

Brazosport College
Syllabus for PSYC 2301 General Psychology with Live Scheduled Interaction

Visit <https://online.brazosport.edu/> to access Virtual Campus for online components of this course

Instructor: Cassandra D. Zamorález **Office Hours:** Zoom: Mondays 12:30-1:30
Office Phone: 979.230.3667 (leave voicemail) Email or text any time
Cell Phone: 956.205.3225 (text only) Phone calls and Zoom by appointment
E-mail (preferred): cassandra.zamoralez@brazosport.edu

Note: Federal policy requires that all official email communication between you and me be conducted through your official .edu email accounts. Contact IT for assistance if necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

(From the Brazosport College Catalog)

An introductory course dealing with the elementary principles of human behavior. Designed especially for those students majoring in the social or biological sciences, in pre-medicine, or in education.

PREREQUISITES

(From the Brazosport College Catalog)

Required skill level: College-level reading and writing

COURSE GOALS

General goals for this course include:

- 1.) Define psychology and its goals
- 2.) Understand the major perspectives in psychology and the interactions among them
- 3.) Explain the ways behaviors and mental processes are influenced by internal and external factors
- 4.) Predict the impact of internal and external influences on long-term behaviors and mental processes
- 5.) Form conclusions regarding how/why you have formed behaviors and mental processes that differ from other members of society
- 6.) Identify categories of mental health disorders and explain the interaction of biopsychosocial factors influencing mental health
- 7.) Relate and apply the above objectives to real-life situations and dilemma

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

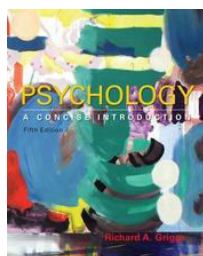
Brazosport College Bookstore contact information:

Phone: 979.230.3651

Fax: 979.230.3653

Email: bookstore@brazosport.edu

Website: <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>



Psychology: A Concise Introduction

by Richard A. Griggs

Fifth Edition

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Worth Publishers

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*Contents of this syllabus are subject to change at my discretion.
Any changes to policies and/or schedule will be announced on Virtual Campus.*

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Brazosport College's Virtual Campus system will host all of our classwork and links. Visit <https://online.brazosport.edu/> to access Virtual Campus. Contact IT for assistance with logging in.

Live interactions will take place on Zoom. Please make sure that you have the appropriate software, high-speed connection, as well as camera and microphone for these interactions.

We will be using Google Docs for collaborative online teamwork.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

You are expected to fully participate in this course. The following criteria are intended to assist you in being successful in this course:

1. utilize online components (such as Virtual Campus) as required
2. ensure access to reliable, high-speed internet connectivity for online course components
3. understand the syllabus requirements
4. use appropriate time management skills
5. complete course work on time, and
6. communicate with me using appropriate communication methods and proper etiquette

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior

(These will be assessed via multiple choice quizzes [SLO Quizzes])

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is my first semester hosting classes in a live online format, so there may be some trial and error. My tentative plan is to have about half of our live meetings dedicated to discussion of course material and half dedicated to teamwork. On teamwork days, you will be assigned to teams of approximately 4-5 students and complete assignments together. Depending on attendance trends, these teams may remain in place throughout the entire semester. I will expect you to participate regularly and contribute to overall class discussion, team discussions, and team assignments. You will also receive grades from your peers for your contributions, so it's important to attend and participate actively in regular teamwork.

As is the case in all semesters, regardless of course format, you are responsible for reading all appropriate chapters and completing assignments and quizzes **before** the material is discussed in class, in most cases. It is important that you stay ahead and keep track of all assignments and deadlines. For more information regarding assignments and grading, see "Course Requirements" as follow.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

It is your responsibility to keep track of all assignments and deadlines as outlined in the timeline. Your final grade will be weighted based on the following categories. Note that these percentages may change if there is a need to change our course structure for whatever reason.

Exams (30%)

There will be four total exams (Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, and the Final Exam). The three major exams will each cover 3-4 chapters; the Final Exam will be a comprehensive essay. Major exams will contain approximately 65-85 questions, which will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer items, covering information from both lecture and the textbook. All exams will be timed and available during our regularly-scheduled live sessions, unless otherwise specified. You *may* be required to log in to Zoom to complete your exams. You will need to read the textbook thoroughly to answer all exam questions accurately. **No make-up exams will be given.** There will be an opportunity to be exempt from the final exam essay based on your performance on the first three exams.

Miscellaneous Virtual Campus Assignments and Quizzes (8%)

These assignments will be completed via Virtual Campus and may be in the form of Dropbox assignments, quizzes, and/or online discussion forums. You must complete assignments *by the posted deadline for your course section* in order to receive credit. For dropbox assignments, all documents *must* be uploaded in either .rtf, .docx, or .pdf format in order to be graded. *I encourage you to review your submissions to ensure the proper file was uploaded. Any blank files, corrupt files, or files unable to be opened from within the Virtual Campus system will receive a grade of zero.* Included in this grading category are six online Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) quizzes for data-reporting purposes. More detailed instructions will be provided on virtual campus. **No make-up assignments will be allowed.**

Individual Chapter Quizzes (10%):

There will be ten chapter quizzes (one per chapter) to be completed via Virtual Campus. It is important that you complete the appropriate chapter readings to prepare for quizzes. Each quiz will have ten multiple-choice questions, which must be completed in less than 15 minutes. Pay special attention to quiz instructions as once an assessment has begun, all questions must be answered in the order they are presented and within the time allotted. Quizzes must be completed *by the posted deadline for your course section* in order to receive credit. **No make-up quizzes will be allowed.**

Team Assignments (20%):

Ten team assignments (one per chapter) will be completed in breakout rooms during our live class meetings. Questions on team assignments may be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and/or short answer items. You should discuss each question with your teammates and agree upon a team answer for submission. Only those team members present and actively participating on the day the assignment is completed will receive credit for the assignment. If you are late, you will not receive credit for any portions completed before you log in; if you are absent, you will not receive credit unless you have made prior arrangements with me to complete the assignment on your own. **No make-up assignments will be allowed.**

Personal Essays (10%):

There will be four personal essay prompts available; you will select **two** to complete via the Virtual Campus Dropbox tool. Essay prompts will require you to take a more in-depth/personal look into the course content. Essays should answer all prompt questions, correctly reference relevant course content, and be at least 500 words, in essay format (paragraphs) with grammatically correct full sentences, proper introductions, transitions, and conclusions. All essays should be submitted to the Dropbox in either .docx, .rtf, or .pdf file format. *I encourage you to review your submissions to ensure you uploaded the proper file. Any blank files, corrupt files, or files I cannot open from within Virtual Campus will receive a grade of zero.* **No make-up essays will be allowed.**

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Peer Review (3%):

You and your team members will grade each other on your contributions to teamwork throughout the semester. Generally, peer review grades are collected twice (once halfway through the course and once at the end of the course), but I will make a decision about these peer review grades later, depending on how the course progresses. I'll provide more detailed information regarding peer review grades at that time.

Instructor Evaluation– including participation and attendance (9%):

You will receive a score from me based on my perception of your overall participation during class discussion and teamwork. You will have the opportunity to earn points from me by participating actively in Zoom meetings via voice or chat as well as by participating in online discussion forums. This includes but is not limited to asking relevant questions, making relevant comments, and sharing additional research/resources such as videos and articles relevant to course discussions.

Final Reflective Essay (10%):

This essay will be completed toward the end of the semester. It will ask you to reflect on what you learned throughout the course and how your attitudes/opinions might have changed. More information will be presented in class and in Virtual Campus. Your essay should correctly reference relevant course content and be at least 500 words, in essay format (paragraphs) with grammatically correct full sentences, proper introductions, transitions, and conclusions. All essays should be submitted to the Dropbox in either .docx, .rtf, or .pdf file format. *I encourage you to review your submissions to ensure you uploaded the proper file. Any blank files, corrupt files, or files I cannot open from within Virtual Campus will receive a grade of zero. **Late submissions allowed for 24 hours with a significant penalty.***

Optional Extra Credit Project (Up to 5 points):

To complete this project, you should take any concept or theory of interest and apply it to your life in some meaningful way (observations, changes, analyses, etc.). You will create a 3-5 minute video (fully edited video, PowerPoint with voiceover, or simple oral format). More detailed information regarding the project will be distributed in the Virtual Campus Content section. **No late extra credit accepted.**

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	5/5	89.5 - 100%	Excellent/Outstanding
B	4/5	79.5 – 89.4%	Good/Satisfactory
C	3/5	69.5 – 79.4%	Average
D	2/5	59.5 – 69.4%	Insufficient
F	0-1/5	0 – 59.4%	Failure

Note: While time and effort are very important, they alone do not necessarily guarantee success. You will earn grades based on completeness and correctness, not just effort.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Absolutely **no make-ups** will be accepted for any missed component of the course. If you need an extension of a deadline for any reason, you must contact me in advance. You have the option of replacing a missed exam grade with the cumulative final. Additionally, you have the opportunity to earn extra credit points to help offset any missed assignments.

“LIFE HAPPENS” CLAUSE

I understand that life happens, and occasionally, I make exceptions to certain course policies and deadlines due to extenuating circumstances. While this happens rarely, be aware that you can contact me about accommodations by detailing your issues in an email. You must contact me as soon as possible **before deadlines have passed** in order for me to consider making any exceptions or changes. **I cannot make exceptions after deadlines have passed.** Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis at my discretion.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and will, at a minimum, result in a grade of zero on the assignment or assessment in question. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

*You should not be copying any information directly from the textbook or any other sources for any assignments, exams, or any other required course component (**plagiarism**). You should also not submit work that has been completed previously for any other courses as new work for this course (**self-plagiarism**) without my permission to do so. Any instance of plagiarism or self-plagiarism will result, at a minimum, of a grade of zero and may be reported to the Dean of Student Services.*

I reserve the right to assign a final grade of F as a result of academic dishonesty.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

I will make every attempt to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner for all assignments, exams, discussions, essays, and any other required course components. I am generally able to get grades back within 1-2 weeks. I will attempt to respond to emails in a timely manner (normally within 1-2 weekdays). You can expect most grading and email correspondence to occur on Monday-Thursday. It is important to work ahead in case any issues arise so they can be taken care of during “normal” business hours. You should not expect me to be available late at night or on weekends.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION

You may communicate with me using several different avenues (email, phone, internal Virtual Campus message, etc.—see the Welcome news post in Virtual Campus for more detailed information). When communicating with me, you **must**:

- Indicate full name and *specific* course information
- Use proper etiquette, spelling, and grammar
- Ask *specific* questions
- *Only ask questions if you can't find the answer in the syllabus*

When communicating with other students via discussions or any other methods, you should be sure to use proper spelling and grammar and be courteous and considerate.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

In addition to our regularly scheduled Zoom meetings, you are expected to log in to Virtual Campus *at least* once a week and are responsible for all information presented in the learning system, whether you access it or not. Logins will not be recorded for credit; however, logging in frequently is strongly encouraged.

Because you signed up for scheduled live interaction, I am assuming you are committed to those regularly scheduled meetings and expect you to attend on time. Pay careful attention to the course timeline to prepare for these meetings in advance. If you need to be absent, email me. I won't penalize you for missing occasionally on regular discussion days, but if you don't attend on a scheduled teamwork day and don't contact me in advance to make arrangements, you will receive a grade of zero for that day's work. If you make a habit of skipping classes regularly, this will affect your overall participation grade.

I will **not** initiate any administrative withdrawals, regardless of your attendance/progress. **It is your responsibility to initiate any drops/withdrawals if you feel it is in your best interest.** You are responsible for knowing the withdrawal date and procedures. No grade changes will be issued once final grades are submitted to the Registrar unless I make some sort of administrative error.

POLICIES REGARDING TECHNICAL ISSUES OR EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

I understand that the probability of our experiencing issues with Virtual Campus, Zoom, or other software/technology components is high.

Here are some general guidelines for what I anticipate as common issues:

- If you experience an issue with Virtual Campus such as getting kicked out of an exam, contact me immediately so I can reset the assessment for you.
- If there is a link on Virtual Campus that is not working for you, contact me so I can ensure the link and settings are correct on my end.
- If you experience other issues such as not being able to log in, contact the IT help desk.
- If you get kicked out of a Zoom meeting, make your best effort to log back in as soon as possible; if it's a teamwork day, email me immediately to let me know of the issue so that I don't dock your grade.
- If I get kicked out of a Zoom meeting myself as the host and I am unable to resume the meeting *within 10 minutes*, you are free to consider it an early dismissal for the day. Check Virtual Campus for an announcement.

If you experience any other issues not listed here, contact me and the IT help desk immediately.

Contingency plan for extreme circumstances: If we experience repeated issues with Zoom meetings, or in the case that I become seriously ill, be prepared for the possibility of our course moving to a fully online format without scheduled interaction. If this happens, I will ensure that you have video lectures available to watch, and I will make changes to the course requirements grading scheme as necessary.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

TITLE IX

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they "fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC." Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services.

CAMPUS CLOSURE STATEMENT

Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester, and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on campus activities may be moved online and/or postpone if such orders are given.

OTHER STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION

Information about the Library is available at <http://www.brazosport.edu/library> or by calling 979.230.3310.

For assistance with online courses, an open computer lab, online and make-up testing, audio/visual services, and study skills, visit Learning Services next to the Library, call 979.230.3253, or visit <http://www.brazosport.edu/learningservices>.

For drop-in math tutoring, the writing center, supplemental instruction and other tutoring including e-tutoring, visit the Student Success Center, call 979.230.3527, or visit <http://www.brazosport.edu/youuccesscenter>.

To contact the Psychology Department (Division of Social Sciences and Business), call 979.230.3226.

The Student Services Offices provide assistance in the following:

Counseling and Advising	979.230.3040
Financial Aid	979.230.3294
Student Life	979.230.3355

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To reach the Information Technology Department for computer, email, or other technical assistance call the Helpdesk at 979.230.3266 or email helpdesk@brazosport.edu.



Get the information you need – when you need it. Go to <http://geni.us/BRAZO> to install **BC Connect** on your mobile device to receive reminders, explore careers, map your educational plan, be in the know about events, find out about scholarships, achieve your goals, and much more.