



# Course Syllabus

## General Psychology

PSY 2012 / CRN: 85405 / Fall 2026

A Session (8/17/26 – 12/10/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: None

## Contact Information

### Instructor

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Office: Virtual  
Office Hours: Please email  
Response Time: 24-48 hours

### Division Chair

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## Course Information

## Important Note

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.

## Catalog 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:

- 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.

## Course Materials & Resources:

OpenStax, [Psychology 2e](#), Web Version Last Updated: April 23, 2026. ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-23-7

*This text, Psychology 2e*, is designed to meet scope and sequence requirements for the single-semester introduction to psychology course. The book offers a comprehensive treatment of core concepts, grounded in both classic studies and current and emerging research. The text also includes coverage of the DSM-5 in examinations of psychological disorders. *Psychology* incorporates discussions that reflect the diversity within the discipline, as well as the diversity of cultures and communities across the globe.

License: *Psychology 2e* by OpenStax is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License v4.0

## Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. 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 and within Canvas for more information.

## Attendance and Make-Up Policies for this Course

### Attendance Policy:

Although this course does not require scheduled class meetings, active participation in weekly learning activities is required. Students demonstrate attendance and engagement by viewing assigned lectures and videos, attending optional Zoom sessions, completing review quizzes, taking notes, and participating in course activities as assigned.

Throughout this course, you will explore foundational concepts in psychology and apply them to real-world behavior and human experiences. As a college student, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally and take responsibility for your learning. Professional behavior includes meeting deadlines, communicating respectfully, following course directions, and reviewing assignment instructions before contacting the instructor with questions.

You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly, staying informed of course announcements, meeting assignment deadlines, and following all course requirements. Academic responsibility and professional conduct are expected in all interactions within the course.

You must complete either the Syllabus Quiz or the Chapter 1 Quiz during the first week of class. Failure to complete one of these activities by the deadline will result in a **No Show** report.

I am committed to supporting your success and am available to answer questions or clarify course expectations. However, it is your responsibility to read course materials carefully and manage your time effectively.

### Tips for Success

- Complete all assignments by the due dates listed in the course modules and syllabus.
- Review the syllabus, textbook, and course materials regularly. Follow module instructions and adhere to all college policies outlined in the student handbook.

- Check Canvas announcements and your college email frequently. Weekly participation is required. Failure to participate during a given week may result in a deduction of 2 points from your final course grade.
- College-level reading and writing skills are important for success in this course. Student support services are available through GCSC for those who need additional assistance.
- GCSC email is the official method of communication for this course. While I have provided my cell phone number for text messages, please use texting only for brief communications, such as requesting access to a quiz, notifying me of a resubmitted assignment, or asking a specific question about a quiz.
- Although email is the official method of communication for this course, all assignments should be submitted through Canvas. Do not send assignments by email or post them in the assignment comment section. The comment section is reserved for instructor feedback. If you need to respond to feedback, please do so through email.
- Late assignments will not be accepted without documented circumstances such as a medical emergency, military deployment, or jury duty.
- Approved resubmissions are not automatically reviewed. Please notify me after resubmitting your assignment so I know it is ready for re-evaluation.

#### 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 result in failure for 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). “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.
- No late assignments will be accepted unless you provide a documented excuse (medical, deployment, or jury duty).

### AI Policy for this Course

#### Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, 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.

### Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and/or instructor office hours.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular communication helps clarify questions, share ideas, and foster a positive learning environment.
- **Actively Participate:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience. Review quizzes will remain available for practice, and you are encouraged to read ahead. However, weekly participation and timely completion of required work are expected.
- **Review Module Requirements:** Carefully review each module and ensure that all required assignments, quizzes, and learning activities are completed by the stated deadlines.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

## Course Requirements:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- Read all the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
- Complete the Chapter Review Quizzes each week.
- Complete all assignments as assigned.
- Complete all exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues.

## Assignments/Assessment Instruments

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Graded Chapter Review Quizzes</b>	15%	Book chapters/PowerPoints Quizzes: Practice Review for each chapter Chapter review quizzes must be completed during the assigned week.	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Exam 1</b>	10%	Exam 1 covers Chapters 1, 2	<b>Sept. 14-Sept. 27</b>
<b>Exam 2</b>	10%	Exam 2 covers Chapters 5, 6, 7	<b>Oct. 12 -Oct. 25</b>
<b>Video Presentation</b>	25%	*See rubric and specific directions in Canvas Module. Video presentation assignment will open a month early.	<b>Nov. 9-Nov. 22</b>
<b>Exam 3</b>	10%	Exam 3 covers Chapters 8, 11, 12	<b>Nov. 23 -Dec. 3</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%	Comprehensive: The cumulative final exam covers Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12. Chapters 15 and 16 are assessed through module quizzes and are not included on the cumulative final exam.	<b>Dec. 4-10</b>

### Graded Chapter Review Quizzes

**Graded Chapter Review Quizzes-** All quizzes and exams will be completed in the Canvas Learning Module. Each quiz will contain multiple-choice questions and can be attempted an unlimited number of times, with only the highest score being recorded. Practice quizzes will remain available throughout the entire term, but you are required to actively participate by taking quizzes each week. This method is a great way to review content and prepare for exams. **The Review Quizzes account for 15% of your final course grade.**

### Exams 1, 2, and 3

**A. Exams 1,2, and 3:** Each exam consists of 25 multiple-choice questions and must be completed within 30 minutes. Unlike quizzes, exams cannot be saved and resumed later. Once an exam is opened, it must be completed in a single session. Students are allowed one attempt per exam.

**B. Respondus LockDown Browser Requirement:** Respondus LockDown Browser is required for all course exams. Students are responsible for ensuring that the software is installed and functioning properly before the exam period begins. Additional information about Respondus LockDown Browser is provided in the appropriate Canvas module. All testing protocols must be followed.

**C. Exam Availability:** Exams are available only during the dates and times listed in the course schedule and corresponding Canvas modules. Students are responsible for completing exams within the designated testing window.

**D. Testing Conditions:** All exams are timed and must be completed independently. Exams are strictly closed-book, closed-notes, and may not be completed with assistance from any person, website, artificial intelligence tool, textbook, or other unauthorized resource. Students are required to follow all Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor testing procedures, including completing the required identity verification and environment scan before beginning the exam. **Failure to follow the required testing protocol, including the environment scan, may result in the exam being flagged for review and a grade of zero being assigned.**

Students are responsible for ensuring that their webcam, microphone, internet connection, and testing environment meet Respondus requirements before beginning an exam. Technical issues that result from failure to prepare the testing environment are not grounds for a makeup exam.

**Exams 1, 2, and 3: Each exam is worth 10% of your final course grade, for a combined total of 30% of the overall course grade.**

### Recorded Video Presentation

- **Topic:** Your topic may include historical figures in psychology, theories, perspectives, and related topics. The topic must be related to the field of psychology. The format of your presentation is discussed in Canvas (See rubric and directions).
- **Recording:** Record yourself as if you were presenting to a live class of your peers. The presentation must be 10-15 minutes long. Your grade will be based on the **rubric** provided in the Canvas Module. **The video presentation assignment accounts for 25% of your final course grade.**

### Final Exam

**Final Exam - The final exam is comprehensive, encompassing chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12.** (Chapters 15 and 16 are assessed through module quizzes and are not included on the cumulative final exam.) The Final will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and has a time limit of 60 minutes. Unlike quizzes, exams must be completed in one sitting, meaning they cannot be saved and resumed later. You are allowed to attempt the final exam only once. The **Respondus LockDown Browser** is required for all exams. Be sure it is installed and working properly before beginning.

**The final exam accounts for 30% of your final course grade.**

## Course Schedule

Date	Module	Module Assignments
<b>Aug. 17-Aug. 30</b>	1	Course orientation: Syllabus Review, Canvas Navigation Read Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology and Metacognition and Study Strategies <b>The syllabus quiz and the Chapter 1 Quiz must be completed this week.</b> Chapter review quizzes must be completed during the assigned week.
<b>Aug. 31- Sept. 13</b>	2	Read Chapter 2: Psychological Research Complete Chapter 2 Quiz

<b>Sept. 14-Sept. 27</b>	3	Read Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception Complete Chapter 5 Quiz <b>Exam 1: Covering Chapters 1-2</b>
<b>Sept. 28- Oct. 11</b>	4	Read Chapter 6: Learning Complete Chapter 6 Quiz Read Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence Complete Chapter 7 Quiz
<b>Oct. 12 -Oct. 25</b>	5	Read Chapter 8: Memory Complete Chapter 8 Quiz <b>Exam 2: Covering Chapters 5, 6, 7</b>
<b>Oct.26-Nov. 8</b>	6	Read Chapter 11 Personality- Complete Chapter 11 Quiz Read Chapter 12: Social Psychology Complete Chapter 12 Quiz
<b>Nov. 9-Nov. 22</b>	7	<b>Presentation Due:</b> Read Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders Complete Chapter 15 Quiz
<b>Nov. 23 -Dec. 3</b>	8	Read Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment Complete Chapter 16 Quiz <b>Exam 3: Chapters 7, 8, 11, 12</b>
<b>Final Exam Dec. 4-10</b>	Final Exam	<b>Cumulative Final</b> covering Chapters: 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 Chapters 15 and 16 are assessed through quizzes only and are not included on Exams 1, Exam 2, or the Final Exam.

## Grading

### Grading Scale

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

### Calculation of Grades

Chapter Review Quizzes	15%
Exam # 1	10%
Exam # 2	10%
Exam # 3	10%
Video Presentation	25%

Final Exam

30%

### Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any 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 prior to 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 sixty 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 all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

## General GCSC Course Policies

### 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. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from the course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course, and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

## Withdrawal Policy

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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals: student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy, in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

## Academic Integrity

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. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment, as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines on AI material.

"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 that 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.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidents of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident 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.

## Classroom Recording

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 in the GCSC Student Handbook.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

## Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

## Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- Computer: Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- Internet Speed: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- Office 365 software: Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).
- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.