Managing and Controlling Clinical Pain
- Unit VI: Chronic and Life-Threatening Health Problems/Looking to the Future
 - Chapter 13 Serious and Disabling Chronic Illnesses: Causes, Management, and Coping
 - Chapter 14 Heart Disease, Stroke, Cancer, and AIDS: Causes, Management, and Coping
 - Chapter 15 What's Ahead for Health Psychology

University Policies

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

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 of. These include:

Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

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 federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services office in UC 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.

(i) "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.

(ii) "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 credit.

(iii) "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 dishonesty.

CEP Vision and Mission and Program Standards

Vision

The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

Mission

The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through

scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service.

Additionally, the College is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, and scholarship.