



PSY 2012: General Psychology

Section Numbers: CRN # 15247		Term: SPRING 2026 (1/9/2026 – 5/8/2026)	
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION			
Instructor:	Johna C. Pittman, M.S. Psychology		
Office Location:	Social Sciences Building Room 228		
Email Address:	Jpittman2@gulfcoast.edu		
Phone Number:	850 769-1551 ext. 2833		
Office Hours:	Monday 8:00 AM-9:30 AM; Tuesday & Wednesday 12:30 PM-2:30 PM Thursday 12:30 PM-1:30 PM		
Class Meets: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:00am to 9:15am			
COURSE INFORMATION			
PSY2012: General Psychology	3 Credit Hours, 3 Contact Hours	No Pre- or Co-Requisites	
In this course, students will gain an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Topics may be drawn from historical and current perspectives in psychology.			
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to identify basic psychological theories, terms, and principles from historical and current perspectives. • Students will be able to recognize real-world applications of psychological theories, terms, and principles. • Students will be able to recognize basic strategies used in psychological research. • Students will be able to draw logical conclusions about behavior and mental processes based on empirical evidence. 			
TEXTBOOK INFORMATION			
TEXTBOOK - THIS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE IS PROVIDED BY THE INSTRUCTOR			
TITLE & EDITION	AUTHORS	PUBLISHER	
Psychology 2e, 2022	Rose M. Spielman, William J. Jenkins, Marilyn D. Lovett	Openstax Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0	

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS POLICIES

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as submission of complete written assignments prior to their posted deadline.

TESTS: Please be present on test/quiz days, be on time. If student arrives more than 15 minutes late, student cannot take the test. Make-up tests will only be given with proper documentation (doctor's note).

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICIES

Here are some important policies regarding assignments:

1. All assignments requiring original work that is uploaded into a Canvas drop box will automatically be processed through the plagiarism software called Turnitin. Turnitin (TII) provides a score that indicates the degree to which the information in the submission matches information from millions of available sources. High TII scores indicate large amounts of material has been taken from other sources. All TII scores are checked to ensure that proper and appropriate citations are used for material taken from another's ideas, writings, theories, media, etc. In the event an assignment is found to not be properly cited, it will receive a zero. It is critical that students review their TII scores for each submission and make corrections or revisions. Canvas allows for multiple uploads into a drop box, so feel free to upload as many revisions as needed to address the problem.

2. Assignments MUST be type written (unless otherwise noted) and must be uploaded using one of these four file types: **.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf**. Pictures of assignments will not be accepted or graded. Moreover, submissions and files generated from a phone or from a device that uses a program not listed above will also not be graded.

3. In the event a student encounters a problem with technology (i.e., computer breaks down), there are several places on campus where students have access to computers and printers, namely the library and the ATC.

4. Similarly, if a situation arises where a scanned document is required to complete an assignment, scanning equipment is also available in the library and the ATC.

5. Final grades will be based on a combination of quizzes, discussion board posts, and participation in the form of student process reports and meetings with the instructor, course activities, and the final exam.

Course work, which may be tweaked, will be weighted as follows and total points can be subject to change:

Assignments	20%
Tests	20%
Quizzes	15%
Research Paper	20 %
Final Exam	25%
	100%

6. Your grades will be available via Canvas and there are no "individual-only" extra credit offered; occasionally, I will offer extra credit opportunities for all students in a class. Extra credit MUST be submitted on time; there are no late submissions accepted for extra credit.

7. Recording Lectures - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own 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:

<https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>

GRADING SCALE

630– 700= A **560 – 629=B** **490 – 559=C** **420 – 489=D** **419 and below=F**
(90%-100%) (80%-89%) (70%-79%) (60-69%) (Below 60%)

Final grade computations will use the same process, regardless of the total number of points available at the end of the semester. For example, if the total points for in class activities and quizzes only equal 75 points, the total points available at the end of the course will be 625, instead of 700.

To compute one's score, simply add all the obtained scores for all work and divide by the number of total points possible. I also round decimals according to the standard rules of mathematics; so, if a student receives an 89.54, that grade will be rounded to a 90. If, on the other hand, a final score is 89.44, that grade is rounded to an 89.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & INFORMATION

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.
- **Instructor AI Statement: Limited Assistive Use Only:** Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus); however, the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) for generating, rewriting, or enhancing content is not permitted. All work must reflect the student's original ideas and writing. Representing work created by AI as one's own is a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

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 accommodation can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodation, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

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, as well as voicemails left on a phone number provided. Please use my GCSC email jpittman2@gulfcoast.edu if you require an especially prompt reply to your email.

Please ensure that your GCSC student email account is activated and that you check it regularly. You can call GCSC ITS Help Desk (850-913-3303) at any time if you have any technical problems with your email account OR eLearning (Canvas).

ANY email contact that is **not** sent through Canvas should contain, in the subject line, 1) the course title (i.e. XYZ 1000) AND 2) the section number (for example, 12345), AND 3) your name. Emails without these designations cannot be returned promptly due to the additional time it takes to go through my records to determine who the student is and in which class and section he or she is enrolled in.

ANY contact through email should comply with standard rules of communication etiquette; namely, the email should contain a salutation (Hello, Good Morning, etc.), a specific body of the letter, and a sign off (for example, Sincerely, Ima Student).

Withdrawals

Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog/academic calendar. 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 prior to the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual 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. For a third attempt, 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 (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grade Policy

Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can be assigned only to students who have an **emergency arise during the last two weeks** of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must submit a written request to the instructor **prior to the last face-to-face class meeting**. For online courses, the **Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before** the Final Exam period begins. To receive an Incomplete, students must have completed at least 75% of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted. 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 grade will automatically change to an “F”.

Division Contact Information

Division Chair:
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Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topic / Chapter	Key Concepts & Learning Focus
1	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Psychology	History of psychology, perspectives, careers, research methods overview
2	Chapter 2 – Psychological Research	The scientific method, ethics, experimental design, statistics
3	Chapter 3 – Biopsychology	Neurons, neurotransmitters, brain structure, nervous & endocrine systems
4	Chapter 4 – Consciousness	Sleep stages, dreams, hypnosis, psychoactive drugs
5	Chapter 5 – Sensation and Perception	Vision, hearing, taste, smell, touch, perceptual processes
6	Chapter 6 – Learning	Classical & operant conditioning, observational learning, behaviorism
7	Chapter 7 – Thinking and Intelligence	Problem-solving, creativity, decision-making, intelligence testing
8	Chapter 8 – Memory	Encoding, storage, retrieval, forgetting, improving memory
9	Chapter 9 – Lifespan Development	Prenatal, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, aging
11	Chapter 11 – Personality	Trait, psychodynamic, humanistic, and social-cognitive perspectives
12	Chapter 12 – Social Psychology	Attitudes, conformity, prejudice, attraction, group behavior
13	Chapter 13 – Industrial-Organizational Psychology	Work motivation, leadership, job satisfaction, human factors
14	Chapter 14 – Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Stress responses, coping, wellness, mind–body connection
15	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders	Classification (DSM-5), anxiety, mood, schizophrenia, personality disorders
16	Chapter 16 – Therapy and Treatment	Psychotherapy, biomedical therapy, ethics, treatment effectiveness