SYLLABUS

General Psychology 2301.070
Semester: Spring 2019
Text: Experience Psychology, by Laura A. King, Third Edition
Instructor: Patsy McCall, M.S., Clinical Instructor
Instructor’s Office Hours: MWF 9:00 AM – 10:50 AM, and 12:00 NOON – 12:50 PM or by appointment. TR 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM and 12:30 PM – 1:30 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: A 213
When: MWF 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

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 (exams and quizzes), a written project paper, in-class activities, and class discussion.

- **Critical Thinking** will be demonstrated via class exams, quizzes, in-class activities, and a project of observational research 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, and a research report on a research project the student has conducted as part of this course.
- **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.
- **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.

Attendance Policy: All students are expected to attend each class period and attendance is calculated as a part of your course grade. In this class, your attendance constitutes 4% of your overall course grade. Each student begins the semester with 60 attendance points. Each absence will cost the student 2 attendance points and zeroes for any in class activities for that day. A written doctor’s excuse or a mandatory absence due to University activity does not exempt you from losing the attendance points, but will earn the student the right to make up any work missed without penalty. Any absences for legitimate religious holidays that meet the University policy and procedural guidelines will be taken into account.

Course Grading Criteria: The overall grade earned in this course will be based on the percentage of overall points out of a possible 1740 points (approximately) for the semester and will be evaluated as follows:

- 5 Major Exams: 29% 500 pts
- 10 Chapter Quizzes: 29% 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)
8 In-Class Activities (time permitting) 16% 280 pts (6 @30 pts ea.,2 @ 50 pts ea.)
Attendance 4% 60 pts

Extra Credit 2% 35 pts

100% 1740 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](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 research experiences serving as subjects for studies being conducted on campus earning 4 Sona-system credits. 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/](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 class.

**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 some of your assignments will be posted in the course content section of Blackboard for you as well. I do expect common courtesy to be observed in my classroom. All pagers, cell phones & other electronic communication devices will be turned off before entering the classroom. This is a hybrid 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 which can be taken directly in the exams and quizzes button in Bb. 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 purpose is to check your webcam operation and familiarize you with the use of Respondus Monitoring. The quizzes will be given on Fridays (excluding any Fri holiday) and the Exams will always be given on Mondays (excepting any Mon 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 06, 2019 open to you for 24 hours in the Lockdown browser using Respondus Monitoring from 8am Monday 05/06 and closing at 8 am Tuesday 05/07/2019. Please be advised that should anything occur requiring me to miss a class period, I will set up an online discussion board for those classes that you will be required to “attend” and follow the instructions on the assignments related to those on line class sessions.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

**Week #1**  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, participate in class activity, complete the Research homework worksheets as assigned, take quiz 1 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 Monday—MLK Day Holiday—no classes. 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, participate in the class activity, and no quiz or homework 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, 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. H+ due. 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 class.

Week 4 requirements: Take Exam 1 covering chapters 1, 2, and 3 in Lockdown browser using Respondus Monitoring in Bb. Read chapter 4 for comprehension, complete Dream Interpretation assignment by date due, participate in the in class activity, and take quiz 3.

Week #5 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, and take quiz 4.

Week #6 Dream Interp Due. 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: Read chapter 6 for comprehension, no homework sheets and no quiz this week. Study for Exam 2 covering chapters 4, 5, and 6. Turn in Dream Interp assignment.

Week #7 Second Major Exam using Respondus Monitoring. Rough draft due on Projects. 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 creatively. 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 rough draft product for Mini Research Project. Read chapter 7 for comprehension, be prepared to participate in an in class activity, and complete quiz 5.

Week #8 Chapter 8 dealing with Human Development. Final Product Project due. 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, participate with in-class activity, no homework but be sure to take quiz 6. Turn in Final product on projects.

Spring Break Week: March 11 – March 15. 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 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 and in class.

Week #10 Third major exam. 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, and take quiz 7.

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, be prepared to complete the 2-part class activity work sheets for this chapter, and take quiz 8. I will be offering the final XC opportunity this week as well.

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, 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, 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, be prepared to participate in an in class activity, 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 6, 2019 online in Bb through lockdown browser to Respondus Monitoring.

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 06, 2019 from 8:00 AM Mon 05/06 in the Lockdown browser through Respondus Monitoring on Bb and closing 8 AM Tues 05/07/2019—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., Q.M.H.P.
Clinical Instructor