SYLLABUS

General Psychology 2301.D10
Semester: Spring 2018
Text: Experience Psychology, by Laura A. King, Third Edition
Instructor: Patsy McCall, M.S., Clinical Instructor
Instructor’s Office Hours: MWF 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM, and 12:00 NOON – 12:50 PM or by appointment. TTR 10:00
AM – 10:50 AM, 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM or by appointment. If these posted hours are not possible for you, appointments
may be made with me and I will do my best to accommodate your needs. I will inform via announcement if I have to
leave campus early for any reason.
Office: A201C
Office Phone: 486-6134
Phone: (325) 227-0361
E-mail: pmccall@angelo.edu
Classroom: On Line
When: MWF time varies

Course Objective: The objective for this course is to bring to the learner an overall view of the science of Psychology.
The course is designed to assist the learner in mastering an understanding of various psychological concepts and
principles through several modalities and their applicability in the world around us.

Student Learning Objectives:

• Essential—to gain a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge of terminology,
classifications, methods, principles, generalizations, and theories) as they pertain to general psychology.

• Essential—learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
pertaining to general psychology.

• Important—developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field
most closely related to this course.

• Important—learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information
for following through on scientific research.

Angelo State University Core Curriculum Objectives for Social and Behavioral Science Courses and Related
Course Assessments:
Students in this course (General Psychology) will practice, utilize, and demonstrate proficiency with the following core
curriculum learning objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Social
Responsibility. Students will demonstrate competence in these areas by completing assessments, a written project
paper, completing a power point project, in-class activities, and class discussion.

• Critical Thinking will be demonstrated via class exams, quizzes, in-class activities, and a portion of the
power point assignment designed specifically for this purpose as it relates to a psychological construct
studied.

• Communication will be demonstrated with oral in class discussion participation, written in-class activities, a
research report on a research project the student has conducted as part of this course, and a portion of the
power point assignment designed specifically to assess this skill as it relates to a psychological construct
studied.

• Empirical and quantitative skills will be demonstrated via quizzes and exams relating to research design, the
research project that will require the student to conduct their own research, collect the data, analyze the data
and produce a scientific report on the findings, and a portion of the power point assignment designed
specifically to assess this skill as it relates to a psychological construct studied.

• Social Responsibility will be demonstrated in the form of group activity participation in class and
participation in Psychological research conducted at Angelo State University. Participation will demonstrate
social responsibility insofar as research advances scientific understanding and the knowledge generation
process. They will also demonstrate this skill in a portion of the power point assignment designed
specifically to assess social responsibility as it relates to a psychological construct studied.

Attendance Policy: All students are expected to attend each class week virtually and all course requirement
assignments are to be completed in a timely manner. A written doctor’s excuse or a mandatory absence due to
University activity is necessary if you are no able to get the required work in on time without penalty.

Course Grading Criteria: The overall grade earned in this course will be based on the percentage of overall points
out of a possible 1970 points (approximately) for the semester and will be evaluated as follows:
5 Major Exams 26% 500 pts
10 Chapter Quizzes 26% 500 pts total (50 pts each)
Mini Research Project 5% 100 pts
Dream Interpretation Assignment 3% 50 pts
5 Chapter Home works 14% 250 pts (50 pts each)
10 Threads 1% 20 pts
10 Blogs 11% 200 pts (20 pts each)
4 Lab Assignments 14% 260 pts (varies)
100% 1880 pts
Extra Credit 2% 42 pts

Academic Honesty (ASU Honor Code): Angelo State University expects the students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. “Faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.” Angelo State University Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the University Student Handbook and students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web:
http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code.

Disabilities Code: Persons with disabilities which warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, at 325.942.2047 in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request as early in the semester as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Research Experiences: All students in Psychology 2301 courses are required to complete two research experiences serving as subjects for studies being conducted on campus. In this course, the extra credit referred to in the grading criteria will be given to those who comply. For additional details: See the “Research Opportunities” link on the department homepage at: http://www.angelo.edu/dept/psychology-sociology/. More details will be given in an announcement on your Bb course when such studies become available and we will go over the procedure in in your class discussion board for that week.

For Your Information: You will be expected to check Blackboard regularly (minimum of 2 to 3 times per week) for my posted announcements for detailed instructions and to stay on top of class requirements and your assignments will be posted in the course content section of Blackboard for you as well. This is an on line course and as such you will take your quizzes and exams online in Bb using the Respondus Monitoring System. Details on this operationally are found in the Orientation Discussion Board all of you must read. This system applies only to Major Exams, not weekly quizzes. Please be advised that on all my quizzes and exams, you are allowed to use your texts and your notes. Just keep in mind they are timed, so you can’t take too long on any one question. The necessary practice test for the monitoring system will appear in Quizzes and exams button the first day of classes (not for a grade), but you must take it in order to have access to the first Major Exam. The quizzes will be given on Fridays and the Exams will always be given on Mondays (excepting any Monday or Friday holidays). The text covers 14 chapters of material. Each exam in this course will cover only 2 to 3 chapters of your text and the final is not comprehensive. I highly recommend you read your assigned chapters before you come to class in order to be ready to participate in the class discussions and activities. Your final exam in this course is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2018 open to you for 24 hours in the Exams and Quizzes section of Bb using Respondus Monitoring from 8am Monday 5/07 and closing at 8 am Tuesday 5/08/2018.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week #1 Monday—Martin Luther King Day Holiday—no classes. Introduction & orientation, go over syllabus, course requirements and expectations. We will go over Chapter 1 dealing with The Science of Psychology. We will discuss psychological research and the goals of psychology. We will talk about the contemporary approaches to psychology as well as the scientific method of performing psychological research. Furthermore we will discuss the ethical guidelines required in conducting psychological research. We look at a brief history of the science, go over the modern perspective approaches to psychology, the types of psychological professionals, and the scientific research methods of psychological research.
Week 1 requirements: Read chapter 1 for comprehension, read the supplemental discussion board for chapter 1 under the Discussion Boards button in Bb, facilitate account for ConnectLab access, complete the Research homework worksheets as assigned, take quiz 1 found under the exams and quizzes button in Bb. Also download the handout in the course content button on Critical Thinking to add to your chapter notes.

Week #2 Chapter 2 dealing with the Brain and Behavior. We will discuss the nervous system and the role it plays in behavior, how neurotransmitters affect behavior, the organization of the nervous system, the role of the endocrine system, and heredity and behavior.

Week 2 requirements: Read chapter 2 for comprehension, read the supplemental discussion board for chapter 2, complete Blog 1 found in the Blogs button in Bb using blog response, and no quiz or home work for this week.

Week #3 Chapter 3 dealing with Sensation and Perception. We will look at how we sense and perceive the world. As for perception based on sensory input, we focus on visual and auditory senses, the theories behind those perceptions, and touch on the chemical senses and the kinesthetic and vestibular senses. We will even touch on extrasensory perception. Introduction to the MINI RESEARCH Project assignment including criteria and due dates and preparation for EXAM 1.

Week 3 requirements: Read chapter 3 for comprehension, read the supplemental discussion board for chapter 3, go over Mini Research Project all sheets found in Course content button of Bb, produce hypothesis for Mini Research project, take quiz 2, and study for Exam 1 covering chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Week #4 First Major Exam. Chapter 4 dealing with States of Consciousness. Here we will deal with the various states of consciousness by its nature, looking also at the concept of theory of mind. We talk about sleep and therefore dreams, psychoactive drugs, hypnosis, and meditation—all of which affect states of consciousness. We will go over the DREAM INTERPRETATION assignment including criteria and due date. I will also offer an optional chance to earn some extra credit points with this chapter which will be explained in an announcement and in the discussion board.

Week 4 requirements: Take Exam 1 covering chapters 1, 2, and 3 in Exams and Quizzes button using Respondus Monitoring in Bb. Read chapter 4 for comprehension, complete Dream Interpretation assignment by date due, complete Blog 2, complete Lab 1 in ConnectLab button in Bb, and take quiz 3.

Week #5 Dream Interpretation Due. Chapter 5 dealing with Learning. We will go over the major forms of learning looking at Pavlov’s classical conditioning, Skinner’s operant conditioning, Bandura’s observational learning and some of the cognitive factors involved in the learning process. We will also touch on the biological, cultural, and psychological factors in learning.

Week 5 requirements: Read chapter 5 for comprehension, complete the homework sheets assigned for this chapter found in the course content button of Bb, produce hypothesis for Mini Research project, take quiz 2, and study for Exam 2 covering chapters 4, 5, and 6.

Week #6 Chapter 6 dealing with Memory discussing the principles of memory and levels of processing information. We will look at forgetting and go over some tips from the science of memory for studying and for life. I will also go over a second optional extra credit opportunity associated with this chapter.

Week 6 requirements: Rough draft for Mini Research Project due. Read chapter 6 for comprehension, no homework sheets and no quiz and no blog this week. Study for Exam 2 covering chapters 4, 5, and 6.

Week #7 Second Major Exam using Respondus Monitoring. Chapter 7 dealing with Thinking, Intelligence, and Language. Discussion dealing with the concepts of thinking, problem solving, reasoning and decision making as well as critical thinking and creativity. We will also cover measuring intelligence, genetic and environmental influences on intelligence and some extremes of intelligence as well as the theories of multiple intelligences. This chapter also affords a discussion of the basic properties of language, biological and environmental influences on language and the development of language over the life span.

Week 7 requirements: Take Exam 2 covering chapters 4, 5, and 6. Turn in final product for Mini Research Project. Read chapter 7 for comprehension, complete Blog 4, and complete quiz 5.

Week #8 Chapter 8 dealing with Human Development. We discuss the issues in studying physical development, cognitive development, socioemotional development, gender development, moral development and even look into
issues relating to end of life with death, dying, and grieving. We will approach these issues from different age
groups and go over some of the theories surrounding these concepts.

Week 8 requirements: Read chapter 8 for comprehension, complete Blog 5, no homework but be sure to take
quiz 6. Also complete Lab 2 in ConnectLab button of Bb.

Spring Break Week: March 12 – March 16. Have a delightful and SAFE spring break holiday week!

Week #9 Chapter 9 dealing with Motivation and Emotion. Discussion of the approaches to understanding
motivation and the various theories relating to each approach, the hunger & thirst & sex motivation in detail
including maladaptive eating problems including obesity. Discussion on emotion, its elements and the theories of
emotion including a look at motivation and emotion together with a focus on the pursuit of happiness.

Week 9 requirements: Read chapter 9 for comprehension, there will be no homework, no blog, and no quiz this
week, study for Exam 3 covering chapters 7, 8, and 9. I will also be offering an optional extra credit opportunity
this week for those who wish to take advantage of it which will be explained in the discussion board for this
chapter.

Week #10 Third major exam. Friday of this week is Spring Holiday—no classes. Chapter 10 dealing with
Personality. Discussion related to the psychology of personality, personality theories, the great personality
debate and finally personality assessments.

Week 10 requirements: Take Exam 3 covering chapters 7, 8, and 9 using Respondus Monitoring. Read chapter
10 for comprehension, complete Blog 6 in blog response, and take quiz 7 (being given on Mon 4/2 in deference to
the Fri holiday).

Week #11 Chapter 11 dealing with Social Psychology. We will first see what social cognition and social
behavior refer to focusing on attribution, attitudes, and persuasion as well as altruism and aggression. We will
explore close relationships such as attraction and love. We will also look at social influence and group processes.

Week 11 requirements: Read chapter 11 for comprehension, complete Blog 7, and take quiz 8. I will be offering
the final XC opportunity this week as well. Also be sure to complete Lab 3 due this week.

Week #12 Chapter 12 dealing with Psychological Disorders where we attempt to qualify “Normal”. We discuss
the classification of mental disorders and focus on various types such as Psychotic and Delusional disorders,
Schizophrenia, Mood disorders, Anxiety disorders, eating disorders, dissociative disorders, suicide, and
personality disorders. We will also have a discussion related to the consequences of the stigma often associated
with mental disorders.

Week 12 requirements: Read chapter 12 for comprehension, complete the homework for this chapter, study for
Exam 4 covering chapters 10, 11, and 12, complete Blog 8, and take quiz 9 this week.

Week #13 Fourth Major exam. Chapter 13 dealing with Therapies. We will look at various types of therapy
available including psychoanalysis, humanistic therapies, cognitive and behavioral therapies. We also discuss
medical therapies including psychopharmacology in treatment of mental disorders as well as some of the
sociocultural approaches and issues in treatment.

Week 13 requirements: Take Exam 4 covering chapters 10, 11, and 12 using Respondus Monitoring. Read
chapter 13 for comprehension, complete homework 5 this week, complete Blog 9, and no quiz this week.

Week #14 Chapter 14 dealing with Health Psychology. We will discuss behavioral medicine, making positive life
changes and the resources needful in successfully implementing such changes. We will also focus on controlling
stress (see handout in the course content button, download it and add to your notes for this chapter). We will
also look at some behaviors that help us maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Week 14 requirements: Read chapter 14 for comprehension, complete Blog 10, and take quiz 10 this week. All
make up major exams which may have been missed will be offered this week. Be sure to download the handout
on Stress and the College Student in your course content button and add to your notes for this chapter.

Week #15 DEAD WEEK!! Providing we have finished the chapter course work, we will focus on preparation
for the Final Exam covering chapters 13 and 14 to be given Monday May 7, 2018 online in Bb.
Week 15 requirements: No homework or quiz this week, study for final exam covering chapters 13, and 14.

Week #16 NO CLASS—Final exam given Monday, May 7, 2018 from 8:00 AM Mon 5/07 in the Exams and Quizzes button through Respondus Monitoring on Bb and closing 8 AM Tues 5/08/2018—open to you for 24 hours.

As the instructor, I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time during the semester as may be deemed necessary to complete the work and/or enhance the learning and application of this material. Thank you and I look forward to our working together this semester.

Patsy McCall, M.S.
Clinical Instructor