



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

General Psychology - Section Syllabus

PSY 2012 - D9188

Spring 2025 Session A

Instructor: Timothy E. Sowers, Ed.D.

Office: Pensacola Campus, Building 14, Room 1461

Phone: (850) 484-1465

Email: tsowers@pensacolastate.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Department Head: Mr. Scott Schackmann

Department Head Phone: (850) 484 - 1118

Department Head Email: sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu

Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: Jan 16 2025

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: Apr 7 2025

Course Description: A survey of psychology as a social science. Covers the biological and social determinants of human cognition, emotion, and behavior. Attention will also be given to the history of the discipline, forms of psychopathology, and the growing role of brain science within the field.

Class Meeting Time: Online

Class Location: Online

Credits: 3 cc

Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENC 1101.

Offered: FA, SP, SU.

Distribution: Meets AA General Education Core, Social Sciences requirement.

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials: Free "Open Educational Resources" required. Please see your instructor.

Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials: None.

Special Requirements:

Writing Emphasis Requirement: A minimum of three fully developed, multi-paragraph, evaluated writing assignments, not including a final examination, are required.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for each evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before submission of the next evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Only individual student work may count toward the minimum three evaluated writing assignments.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Grading rubrics will be used for each evaluated writing assignment. These rubrics will be shared with each student.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	A
87% - 89%	B+
80% - 86%	B
77% - 79%	C+
70% - 76%	C
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
0% - 59%	F

Grading Calculation	
Discussion Postings and Weekly Quizzes	25%
Essay Assignments	25%
Comprehensive Exams	25%
Final Exam	25%
Totals	100%

Evaluations of student progress towards achieving the stated learning outcomes and performance objectives is the responsibility of the instructor, within the policies of the College and the department. Detailed explanations are included in the course supplementals developed by the instructor for each section being taught.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;
2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. effective instruction;
6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

Communication: The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.

Cultural Literacy: The student demonstrates an understanding of human culture and its diversity.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Define the science and practice of psychology as well as ethical considerations for research.
2. Identify major theories and theorists in psychology.
3. Compare different theoretical and methodical approaches to behavior, cognition, personality, intelligence, and development.
4. Recognize terms, names, concepts, and scientific experiments vital to understanding the science of psychology.
5. Apply psychological principles and findings to real world experiences.
6. Critically evaluate sources of information.
7. Outline the divisions and functions of the nervous system, neurons, and endocrine system and discuss how these affect behavior.
8. Recognize how the mind develops, how consciousness and unconsciousness impacts behavior, how people learn, how information is stored and organized, and how the brain processes memories.
9. Analyze components of social psychology including attitudes, conformity, and relationships.
10. Examine the impact of stress on health, how personality traits influence the effects of stress, and how to effectively cope with stress.
11. Discuss various psychological disorders and their treatment.

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details.

Student Email Accounts:

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility:

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement:

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any

special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

Equity Statement:

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director, Equal Opportunity Compliance at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

Security Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is defined as participating in discussions and completing weekly exams.

Acceptable use of AI: Because the effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools is increasingly important to the work of communicators, the use of AI is allowed in this class under the following conditions:

- pre-writing: before content is created, writers may use AI tools to research topics, and collect samples.
- drafting: writers may use AI tools to create an outline for their content
- revising: after content is generated and sources cited appropriately, writers may use AI tools to assist with style/tone, spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Students must guide, verify and craft each essay to ensure originality.

Turnitin: Each essay is submitted through Canvas and assessed for plagiarism. Turnitin is an AI plagiarism detector tool which identifies ChatGPT and AI paraphrasing tools such as text spinners. Turnitin promotes originality of work and prevents academic dishonesty.

- plagiarism: consequences for plagiarism include but are not limited to one or more of the following, the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details.