



Course Syllabus

PSY 2012—14685—Online
General Psychology
C Session, Spring Semester, 2025
3 Credit Hours—Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. John W. Erickson, Jr., M.Div., J.D., Ph.D.

Spring 2025 B Session Dates: 06 January – 28 February 2025

Note: For any syllabus posted before the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes before or during the term. The instructor will notify students via email or Canvas announcement when changes are made to the course's requirements and/or grading.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented on the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least **EVERY 48 HOURS**.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Instructor Contact Information:

Dr. John W. Erickson, Jr., M.Div., J.D., Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor
Social Sciences Division
(907) 841-1139 – iPhone
jerickso1@gulfcoast.edu

Please include your name and the course title in the subject line of your emails.

Thank you!

Instructor Education:

B.A., Justice, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, 1992
B.A., Speech Communication, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, 1993
J.D., J. Rueben Clark School of Law, Provo, Utah, 1999
M.A., Administration of Justice, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska 2004
M.M.O.A.S., Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, 2009
M.S., Forensic Psychology, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2015
Ph.D., Criminal Justice-Behavioral Science, Nova Southeastern University, Florida, 2016
M.Div., Iliff School of Theology, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 2022
M.S., Counseling, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Pending

Office Hours: I am typically available between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (Central Time), Monday through Friday. Notwithstanding, please do not hesitate to email or text me anytime. I will get back to you as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours. I am here for you!

Social Sciences Office Contacts:

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Required Textbook:

The textbook for this course, *Psychology 2e*, ISBN-13: 978-1-975076-44-3, is usually available in the Gulf Coast State College Book Store and is currently free online at: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>.

Authors:

Rose M. Spielman, Formerly of Quinnipiac College
William J. Jenkins, Mercer University
Marilyn D. Lovett, Spelman College

APA Citation for Required Textbook:

Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., & Lovett, M. D. (2022). *Psychology 2E*. OpenStax.

Technology Requirements for this Course: This section of PSY 2012 requires that students have regular and open access to a computer and that they maintain reliable internet service.

Technical Assistance: Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day, seven days per week, by calling (850) 913-3303. Technicians are also available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PSY 2012 Catalog Description: This course centers on an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Topics may be drawn from historical and current perspectives in psychology.

Course Content: The academic content for this section of PSY 2012 will be covered primarily via digital lectures, textbook readings, and discussion board contributions.

Instructor-Specific Objectives and Broad Goals: Upon successful completion of PSY 2012, students should be able to:

1. Explain why psychology is a science just as much as physics and chemistry are sciences.
2. Utilize your analytical and critical thinking skills when reading and evaluating scientific research.
3. Describe your own and others' physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development.
4. Discuss why, despite their differences, human beings are generally more alike than they are different.
5. List the aims and/or goals of psychology.
6. Identify critical regions of the brain and distinguish structure-function relationships (e.g., knowing which parts of the brain serve particular perceptual, cognitive, linguistic, and motor functions).
7. Identify the most common types of methods used in psychological research.
8. Examine and/or explain some sociocultural and international contexts that influence individual differences.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Identify basic psychological theories, terms, and principles from historical and current perspectives.
- Recognize real-world applications of psychological theories, terms, and principles.
- Recognize basic strategies used in psychological research.
- Draw logical conclusions about behavior and mental processes based on empirical evidence.

Student Expectation Statement:

The student is expected to participate in the course via email exchanges with the instructor by listening to and taking thorough notes on all digital lectures, reading the assigned readings, submitting the “Biosketch Essay,” contributing to the discussion board, submitting as due four

300-word essays, and by completing all four exams as scheduled.

I am here for you! I am typically available between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (Central Time), Monday through Friday. Notwithstanding, please do not hesitate to email or text me anytime. I will get back to you as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

All of the course content and graded assignments will be delivered and conducted on Canvas.

Students enrolled in this course will be expected to:

- 1. Listen to and take thorough notes on the video lectures assigned with each weekly Learning Module (I cannot overstate the importance of the video lectures);**
- 2. Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;**
- 3. Complete all exams **AS SCHEDULED**; see the course schedule below; and**
- 4. Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.**

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college’s mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion in the student’s records.

- **“Cheating”** includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework.
- **“Plagiarism”** includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of another person’s published or unpublished work without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects.
- **“Self-plagiarism”** occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

- **The use of AI software** in any form to create class assignments may violate GCSC's Academic Integrity Policy. Before employing AI technology in any manner and to any degree, students should consult with their professors for all courses offered through the Social Sciences Division.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Before receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the student's documented needs. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - By federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>Links to an external site.

Attendance Policy - Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help promote college success. Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as the submission of complete written assignments before their posted deadline.

Make-Up Work Policy - Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (e.g., an illness, employment change, etc.), which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so may fail an assignment and/or a failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, make-up work may not be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by an "acceptable excuse." For example, "I partied too hard this weekend, is typically not an "acceptable excuse."

Email & Voicemail Response Time - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled

workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas and voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Withdrawals - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a “W” must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (e.g., financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades - Grades of incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an incomplete, students must:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor before the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
2. Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the incomplete grade will automatically change to an “F” in Lighthouse.

Assessment Instruments:

- I. **Exams** (3 exams at 20%, 20%, and 10% each = 50% of the final grade):
 - A. Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice, true-false, and matching questions.
 - B. Each exam will be available for a specific period. See the Course Schedule in this syllabus for the dates during which the exams will be available.
 - C. The exams will be delivered online via Canvas.
 - D. The exams will be timed. Each exam is “opened book” and “opened notes.”
 - E. None of the exams will be comprehensive.

II. Biosketch Essay (05% of the final grade):

The “Biosketch Essay” should be submitted as a Word document directly into Canvas no later than 10:00 p.m. on **Thursday, XX XXX 2025**. This brief assignment requires you to draft a 300–500-word essay about yourself, being certain to include items such as career aspirations, educational background, previous college-level history courses, etc. **YOUR ESSAY SHOULD BE GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT, WITH NO MISPELLINGS OR “TYPOS.”**

III. Comprehensive Essay (10% of the final grade):

All students will submit one (1) 700–900-word essay. All grammar, punctuation, and composition rules apply and will be graded. See the due dates and the Canvas page for further details.

IV. Discussion Board Contributions (35% of the final grade):

Each student must participate in the course’s Discussion Board at least three times in each module. All contributions should add substantively to our discussion and generate further discussion and additional in-depth analysis.

V. Extra Credit (Points to be Determined):

Occasionally, I will hold live Zoom sessions to review material, provide additional guidance, discuss current events, etc. Attendance at these Zoom sessions is **NOT** mandatory. But, if you attend them, I will likely add no less than one point to your overall grade for each Zoom session you attended. Those who cannot participate in a live Zoom session may submit a 300-word essay summarizing the recording.

Method of Evaluation:

Biosketch Essay	(05%)
Comprehensive Essay	(10%)
Exam # 01	(20%)
Exam # 02	(20%)
Exam # 03	(10%)
Discussion Board # 01	(05%)
Discussion Board # 02	(05%)
Discussion Board # 03	(05%)
Discussion Board # 04	(05%)
Discussion Board # 05	(05%)
Discussion Board # 06	(05%)
Discussion Board # 07	(05%)



Assignment of Grades: All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A (90%-100%) B (80%-89%) C (70%-79%) D (60%-69%) F (59% and below)