2: COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose. This course introduces students to the field of psychology and its foundational areas. It plays several roles in the curriculum; it: (a) satisfies the social science core curriculum requirement, (b) satisfies the prerequisite for taking other psychology courses, (c) fulfills a requirement for majors and minors in psychology as well as other disciplines that rely on psychology in their training programs.

2.2 Structure. This is an ONLINE course. All tests and assignments can be completed from remote sites. The Blackboard software system houses all aspects of the course. The course begins on Monday, October 23, and ends on Friday, December 15 at noon (8 weeks). Please take a look at the course folders. The main ones are Syllabus, Discussions, Application Exercises, Quizzes/Tests, Learning Modules, Videos, and MyGrades.

2.2.1: If you have questions at any time during the course, please ask them by going to the Discussions folder - click on Questions forum, then Create Thread, write something in the Subject box that indicates what your question is about, and then ask it. This way, you and other students can access my answer. I will check this forum daily.

2.3 Etiquette Expectations. The course provides students with the opportunity to practice writing helpful messages to classmates, similar to what they may encounter later in corresponding with coworkers in the workplace. It is essential to write in a courteous and respectful style.

2.4 Technical Support. The ASU Helpdesk (325 942-2911) provides students with technical assistance at all hours of the day or night. It is staffed by local technicians M-F 7:00 AM until 6:00 PM; other times it is staffed by non-local technicians.

3: COURSE OBJECTIVES

3.1: Gaining factual knowledge

3.2: Learning about fundamental theories and research

3.3: Learning to apply the course material

4: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student will:
4.1: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in the foundational areas of psychology;

4.2: Develop, interpret, and express psychological ideas through written communication;

4.3: Analyze numerical data and arrive at informed conclusions.

5: TEXTBOOK


6: GRADE CRITERIA

6.1: The course grade will be based on the number of points earned out of a possible 1000. The cutoffs for determining a letter grade will follow the traditional standard of 90% (A), 80% (B), and 70% (C).

6.2: Quizzes. During the first seven weeks of the course there is a weekly quiz. It has 10 multiple-choice questions worth two points apiece, and there is a time limit of 15 minutes (important point: the quiz will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 15th minute unless you have submitted it earlier). You can take each quiz ONCE. The purpose of the quizzes is to give you practice at answering questions prior to taking the test, so completing the quiz is a prerequisite for taking the test. After submitting a quiz, you receive feedback about the questions that were answered incorrectly (you will need to be in the Respondus Lockdown Browser to access the feedback). There is not a quiz during the eighth and final week of the course.

6.3: Tests. There are eight (weekly) tests worth 60 points apiece. The weekly tests are composed of 30 objective questions worth 2 points apiece. There is a time limit of 45 minutes (important point: the test will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 45th minute unless you have submitted it earlier). You can take each test THREE times, and each retake will have a different set of questions (but with some overlap from the previous version). The Grade Center will retain the highest score. At the end of the testing week, you can access the test and see which questions were answered incorrectly (open Blackboard using the Respondus Lockdown Browser and click on the score in MyGrades).

6.3.1: All the weekly quizzes and tests are available in the Tests folder, beginning on the first class day and ending at 9:00 AM (Central Standard Time) on Tuesdays during the week each is due. They can be taken anytime up until their due dates. The fact that they are all posted at the beginning of the course allows you to “work ahead” if you want and take them earlier than the week they are due (this feature provides an accommodation to students who know they must be away from this course during certain periods of time).

6.3.2: Extra Test. In addition to the weekly tests, there is one test that remains available throughout the course. It covers biological topics that are discussed in several chapters, so the material has broad relevance. It is labeled “Biological Test” in the Tests folder. It has 20
questions worth two points apiece, and a time limit of 30 minutes (it will automatically submit itself at the beginning of the 30th minute unless you have submitted it earlier). You can take it SIX times, and each retake will have a different set of questions (but with some overlap from the previous version). The Grade Center will retain the highest score.

6.4: CRUCIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING QUIZZES AND TESTS. They are delivered with software called Respondus Lockdown Browser (RLB). This software is already loaded in computer labs on campus, but if you want to take tests from other locations, you will need to download the software onto the computer where you take the test (click on the Support tab on the Blackboard homepage to access the link).

To take a quiz or test, click on the RLB icon on the desktop and it will take you into Blackboard. Then, click on this course; then click on the Tests folder; then click on the quiz or test you are to take. You will be asked if the instructor provided a "Password"; answer "No". If you have entered Blackboard properly by accessing it through the RLB icon, the password for the test will be entered automatically on your behalf and you can start the test. If you try to take a quiz or test without going through the RLB, you will be asked to provide a test password that you don't have, so you cannot take the test.

6.5: Discussions. There are three Discussions that are worth 45 points apiece. They give you an opportunity to read what other students think about selected issues and how they can be applied to the solution of problems faced by professionals. See the instructions in the Discussion folder.

6.6: Application Exercises. There are four Application Exercises that are worth 45 points apiece. They are intended to give you practice applying psychology to your personal experiences. See the instructions in the Application Exercises folder.

6.7: Punctuality. The online course format requires you to exercise a lot of self-discipline. The timely completion of quizzes, tests, application exercises, and discussions is very important. Something is due every week. To encourage and reward your consistent progress on mastering course material, you begin the course with 25 "punctuality" points. If none of the assignments are submitted during a particular week, then 5 points will be deducted.

7: FEEDBACK ABOUT PERFORMANCE. To get additional feedback about your performance on particular assignments, open the MyGrades page and click on the name of the assignment in the Graded section (note: if the assignment is a quiz or test in the RLB, then you will need to access Blackboard via the RLB to see the extra feedback). Feedback on the quizzes is available immediately after submitting them, and feedback on the tests is available after the due date.

8: COURSE CALENDAR

Dates / Topic / Readings / Assessments

Week One (October 23 – 31) / Introduction to Psychological Science / Modules 1, 2 / Quiz 1, Test 1, Discussion Forum 1
Week Two (October 31 – November 7) / Developmental Psychology & Stress / Modules 11, 12, 33 / Quiz 2, Test 2, Application Exercise 1

Week Three (November 7 - 14) / Learning / Modules 19, 20, 21 / Quiz 3, Test 3, Discussion Forum 2

Week Four (November 14 - 21) / Memory / Modules 22, 23, 24 / Quiz 4, Test 4, Application Exercise 2

Week Five (November 21 - 28) / Motivation & Emotion / Modules 29, 30, 31, 32 / Quiz 5, Test 5, Application Exercise 3

Week Six (November 28 – December 5) / Social Psychology / Modules 35, 36, 37 / Quiz 6, Test 6, Application Exercise 4

Week Seven (December 5 - 12) / Personality / Modules 38, 39 / Quiz 7, Test 7, Discussion Forum 3

Week Eight (December 11 – 15 at noon) / Psychological Disorders & Therapies / Modules 40, 41, 42, 44 / Test 8 (make-up tests if needed)

Weeks One-Eight (October 23 – December 15 at noon) / Biological Topics / Modules 4, 5, 8 / Biological Test (Note. This topic is relevant to many other sections in the course, so you should study it as time allows throughout the course. The test will remain available from the first day until noon on December 16 so you can complete it whenever you are prepared). The test has 20 questions worth two points apiece, and you can take it up to six times. The highest score will be retained.

9: POLICY ON MAKE-UP WORK

9.1: The exams, application exercises, and discussions are available from the first class day until their due dates, which is an ample amount of time. To protect yourself against unexpected emergencies, do not wait until the last day. If you miss a deadline, the make-up work is worth 75% of the original points. The make-up work can be submitted any time after their due dates, using the same submission links as the regular assessments.

9.2: With regard to the make-up discussion forums only the thread counts, so there no need to submit replies (because classmates are unlikely to read replies after the due date).

9.3: With regard to the make-up quizzes and tests, only the first attempt after the deadline counts (unlike regular tests which allow three attempts). Use the regular quiz or test links.

9.4: In rare cases, a student begins an attempt at a test too close to the deadline time of 9:00 AM and then submits it after the deadline time has passed. In such cases, there is a five-minute grace period, after which the score will be adjusted for make-up credit.
10: WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE

The last day to withdraw from this course is Monday, November 27.

11: PLAGIARISM

11.1: Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

11.2: In your writing, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the *APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association* as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center [http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php).

12: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

12.1: “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”

12.2: The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

12.3: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

13: STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”