

**Brazosport College**  
**Syllabus for PSYC 2301 General Psychology**

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

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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>. 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.

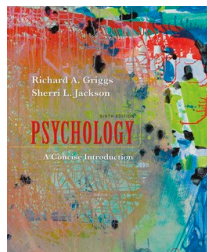
Brazosport College Bookstore contact information:

Phone: 979.230.3651

Fax: 979.230.3653

Email: [bookstore@brazosport.edu](mailto:bookstore@brazosport.edu)

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



*Psychology: A Concise Introduction (with Achieve)*

by Richard A. Griggs & Sherri L. Jackson

6<sup>th</sup> Edition

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

## **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY**

Outside of the classroom, 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) 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**

### **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 STRUCTURE**

This course will require active participation. The structure will be such that you will prepare by doing reading, Achieve assignments, and watching recorded lectures on your own time, and we will work more actively with the course material doing in-class discussion and activities during class time. You are responsible for reading all appropriate chapters and completing assignments and quizzes **before** the material is discussed in class. It is important that you stay ahead and keep track of all assignments and deadlines. Come to class prepared to participate, with assignments completed when required. Follow the course timeline to stay on track.

Much of this class will be completed in a team-based learning format. You will be assigned to teams of approximately 4-5 students and complete assignments and quizzes together in class. You will be assigned to one team for the first half of the class and a different team for the second half. I will expect you to participate regularly and contribute to overall class discussion, team discussions, and team assignments. I will grade you on participation at midterm and at the end of the semester. You will also receive grades from your peers for your contributions, so it's important to attend and participate actively in regular teamwork. Review the section on Attendance and Withdrawal policies so you know what to do in case you need to miss a class.

## **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 (20%):*

You must secure access to Achieve via an access code or by purchasing access through the site. Most of your daily homework assignments will be on Achieve, and this will likely be the most time-consuming portion of the course outside of class time. This will be a combination of video activities, quizzes, and concept checks. The purpose of these activities is to ensure you have familiarized yourself with the course content to ensure you are prepared to participate in class discussion. You will earn points based on the completion of activities as well as correct answers (many of the tools allow you to complete multiple attempts). You will earn a separate grade for each chapter's activities. **The system will not accept late work.**

### *Online & In-class Assignments (10%)*

Online Assignments: These assignments will be completed via Virtual Campus and may be in the form of Dropbox assignments or online discussion forums. You must complete assignments *by the stated 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 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. No make-up assignments will be allowed.*

In-class Assignments: These assignments will be completed in class. They may take on different forms, such as making a presentation to the class, completing a worksheet, doing/presenting research, or some other activity. In some cases, I may ask you to submit your assignment online for grading purposes, in which case all the above from "Online Assignments" applies. **You must be present to earn credit unless you have made alternate arrangements with me.**

### *Team Chapter Quizzes (5%):*

You will also 10 multiple-choice chapter quizzes (one per chapter) in teams in class. When completing team quizzes, you should discuss each question with your team and decide on one answer for each question. I will provide immediate feedback. If you select an incorrect response, you may attempt the question again for partial credit. More information about scoring will be discussed in class. If you are late or absent for a team quiz, you will not receive credit unless you have made prior arrangements with me. **No make-up quizzes will be allowed.**

### *Team Assignments (20%):*

You will complete 10 team assignments (one per chapter) in class. 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 an 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 arrive; 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.**

### *Exams (16%)*

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 and contain approximately 3-6 short answer questions, covering information from both class discussion and the textbook.

In-class exams: I will provide short answer sheets. You are allowed one standard-sized index card of handwritten notes.

Final exam: The final exam will be a comprehensive essay (detailed instructions available in Virtual Campus). 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 up to 24 hours past the deadline with a significant penalty.**

**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.*

### *Personal Essays (8%):*

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.**

### *Peer Review (5%):*

You and your team members will grade each other on your contributions to teamwork throughout the semester. Peer review grades will be collected twice (once halfway through the course and once at the end of the course). I'll provide more detailed information regarding peer review grades at that time.

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*Instructor Evaluation– including participation and attendance (5%):*

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 class. This includes but is not limited to asking relevant questions, answering questions, making relevant comments, and sharing additional research/resources such as videos and articles relevant to course discussions.

*Final Reflective Essay (7%):*

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 up to 24 hours past the deadline with a significant penalty.**

*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.**

*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	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.*

**MAKE-UP POLICY**

Absolutely **no make-ups** will be accepted for any missed component of the course. If you need an extension for any reason, you must contact me in advance. The optional extra credit project to 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.

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### **“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**

You have committed to our regularly scheduled meetings, and I expect you to attend every class on time. Pay careful attention to the course timeline to prepare for meetings in advance. Please do not attend class if you are sick, especially on a teamwork day. If you must be absent due to illness, contact me in advance to make arrangements. I won’t penalize you for missing one or two regular discussion days, but if you don’t attend on a day when teamwork or a graded activity is scheduled 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.

Your team members will keep track of attendance on days that teamwork is completed—you cannot earn credit for teamwork if you are not present. If you absolutely must miss a class for a documentable reason, email me as soon as possible to make arrangements *before the missed class*.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, I expect you to log in to Virtual Campus and Achieve *at least* once a week. You are responsible for all information presented in Virtual Campus, whether you access it or not. Logins are not recorded for credit.

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.

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## **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 Success.

*You should not be copying any information directly from the textbook or any other (print or online) 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 as your own any work that is generated with the help of artificial intelligence or purchased from any other person or website.*

**AI Policy Related to Academic Honesty:** I am aware that it is practically impossible to fully avoid artificial intelligence (AI) as it becomes more integrated into our digital lives. I understand and expect that you may use AI tools such as spelling and grammar correction, predictive text, or synonym finders; however, you should use these tools ethically and responsibly. I ask that you specify in your submission any AI tools you used in your work. You are **not** allowed to simply prompt ChatGPT or other AI software to create content for you (unless it is explicitly part of an assignment's instructions), and you are **not** allowed to use AI software to complete exams. In this class, up to 15% of any individual paper may contain AI-generated work as long as it is properly cited in APA format. Anything else 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.

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Cell phone use is not allowed in my classroom. Using your cell phone in class will result in a 5-point deduction per violation. I reserve the right to deduct additional points for excessive cell phone usage.

## **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)

Brad McGonagle, Vice President, HR and Title IX Coordinator  
979-230-3459; [brad.mcgonagle@brazosport.edu](mailto:brad.mcgonagle@brazosport.edu)

## **OTHER STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION**

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.

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

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