

Brazosport College
Syllabus for PSYC 2301 General Psychology (Online without scheduled interaction)
Visit <https://online.brazosport.edu/> to access Virtual Campus

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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>. You are 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.

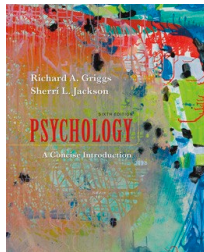
Brazosport College Bookstore contact information:

Phone: 979.230.3651

Fax: 979.230.3653

Email: bookstore@brazosport.edu

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



Psychology: A Concise Introduction (with Achieve)

by Richard A. Griggs & Sherri L. Jackson

6th Edition

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Worth Publishers

ISBN: 9781319527709 (Achieve & e-book)

ISBN: 9781319532734 (Achieve & paperback)

*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

We will be using Brazosport College's Virtual Campus system as our main platform for communication, assignment submission, and assessments. Visit <https://online.brazosport.edu/> to access Virtual Campus. If you need assistance with logging in, Contact IT.

Achieve is an online supplement created by the publisher and will be a required component of this course. It is a separate website outside of our Virtual Campus system, which hosts an interactive e-book and online activities such as supplemental videos, terminology-based activities, and quizzes. I will provide a link with instructions in Virtual Campus.

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 and Achieve) as required
2. ensure access to reliable, high-speed internet connectivity and necessary software 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

Core Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Students who complete the core curriculum at BC are expected to achieve the following objectives:

- Critical Thinking (CT)*: Including innovation, creative thinking, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills (COM)*: Including effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)*: Including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Teamwork (TW): Including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility (SR)*: Including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Personal Responsibility (PR): Including the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

*Objectives we are expected to assess in BC psychology courses

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board ACGM 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

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.

Achieve activities (35%):

You must secure access to Achieve via an access code or by purchasing access through the site. Most of your daily assignments will be on Achieve, and this will likely be the most time-consuming portion of the course. This will be a combination of video activities, quizzes, and concept checks. You will earn points based on the completion of activities as well as correct answers (many of the tools allow you to complete as many times as you want). You will earn a separate grade for each chapter's activities. **The system will not accept late work.**

Checkpoint Discussions (4%)

There will be four separate checkpoints in the Discussions area of Virtual Campus. These are intended as benchmarks for you to assess your understanding of the four psychological research perspectives and serve as a means for you to begin work on comprehensive papers, so you are not overwhelmed by them at the end of the semester. You will receive a grade of 1 or 0 based solely on whether you posted or not. I will not assess correctness, detail, or quality for these posts as these are simply intended to serve as practice. **No late or make-up posts will be accepted.**

Chapter-Based Discussions (12%)

There will be several discussion topics that will require you to use your knowledge of course content to discuss your experiences/observations/opinions, take a stance on an issue and defend that stance, and interact with classmates by engaging in educational debate/discussion. All posts should be written formally, with proper grammar and spelling, and reference relevant course terminology to indicate your understanding of the course material. Grades will be assigned subjectively on a 5-point scale and be based on quality of content, insightfulness of responses, apparent effort, level of participation, and grammar and spelling (more grading detail provided in Virtual Campus). Pay special attention to the two deadlines for these discussions. Posts are due one week before replies are due to allow students appropriate time to read, review, and interact with others' posts. **No late discussions will be accepted.**

Exams (21%):

There will be four exams total (Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, and the Final Exam). I will drop your lowest exam grade—the three remaining exams will make up your exam percentage total. This means the final exam will be optional. Exams will contain approximately 60-75 questions, which will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer items covering information from the textbook. Pay special attention to assessment instructions as once you begin an assessment, you must answer all questions in the order they are presented and within the time limit. Once you begin an exam, you must complete it—closing out of the exam does not stop the timer. You should *not* be looking up answers in your textbook, notes, or online—you should be prepared and have studied in advance. This is the purpose of the time limit. Only one attempt will be allowed per exam. The final exam will be cumulative, including information from the entire course. It will contain 100 multiple-choice questions. **No make-up exams will be given, as one exam grade will be dropped.**

Miscellaneous Virtual Campus Assignments (3%)

There will be a couple of miscellaneous online assignments I will ask you to complete in the virtual campus system: an introductory discussion at the beginning of the semester and a feedback assignment at the end of the semester. More detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided on virtual campus. **I will not accept late submissions.**

Personal Essays (10%):

There will be four personal essay deadlines—you will select **two** prompts of your choice to submit via the Virtual Campus Assignment Dropbox. You must select one from the first half (Essay 1 or Essay 2, with options from chapters 1-5) and one from the second half of class (Essay 3 or Essay 4, with options from chapters 6-10). Essay prompts will require you to take a more in-depth/personal look into the course content. Your essays 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.* **No make-up essays will be allowed, as two essay grades will be dropped.**

Comprehensive Essays (15%)

"I Don't Understand" Reflective Essay [Comprehensive Paper 1]

This comprehensive essay will ask you to reflect on what you learned throughout the course and how your attitudes/opinions might have changed. A more detailed prompt will be available in the Dropbox instructions. **Late submissions allowed up to 24 hours past the deadline with a penalty of 1/5 points.**

Personal Application Comprehensive Paper [Comprehensive Paper 2]

This is normally the final exam in my regular face-to-face courses. As a comprehensive review of the course and its relevance to your future, you will be writing a paper on the prompt titled "Why are people different? Why does it matter?" For more detailed information about the prompt and grading, review the instructions and rubric in the Dropbox folder. **Late submissions allowed up to 24 hours past the deadline with a penalty of 5/25 points.**

There will be an opportunity to be exempt from this essay based on your performance on the first three exams.

Your essays should correctly reference relevant course content and be written in essay format (paragraphs) with grammatically correct full sentences, proper introductions, transitions, and conclusions. Submit your papers to the appropriate Dropbox in either .docx, .rtf, or .pdf file format *by the posted deadline* to receive credit. *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.*

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 available in the Virtual Campus Content section. **No late submissions.**

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	89.5 - 100%	Excellent/Outstanding
B	79.5 – 89.4%	Good/Satisfactory
C	69.5 – 79.4%	Average
D	59.5 – 69.4%	Insufficient
F	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.

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Any changes to policies and/or schedule will be announced on Virtual Campus.*

MAKE-UP POLICY

Absolutely **no make-ups** will be accepted for any missed component of the course. You have the option of replacing a missed exam grade with the cumulative final. Additionally, the optional extra credit project can help offset any missed assignments. I may decide to drop other course components at my discretion.

I do not allow any corrections or resubmissions after assignments have been graded.

“LIFE HAPPENS” CLAUSE

I understand that life happens, and occasionally, I make exceptions to certain course policies and deadlines due to extenuating circumstances. Generally, I prefer to make policy changes that benefit the entire class, but if you are facing a personal hardship and would like to request an individual accommodation, you can do so by detailing your issues and requests in an email. You must contact me as soon as possible **before deadlines have passed** for me to consider making any exceptions or changes. **I cannot make exceptions after deadlines have passed except in extreme circumstances.** Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis at my discretion.

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, but during busy times of the semester, some grading may be delayed. I will attempt to respond to emails in a timely manner (normally within *1 weekday*). You can expect most grading and email correspondence to occur on days I am scheduled to be in the office, but I do work on weekends and random hours as well. 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 automatically expect me to be available late at night, on holidays, 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 the answer cannot be found 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

I expect you to log in to Virtual Campus *at least* once a week. You are responsible for all information presented in Virtual Campus, whether you access it or not. Logins will not be recorded for credit; however, logging in frequently is strongly encouraged.

I will **not** initiate any administrative withdrawals, regardless of your attendance or progress. **It is your responsibility to initiate any drops or 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 have made an error.

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 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. You should not work with any other (current or former) student to complete any coursework (**collusion**). You should not submit work that is generated with the help of artificial intelligence or purchased from any other person or website.*

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.*

I reserve the right to assign a final grade of F or adjust other grading policies (such as rescinding a dropped exam grade and/or not allowing extra credit) as a result of academic dishonesty.

GUIDELINES FOR COMMON TECHNICAL ISSUES

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

TIMELYCARE

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.

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.

Alex Crouse, Director of Student Life and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
979-230-3355; alex.crouse@brazosport.edu

Brad McGonagle, Vice President, HR and Title IX Coordinator
979-230-3459; brad.mcgonagle@brazosport.edu

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.

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/studentsuccesscenter>.

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

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.