Course Details - Spring 2026A Term (F2F)

Section Numbers: CRN 15355

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Melanie Pelton, Ed.D.

Associate Professor

mpelton@gulfcoast.edu

850-769-1551 ext 2825

Social Sciences, Room 217

Office Hours Advising by Zoom Appointment - Zoom Link hereLinks to an external site.

COURSE INFORMATION

PSY2012: General Psychology

3 Credit Hours, 3 Contact Hours

No Pre- or Co-Requisites

Course Description:

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 (SLOs)

- 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.

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. Attendance in an online CANVAS class is defined as logging in, reading course materials, and submission of completed written assignments, quizzes, or discussion posts. Simply logging on to a CANVAS class is not sufficient for attendance purposes. All assignments in an online course will have a posted due date. (Please see additional information on defining attendance, participation, and logging in to the course).

IMPORTANT! Students MUST log in, and complete at least one assignment, for example, but not limited to posting the student guidelines or posting an introduction within the first week of the semester to be "counted" as present in the course. Students NOT adhering to this policy will be reported as a No Show on the course roster, which can have a negative impact on a student's academic record, in addition to problems with any grants or loans one has acquired. A student email expressing intent to participate does not count as "participation". Please contact me via email with any questions or concerns about this policy.

ASSIGNMENT AND GRADING POLICIES

Students will be expected to frequently check in and use Canvas, as this is our learning platform for this online course. Here are some important policies with regard to 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 (for example, their 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 BREAKDOWN

Course work (content may be revised) and will be weighted as follows in the chart below. Total points can be subject to change up or down, but the calculation remains the same.

• Chapter quizzes	**200 points 20%**
• Writing, Journal and Metacognition Assignments	**500 points 35%**
• Discussion Board Assignments	**200 points 20%**
• Final Exam (cannot be dropped)	<u>**100 points 25%**</u>
Total Points*	**1000 points*/100%** ***Point total may vary**

*Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day.

Course Reading Schedule linked here

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

8. Each new module will "open" on Monday, 1200 am and will "close" on Sunday 1159 pm. All assignments are available when the modules open and are all due the following Sunday by midnight.

9. Late penalties will be accrued at the rate of -5 points per day.

*Discussion board posts will be graded in the following manner: As an example, a DB assignment worth 20 points will be graded in this way: "Main" initial response to the primary DB prompt = 10 possible points, and two "response" posts to classmates posts = 5 possible points each, Total= 20 points

**There is always an opportunity for any student in the course to obtain additional points for an especially excellent, comprehensive, or insightful discussion post or assignment.

GRADE SCHEME

The following grading standards will be used in preparing the end of semester grades for this class:

Grade	Range
A	90% to 100%
B	80% to < 90%
C	70% to < 80%
D	60% to < 70%
F	0.01% to < 60%
I	0% to < 0.01%

LEARNING IN AN ONLINE COURSE

Online courses have an inaccurate reputation of being easier, even though they require a higher level of motivation, personal responsibility, and familiarity with technology. The benefit of an online course is the flexibility of time you have to read and complete each lesson. The downside is that many students forget about deadlines or try to succeed without putting forth much effort. You should spend several hours working with each of the assigned lessons throughout the week and avoid waiting until the last minute to attempt assignments to allow yourself time to deal with computer errors or questions you may have. If you are struggling with the course, contact your instructor immediately to discuss your options. Please do not wait until after the fact! It is almost impossible to assist students in overcoming significant impediments to their learning when I learn of problems after there has already been a negative impact on one's performance in the course.

Another important aspect of the online learning environment is the use of Discussion Boards (DBs) in lieu of the interaction, found in face to face (f2f) classes, between students and professor. This is your opportunity to create the give and take one often finds in vibrant class discussions. DB postings should not just reflect agreement with a classmate, but should provide a substantive comment or observation that shows evidence of critical thought, use of important concepts and terms from the readings, and advances the conversation forward by extending the ideas and concepts presented in the course materials and by students. DB statements such as "*I agree, my _____ did the same thing when I was that age.*" will not receive full credit. Full credit DB statements reflect critical thinking and knowledge of the important concepts being covered that week. For example, "*I understand how you felt that way; as we see in Piaget's formal operational stage, adolescents now have the ability to think hypothetically, which would explain, at least in part, your thought processes during that situation with your parents. How do you think Vygotsky's theory might explain that incident in your life?*"

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 and therefore will not be tolerated. Important points include, but are not limited to:

1. "**Cheating**" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work.

2. "**Plagiarism**" includes, but it not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

3. "**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 a Religion class that he or she originally wrote for an English class, this action is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class, without the express consent of the instructors.

4. Full and clear acknowledgment in one's written work is achieved by using one of the citing systems, such as MLA or APA , to cite sources in text for assertions of fact or ideas not one's own. In addition, any submission with in text sources must also include a reference page (also called a bibliography).

5. **Any Turnitin score above 20% will NOT be graded. Review your score before final submission, review and resubmit if needed.**

6. **Generative AI is here, and surely here to stay. You may be tempted to use it at some point in the semester, but I ask that you do not.** Most of what we do in this course develops your own analytical skills and insights, and the writing assignments are essentially about your interpretation of the content and your own learning. Thus, all your submissions should be generated from your brain! Work submitted and found to be AI generated will receive a zero.

7. **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 zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.**

8. Any case of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Chair of Social Sciences and the Dean of Student Affairs.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

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. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility ResourcesLinks to an external site.. Appropriate academic accommodations 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.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

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 provided phone number. Please use my GCSC email mpelton@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.
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 60% 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" in Lighthouse**.**

DIVISION CONTACT INFORMATION

Division Chair:	Dr. Bob Saunders	Administrative Asst:	Jody Walton
Office:	Social Sciences 211	Office:	Social Sciences 210
Phone:	(850) 872-3826	Phone:	(850) 872-3825
Email Address:	rsaunders2@gulfcoast.edu	Email Address:	jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI): See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Prohibited Use of AI: The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, class work, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes, but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as 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.