

Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2026

PSYC 1301-064 (Online)

Dr. Drew A. Curtis

Email: dcurtis@uttyler.edu

Office: HPR 236

Office Hours: T 9-12 or by appt.

Website: <https://www.drewacurtisphd.com/>

Instructor Information: Hello! My name is Dr. Drew Curtis. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling and a licensed psychologist in Texas. My PhD is in Counseling Psychology. My research is broadly clinical science and deception. Specifically, I study pathological lying and deception.

I love teaching psychology, a class that can easily connect with anyone, regardless of your major and areas of interests—something for all! I am very excited to share my passion for psychology and hope to ignite the same passion in you, as you can apply it in your future academic journey and career pathway.

We have 7 weeks to jump into a variety of psychological topics. Thus, it will be a fast-paced course. To be successful, please attend to and take note of all the due dates. While this is an online class with some flexibility, there is a structure that must be maintained. Be sure you attend class through logging into Canvas often, reviewing the assignments due, and contacting the instructor when necessary. The best way to contact me is via email at dcurtis@uttyler.edu. I usually respond to messages within one business day, Monday through Friday. Weekend availability will vary. You can also message me through Canvas. You are also welcome to come by my office throughout the week, when I am not teaching or you can setup a time to meet with me.

Course Description

A survey of empirically based knowledge of behavior and mentation of individuals.

Course Format: Online (asynchronous)

Required Text:

Your textbook for this class is available for free online!

[Psychology 2e from OpenStax](#)

ISBN 978-1-975076-45-0

You have several options to obtain this book:

- [View online](#)
- [Download a PDF](#)

Student Learning Outcomes

By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods, core empirical findings, and historic trends in psychology.
- Explain (including advantages and disadvantages) and compare major theoretical perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic and socio-cultural);
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following general domains: biological bases of

behavior and mental processes, sensation and perception, learning and memory, cognition, consciousness, personality, social processes, developmental changes in behavior and mental processes that occur across the lifespan, emotion, and motivation;

- Draw the distinction between scientific and non-scientific methods of understanding and analysis.
- Recognize and understand the impact of diversity on psychological research, theory and application, including (but not limited to): age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, socio-economic status, disability, and sexual orientation.
- Understand and apply psychological principles to personal experience and social and organizational settings.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and information competence as applied to psychological topics.

Grading

Assessment	Points
Discussions (5):	100 pts. (20 pts. each)
Quizzes (6):	120 pts. (20 pts. each)
Activities (2):	80 pts. (40 pts each)
Exams (2):	200 pts. (100 pts each)
Total Possible Points	500

Grade	Range
A	450-500
B	400-449.9
C	350-399.9
D	300-349.9
F	≤299.9

Assignments

Myth-Busting Discussions

Students are required to participate in discussions about the readings and lectures. The discussions serve two purposes: (1) to apply course material through critical thinking and (2) demonstrate your understanding of the major psychological perspectives. Discussions will require you to either generate a post about a myth you have heard related to the readings and lectures for the week or generate a post related to a myth posted by your instructor.

There will be weekly discussions, totaling 5 discussions, in which 100 points can be earned by participation in the discussions. Students participating fully, with thoughtful relevant comments will be given full credit (questions/comments that go beyond the text or PowerPoints). Minimal and/or redundant comments will earn partial credit. Posts should elaborate on course material and also provide at least one thoughtful question. Posts need to

be at least 50 words and fewer than 150 words. Replies need to be between 15 to 50 words. Each discussion will require students to create at least 1 post and 2 replies to other students' posts. Extra posts/replies will not be granted extra credit.

Post = 15 pts Replies = 5 pts. (2.5 each)

Quizzes

There will be 6 weekly quizzes given throughout the class. Each quiz will be worth 20 points and you will have no more than 30 minutes to complete the quiz. If you fail to attend class you will receive a zero for your quiz that day.

Activities

Students will complete two homework activities (40 points each) in the semester. Each Homework assignment will be posted in CANVAS and will be submitted in Canvas. **No late assignments will be accepted and no make-up assignments will be given.** Homework Format (APA style).

Exams

There will be 2 exams, a mid-exam and final exam given at the end of the course. Exams are NOT cumulative and may include multiple-choice questions, matching items, true/false questions, short answer, and/or essay questions. Exams will cover material from lectures, readings, activities, and class discussions.

Make up policy for exams: Make up exams will ONLY be allowed for emergency situations (in other words, a doctor's appointment is not an emergency). It is the student's responsibility (BY EMAIL WHEN POSSIBLE) to contact the professor within 24 hours to reschedule. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the exam. Make up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and will be scheduled as quickly as possible. Make-up exams will cover the same material, but are in a format of the instructor's choice, such as ORAL or comprehensive fill in the blank/essay exams.

Course Expectations

Policies/Expectations

1. Read the syllabus If anything is unclear, then read the syllabus. If you still have concerns, then contact the professor.
2. Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in the course. You are encouraged to be *active participants* in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class.
3. If you have any concerns related to this class, you are encouraged to speak with your instructor *in a timely manner*. As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given
4. Students will be expected to access their email and online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and
5. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software
6. Students may not use AI to write any parts of their essays or exams. Use of AI to write your essay or exam will result in a zero for the exam and may even result in a failing grade for the course as well as potentially being dismissed.

Course Outline

Week	Module/Week	Chapters	Due
Oct. 12	1: Psychology: Introduction, History, and Science	1 & 2	Quiz 1; Discussion 1
Oct. 19	2: Biopsychology & Consciousness	3 & 4	Quiz 2; Discussion 2; Activity 1
Oct. 26	3: Sensation/Perception, Learning, Cognition, and Memory	5-8	Quiz 3; Discussion 3; Exam 1
Nov. 2	4: Social Psych, Personality, and Emotion	10-12	Quiz 4; Discussion 4
Nov. 9	5: Lifespan Development	9	Quiz 5; Discussion 5
Nov. 16	6: Psychological Disorders & Therapy	15-16	Quiz 6; Discussion 6; Activity 2
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Holiday		
Nov. 30	Final Exam (due by Dec, 2nd, by or before 11:59p.m.		

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

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 all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when **all** of the following conditions are met:* (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the

course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the Registrar's Form Library.

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility 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 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 the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 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-carry/index.php>.