

**Course Syllabus**  
**PSYC2301 General Psychology**  
**Brazosport College**  
**Fall 2023**

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**Office Hours:** 10:30AM-11:30AM, 2:30PM-3:30PM Tuesdays/Thursdays

*To ensure privacy and reliability, e-mail responses will only be made to  
@brazosport.edu or @online.brazosport.edu e-mail accounts*

**Course Description**

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.

*Required skill level: College-level reading and writing*

**Course Objectives**

- ❖ Define psychology and its goals.
- ❖ Establish perceptions and where they come from.
- ❖ Establish a basic history and foundations of major perspectives in psychology.
- ❖ Introduce biological, psychological, and cognitive behaviors/principles/processes/disorders
- ❖ Interactive participation/learning regarding behavior and behavior modification.
- ❖ Establish a basic foundation in physiological and mental principles of the body.
- ❖ Relate and apply the above objectives to real-life situations and dilemma.

**Required Texts**

*Psychology: A Concise Introduction* by Richard A. Griggs (5<sup>th</sup> edition)

**ISBN-10:** 1429298901

**ISBN-13:** 978-1429298902

*Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcom Gladwell

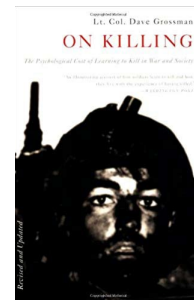
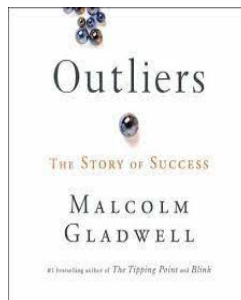
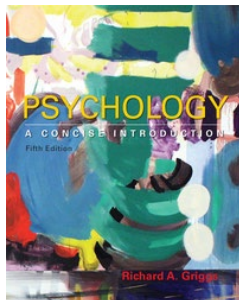
**ISBN-10:** 0316017930

**ISBN-13:** 978-0316017930

*On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society* by Dave Grossman

**ISBN-10:** 0316040932

**ISBN-13:** 978-0316040938



*The textbooks 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 is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer. Students can use older editions at their own discretion.*

## Course Components

### ❖ *Assignments (50%)*

The course includes 10 Assignments will require students to conduct research, analyze required readings, and apply course content in essay format. Assignments should be 500 words at minimum in APA format with grammatically correct sentences and multiple paragraphs including proper introductions and conclusions. Essays must be submitted to the *Virtual Campus Dropbox* in either .docx or .pdf file format by the posted deadline. Students can submit essays up to 24 hours after the posted deadline with a 30% penalty. Extensions are granted at the instructor's discretion on an individual basis via e-mail.

Assignments that do not meet the minimum expectations of college-level writing as deemed by the instructor are subject to penalization or rejection. If a student's work is rejected, they will have one week from the grade posting to have their document assessed by the Brazosport College writing center and resubmit their revised assignment with a 30% penalty. From that point forward, the student must have every assignment assessed by a member of the writing center prior to submission. If a student submits an assignment late that is also rejected based on writing quality, the student will not be eligible to receive credit for the assignment.

### ❖ *Exams (35%)*

There are six (6) multiple choice exams including five (5) regular multiple-choice exams and an additional cumulative final exam meant to replace the score of the lowest regular exam grade. Exams will be completed on-line via Virtual Campus.

### ❖ *SLO Quizzes (5%)*

There are six Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Quizzes designed to measure content mastery of course topics deemed essential by the Southern Association of College and Schools that is responsible for the accreditation of Brazosport College. Quizzes are available in the *Quizzes* section of *Virtual Campus*. The learning outcomes are not assessed in the order presented below. See Virtual Campus calendar for due dates.

- ✚ Learning Outcome 1 (Quiz 1): Identify the various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology (Chapter 1 section on "Research Methods")
- ✚ Learning Outcome 2 (Quiz 2): Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology (see "Historical Influences" PowerPoint)
- ✚ Learning Outcome 3 (Quiz 3): Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology (Chapter 1 section on "Research Perspectives")
- ✚ Learning Outcome 4 (Quiz 5): Use terminology unique to the study of psychology (Chapter 4)
- ✚ Learning Outcome 5 (Quiz 6): Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation (Chapter 5)
- ✚ Learning Outcome 6 (Quiz 4): Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior (Chapter 2)

### *In-Class Discussions (10%)*

Discussions allow students to share opinions and personal experiences pertaining to specific course topics. Discussions will take place in class and students must be present to participate and earn credit.

Note: Do **not** bring food that emits an odor to class. If the person next to you can smell it, it is distracting.

## 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 may at a minimum, result in zero credit for the assignment with the possibility of an automatic F for the final grade if deemed appropriate by the instructor. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

**AI Policy:** *In this class, work that is generated—partially or completely—with the assistance of artificial intelligence is not allowed and will be treated as plagiarism.*

## Final Letter Grades

A	89.5 - 100%	Excellent
B	79.5 – 89.49%	Very Good
C	69.5 – 79.49%	Average
D	59.5 – 69.49%	Poor
F	0 – 59.49%	Failure; no credit

## Course Absence and Withdrawal Policy

The instructor will not initiate course withdrawals for students in online class with no scheduled interactions. The instructor reserves the right to withdraw students from classes with scheduled interactions after two absences.

## Student Conduct Statement

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.

## 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 students experience an incident of discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct, they are encouraged to report it.

If a faculty or staff member "is informed of a student's pregnancy or related condition" by the student or "a person who has a legal right to act on behalf of the student," the employee must "promptly" tell the student or representative how to notify the Title IX Coordinator of the student's pregnancy or related conditions and must provide the Title IX Coordinator's contact information to the student or representative, unless the employee "reasonably believes" the Title IX Coordinator already knows.

While students may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what is told to them to college officials. Students 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](http://www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct).

- Alex Crouse, Director of Student Life and Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
979-230-3355; [alex.crouse@brazosport.edu](mailto:alex.crouse@brazosport.edu)
- Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
979-230-3303; [mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu](mailto:mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu)

### **Other Student Information**

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

To help you on your educational pathway, Brazosport College provides all students with access to TimelyCare. If you're stressed, challenged, or need help, download the TimelyCare app today! It's your free virtual health and well-being service platform, available 24/7, 365 days of the year. Search "TimelyCare" in your app store. Then, register with your student email to access your health care services.

**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

**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](mailto:helpdesk@brazosport.edu).**

## Course Modules

*Assignment descriptions are attached to the syllabus (pg. 7-8)*

### *Module 1: Intro to Psychology*

- This module establishes the basic concept of psychology as well as research perspectives, research methods and understanding statistics. Course work includes:
  - Quiz 1: Historical Influences
  - Quiz 2: Research Methods
  - Quiz 3: Research Perspectives
  - Assignment 1: Research and Statistics
  - Discussion 1: Types of Psychology

### *Module 2: Neuroscience*

- This module focuses on biological influences on psychology including the structure and function of neurons, neurotransmission, the central nervous system, and sleep. Course work includes:
  - Quiz 4: Neuroscience
  - Assignment 2: Neuroscience
  - Multiple Choice Exam 1: Chapters 1 and 2
  - Discussion 2: Alcohol vs. Marijuana
  - Case Study: Charles Whitman

### *Module 3: Sensation and Perception*

- Summarizes field of psychophysics, perceptual organization concepts, gestalt psychology, and depth perception. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 3: Sensation and Perception
  - Discussion 3: Food

### *Module 4: Learning*

- Introduction to classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and social learning theories. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 4: On Killing (1)
  - Quiz 5: Learning
  - Discussion 4: Behavioral Assessment
  - Multiple Choice Exam 2: Chapters 3 and 4

### *Module 5: Memory*

- Summarizes the three-stage model of memory. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 5: Memory Research
  - Discussion 5: Reminders

### *Module 6: Thinking and Problem Solving*

- Discusses the research areas in cognitive psychology including heuristics, intelligence testing, and theories of intelligence. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 6: Intelligence
  - Quiz 6: Intelligence Testing
  - Discussion 6: Intelligence Theories
  - Multiple Choice Exam 3: Chapters 5 and 6

*Module 7: Developmental Psychology*

- Summarizes research topics in developmental psychology as well developmental theories including Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development, parenting styles, and attachment. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 7: Parenting Styles
  - Discussion: Parenting Styles
  - Discussion 7: Erikson's Psychosocial Crises

*Module 8: Personality*

- Summarizes theories of personality from various perspectives including psychoanalytic, humanistic, and trait theory. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 8: Five Factor Model of Personality
  - Multiple Choice Exam 4: Chapters 7 and 8
  - Discussion 8: Personality Assessment

*Module 9: Social Psychology*

- Summarizes research topics in social psychology including conformity, compliance, and obedience to authority. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 9: On Killing (2)
  - Discussion: Authority Figures in Society
  - Discussion 9: Conformity

*Module 10: Abnormal Psychology*

- Discusses the classification of mental disorders as well diagnostic process and treatment of mental disorders. Course work includes:
  - Assignment 10: Mental Health
  - Multiple Choice Exam 5: Chapters 9 and 10
  - Multiple Choice Exam 6: Cumulative Final Exam
  - Discussion 10: Mental Health

## Course Assignments

### Assignment 1: Survey Research

Discuss a personal research interest in the field of psychology and use the Brazosport College Library Database (<http://brazosport.edu/library>) to source and summarize three peer-reviewed articles focused on surveys relevant to your research interest. Summaries must include the sample size (example: *425 college students were surveyed*) as well as general statistical findings (example: *42% of participants reported having consumed alcohol in the last month.*) Per APA guidelines, a citation should be included at the end of each summary and a list of works cited attached. See the content section of Virtual Campus for a writing sample.

See “Chapter 1 Assignment Tutorial” from Module 1 in the content section for instructions.

See “PSYC2301 Writing Sample” from Course Files for example.

For assistance with using the Brazosport College Library Database contact the BC Library.

For assistance with APA formatting or general composition contact the BC Writing Center.

### Assignment 2: Neuroscience

**Option 1:** Compare the biological and sociocultural perspectives of psychology and apply these concepts to the explanation of Charles Whitman’s mass shooting as outlined The Daily Texan article titled “Experts still disagree on role of Tower shooter’s brain tumor.”

<https://thedailytexan.com/2016/07/30/experts-still-disagree-on-role-of-tower-shooters-brain-tumor/>

Compare the roles of the amygdala (with reference to Charles Whitman), the hippocampus (with reference to H.M.), and the hypothalamus (with reference to the pituitary gland and its function). Include the name for this group of structures.

**Option 2:** Using the videos linked below, describe how caffeine, alcohol and opioids affect neurological functioning (brain structures and neurotransmitters) as well as how they affect psychology (attention, memory, mood, movement, balance, etc.). When discussing effects on neurotransmitters, identify drugs as agonists or antagonists and elaborate as to whether the drug increases or decreases the activity of the associated neurotransmitter.

Caffeine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foLf5Bi9qXs>

Alcohol: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x6HUNTnXUw>

Opioids: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDVV\\_M\\_CSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDVV_M_CSI)

### Assignment 3: Sensation & Perception Research

Use the Brazosport College Library Database to find three scholarly articles relevant to the field of sensation and perception (e.g. virtual reality therapy, phantom limb syndrome, studies dealing with vision, hearing, tactile sensation, olfactory sensation, or taste.) Briefly summarize each article (about 150-200 words per article) and include citations and works cited in APA format.

### **Assignment 4: On Killing (Behaviorism)**

Access the course file *PSYC2301 Assignment 4: On Killing* from the content section of Virtual Campus and answer the questions in complete sentences using the information from **Section VII** "*Killing in Vietnam: What Have We Done to Our Soldiers?*" and **Section VIII** "*Killing in America: What Are We Doing to Our Children?*"

### **Assignment 5: Memory**

Use the Brazosport College Library Database to find three scholarly articles relevant to the field of memory. Briefly summarize each article (about 150-200 words per article) and include citations and works cited in APA format.

### **Assignment 6: Intelligence**

Using the information provided in the course materials including *Outliers: The Trouble with Geniuses Parts 1 and 2*, compare the development and intellectual abilities of Chris Langan and Robert Oppenheimer as well as the research of Lewis Terman and Annette Lareau. Be sure to include application of Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences and Robert Sternberg's triarchic theory of intelligence.

### **Assignment 7: Developmental Psychology**

Briefly summarize the case studies presented in "*The Matthew Effect*", "*The 10,000 Hour Rule*" and "*The Three Lessons of Joe Flom*", and explain how opportunity, time, and culture can all influence human development. Next, consider your own circumstances (i.e. being in college, living in Texas, being in a relationship, having a job, having a particular skill, etc.) and explain how opportunity, time and culture have influenced your development.

### **Assignment 8: Five Factor Model of Personality**

Using the five-factor model of personality, compare your personality with a friend, family member or significant other. You must address all five factors and clearly state whether you believe the individual has higher or lower levels of each trait in relation to you. Give specific examples of your and their behavior to support your statements.

Also, take the following personality test <https://www.123test.com/personality-test/> and copy and paste your results into a word document (or attach to your essay) and write a short response about whether you feel the results are accurate.

### **Assignment 9: On Killing (Social Psychology)**

Access the course file *PSYC2301 Assignment 9 (On Killing)* from the content section of Virtual Campus and answer the questions in complete sentences using the information from **Section IV** "*An Anatomy of Killing: All Factors Considered*"

### **Assignment 10: Mental Health**

Option 1: Discuss a personal experience or the experience of someone you know with a mental health issue including diagnosis (onset and duration), symptoms, impact on personal/professional life, and treatment. The individual must have been officially treated by a mental health professional or medical practitioner.

Option 2: Use the Brazosport College Library Database to find three scholarly articles relevant to the field of mental health (i.e. treatment, therapy, case studies) Briefly summarize each article (about 150-200 words per article) and include citations and works cited in APA format.