

PSY 1301-3: General Psychology**Course meets:** TR 1:30pm-2:45pm NBC 115**Instructor:** Jeremy W. Newton**Office:** NBC 108**Phone:** 817.531.4958**Office Hours:** MW 1:30pm-5pm, TR 2:50pm-4:20pm, T 10am-12noon, and by appointment**Email:** jnewton@txwes.edu**Webpage:** <http://sites.google.com/site/genpsyc/>**Course Description**

A general introduction to the basic concepts of psychology.

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn the systematic and scientific study of *behavior* and *mental processes* of humans and other animals.
- Students will be exposed to the principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology, discussed from different theoretical perspectives.
- Students will learn aspects of critical thinking so that they may properly evaluate journalistic and scientific reports of psychology.
- Students will also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice.
- Students will learn about the history of the discipline, as well as the current themes in the scientific study of psychology.

Required Materials-Rathus, S.A. (2009). *Psych*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-0495601944

-6 Scantron Forms, No. 2 Pencil, Index cards (3x5)

Instructional Methods

The lesson will be a combination of lecture, demonstration, and class discussion. Your exams and quizzes will cover material from your lesson and book. Students will also do a media research project presentation at the end of the semester. Students are encouraged to participate in class through asking relevant questions and discussing psychological phenomena. The class is supported with a website (<http://sites.google.com/site/genpsyc/>). Ability to access PDF files is important. The instructor will often email announcements to class via your @mail.txwes.edu email address. It is **strongly recommended** that you use your assigned Texas Wesleyan email account for correspondence.

Evaluation & Grading

Students will be assessed according to the following percentage schedule, adjustable at the instructor's discretion to assure fairness:

90% - 100% A	80% - 89% B	< 60% F
70% - 79% C	60% - 69% D	

Percentage points are earned in the following way:

Two examinations*, 15 percent each:	30 %
Cumulative Final examination*:	30%
Three quizzes **, 10 percent each:	20 %
Research project and presentation:	20 %
Total:	100 %

*Examinations will be a combination of multiple choice and essay answer.

****Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes may be short answer or multiple choice.**

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual class attendance is **required**, as class lessons are integral to the richness of this course. The maximum number of absences during a semester for this class is **4 (four; two academic weeks)**. This is not as restrictive as the policy set by the University. **Tardiness** (i.e., showing up after the roll has been taken) is considered an absence. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student that misses more than 4 class periods during the semester. Students are reminded that they are responsible for **all** course material, including class information, handouts, book material, presented video, research project presentations, and notes posted at the class website.

Makeup Exam and Missed Assignment Policy

It is your responsibility to notify me **in advance** of any authorized (i.e. University related) absence and to contact me within 24 hours of any unauthorized absence of an **exam day**. Arrangements for a make-up exam, if applicable, will be made at that time. Note: If you know in advance that you will be absent on the day of an exam, you have the option of either taking the exam **one day early** or having the value of that exam added to the final. If an exam is missed due to an unauthorized absence, you have the option to take an alternative exam on **dead day** (December 3) or the value of that exam will be added to the value of the final (e.g. if you miss one mid-term exam, your final will be worth 45% instead of 30%). The format of the alternative exam will be determined by the instructor. The final exam cannot be moved or made up. A student that misses more than one exam will be dropped from the course. As one quiz grade is dropped, no quizzes may be made up. Late homework assignments are penalized 10% for each 24 hour period late.

Texas Wesleyan University Policies

Students should read the current Texas Wesleyan University Catalog and Student Handbook to become familiar with University policies. These policies include but are not limited to grade appeal, sexual harassment, student access to records, and others; policies specified in the current catalog are applicable unless otherwise stated in this syllabus.

Academic Integrity - Please see the student handbook regarding appropriate standards of conduct in courses at Texas Wesleyan University. Cheating and Plagiarizing will not be tolerated. **Any indication of academic dishonesty (page 63) will result in the student receiving an F for the course and recommendation of dismissal from the University to the Dean.** A link is provided below:

http://www.txwes.edu/registrar/documents/TexasWesleyanUGcatalog09-11_002.pdf

American Disabilities Act (ADA) - Texas Wesleyan University adheres to a disability policy which is in keeping with relevant federal law. The University will provide appropriate accommodation as determined by the Director of the Counseling Center, Dr. Michael Ellison. Students must notify instructors of any permanent or temporary disabilities and must provide documentation regarding those disabilities prior to the granting of an accommodation. For assistance, students should consult with Dr. Ellison at mellison@txwes.edu or (817) 531-7565.

Syllabus is Subject to Change - Course syllabi are intended to provide students with basic information concerning the course. The syllabus can be viewed as a 'blueprint' for the course; changes in the syllabus can be made. Students will be informed of any substantive changes concerning examinations, grading, or attendance policies and changes in project assignments.

Class Schedule

Notes: Lesson dates are an approximation. All tests and quizzes will be given on scheduled dates.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Activity</u>
T 8/25 R 8/27	-- Ch. 1: Research Methods/History	Syllabus and Personal Introductions
T 9/1 R 9/3	Ch. 1: Research Methods/History --	Quiz 1 (multiple choice pre-test and quiz)
T 9/8 R 9/10	Ch. 9: Motivation/Emotion Ch. 9: Motivation/Emotion	Presentation discussed; optional groups formed
T 9/15 R 9/17	Ch. 7: Memory Ch. 7: Memory	HW #1 1 paragraph description of media presentation
T 9/22 R 9/24	Ch. 10: Stress and Health --	Exam 1
T 9/29 R 10/1	Ch. 4: Sensation and Perception Ch. 4: Sensation and Perception	Intro to searching for research articles
T 10/6 R 10/8	Ch. 2: Biopsychology/Neuroscience Ch. 2: Biopsychology/Neuroscience	HW#2 Research article due for approval
T 10/13 R 10/15	Ch. 5: Consciousness Ch. 6: Learning and Conditioning	Quiz 2 (essay)
T 10/20 R 10/22	Ch. 6: Learning and Conditioning Ch. 3: Lifespan Development	HW #3 Summary of research article (individual assignment)
T 10/27 R 10/29	-- Ch. 8: Thinking/Language	Exam 2
T 11/3 R 11/5	Ch. 14: Social Psychology Ch. 14: Social Psychology	
T 11/10 R 11/12	Ch. 11: Personality Ch. 12: Psychological Disorders	Quiz 3 (you choose mc or essay) HW #4: Media Project outline and basic design
T 11/17 R 11/19	Ch. 12: Psychological Disorders Ch. 13: Therapy and Treatment	In class consultation on media project
T 11/24 R 11/26	-- No Class: Thanksgiving Break	Media Presentations
T 12/1	--	Media presentations
F 12/4	CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM: 1:00PM-3:00PM	