PSY 2012: General Psychology
Instructor: Dr. Bethany Young

Course Syllabus

Session A
Summer Semester 2026
Term Dates: 15 May 2026 – 31 July 2026
CRN: 50039 – Online – 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: None

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in 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:
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Instructor Education:
BA, Psychology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2014
MA, Clinical Psychology, Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, CA, 2017
PhD, Clinical Psychology, Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, CA, 2020

Course Description and Broad Goals: 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.

The broad goals of the course include students learning and retaining a significant amount of information on human behaviors; mental disturbances using the principles of the major paradigms; Categorize and evaluate the stages of human development; demonstrate a general knowledge of the concepts of memory and cognition; develop critical thinking and deductive reasoning skills; and improving communication skills.

Office Hours: As this course is online, I have no set office hours. Just send me an e-mail and I will get back to you within 24 hours usually, 48 hours on a weekend, and we can schedule a time to meet.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

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.

- 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.

UNIT 1 – FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY
- Evaluate psychological research using the scientific method and ethical guidelines.
- Select appropriate research designs for real-world problems.
- Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of resources.

UNIT 2 – BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- Differentiate the functions of multiple brain structures.
- Create an individualized optimal sleep plan.
- Evaluate the scientific merit of multiple dream theories.

UNIT 3 – COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
- Assess personal intelligence using multiple models and types of intelligence.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of memory strategies.
- Identify examples of various types of cognitive bias.

UNIT 4 – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
- Examine the impact of multiple forms of social influence.
- Analyze personal use of various types of behavioral attribution.
- Identify real-world examples of various types of prejudice and discrimination.

UNIT 5 – DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
- Explain real-world examples of classical conditioning.
- Plan ways to effectively use operant conditioning in the real-world.
- Explain potential personal examples of epigenetic inheritance.

UNIT 6 – PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

- Analyze major perspectives in personality theory.
- Evaluate the reliability and validity of multiple methods of personality assessment.

UNIT 7 – CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Describe techniques psychologists use to prevent, diagnose, and treat mental illness.
- Recognize symptoms of various psychological disorders.
- Create treatment plans using a variety of appropriate psychotherapy techniques.

Course Requirements. Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- *Listen* to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each weekly Learning Module
- *Read* all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module
- *Contribute* to the Discussion Boards when assigned
- *Complete* Writing Assignments when assigned
- *Complete* all required exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule on Canvas).
- Contact the instructor via email immediately with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

Required Textbook: Free online and downloadable textbook. Click on the **OpenStax** link**:**
   ***Psychology 2e* from OpenStax (Links to an external site.)** **Also provided on the course Canvas page.**

Student Expectation Statement: The student is expected to participate in the course via e-mail exchanges with the instructor, by listening to and taking thorough notes on all digital lectures, reading the assigned readings, submitting the required essays and writing assignments, contributing to the Discussion Board, and by completing all required exams as scheduled.

All assignments 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 have 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. If an assignment is not properly cited, the material will be considered plagiarized, and the submission will receive a zero. Students must review their TII scores for each submission and make corrections or revisions. Canvas allows multiple uploads into a drop box, so feel free to upload as many revisions as needed to address any issues or citation problems.

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

Assessment Instruments:

I. Online Student Guidelines Quiz: The main purpose of this assignment is to review the student guidelines for this class, as well as make sure that LockDown Browser is working before the completion of the Final Exam. Complete the Online Students Guidelines Quiz on Canvas no later than 11:59 PM on 24 May 2026. (10 points)

II. Why Psychology? Essay (50 points): The Why Psychology? Essay should be submitted as a Word document directly into Canvas no later than 11:59 PM on 24 May 2026. This brief assignment requires you to draft a 300-word or more essay about why you are taking this course and what you hope to learn. Must be in APA format (no cover sheet or reference page) and uploaded through Canvas using one of these four file types: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf.

III. Two Exams (100 points each):

- All exams will be comprised of multiple-choice, true-false, and short-answer questions. Each exam will be available for a specific time period.
- The exams will be delivered online via Canvas.
- The exams will be timed; each is strictly closed-book and closed-notes.
- The final exam will be comprehensive with stronger focus on modules not covered by previous exam.

IV. Writing Assignments/Discussion Board Contributions (360 points): Most weeks will either have a writing assignment or a Discussion Board contribution. Exam weeks will have neither.

- Writing Assignment: See prompts in Canvas for topics of writing assignments. Assignment should be at least 200-250 words, in APA format, and submitted to Canvas. Writing assignments will be due on Sundays by 11:59 PM
- Discussion Board: On weeks assigned, "Main" initial response will be due by 11:59 PM on Thursdays to be eligible for full credit, to allow time for others to respond, and the remaining two required "follow-up" posts are due before midnight the following Sunday. All contributions should add substantively to our discussion and generate further discussion and additional in-depth analysis. Discussion board posts will be graded in the following manner: DB assignment worth 30 points will be graded in this way: "Main" initial response to the primary DB prompt = 20 points, and two "response" posts to classmates' posts = 5 points each, Total = 30 points

V. Weekly Quiz: There will be short quizzes throughout the semester, worth 5 points each, to help you prepare for the midterm and final exams. Quizzes will be multiple choice and due Fridays at 11:59 PM.

VI. There will be no "individual-only" extra credit offered; occasionally, I will offer extra credit only for all students in a class. I typically offer at least one opportunity for extra credit throughout the semester.

Technology Requirements for this Course: PSY 2012 requires students to have regular, open access to a computer and maintain reliable internet service.

Technical Assistance:
- Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.
- Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

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 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 the Why Psychology? Essay within the first week of the semester to be "counted" as present in the course. Students NOT adhering to this policy will be counted as a No-Show on the course roster, which can hurt a student's academic record, in addition to problems with any grants or loans one has acquired. A student's email expressing intent to participate does not count as "participation". Please contact me via email with any questions or concerns about this policy.

Make-Up Work Policy: Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) that may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will fail an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation. "Computer problems" is not an acceptable excuse.

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

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.

Social Sciences Division Contacts

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Social Sciences Policies
AY 2025-2026

**The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences courses
and are to be included in all course syllabi.**

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 aspects of this course's instruction or design 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 documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - Under 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 student(s) paying damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf

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 or 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.

Attendance - 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 the submission of complete written assignments before their posted deadline.

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. 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 (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:
- 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.
- 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 grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.