



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Psychology

PSYC 1310 – Introduction to Psychology
Online instruction, Fall 2021

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Rachel Miller-Slough, PhD

Email: slough@etsu.edu

Office: Rogers-Stout 421-D

Office Hours: By appointment

Course meeting times: This course is offered fully online, with lectures posted to D2L each week. Students are asked to submit weekly course assignments via D2L

Course Information

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the basic concepts, principles, and theories of the science of psychology. Topics included are biological and developmental processes, perception and awareness, learning and thinking, motivation and emotion, personality and individuality, adjustment and mental health, and social behavior.

Course Purpose and Goals

This 3-credit hour course is designed to provide you with a greater knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of psychology. Objectives for this course include 1) providing a broad overview of the field of psychology, with an emphasis on the science of psychology and how psychology applies to and impacts each of us in our daily lives; 2) obtaining a greater knowledge of psychological principles as well as of human behavior and motives; 3) the development of scientific values and skills as well as an appreciation of scientific methods (especially as they pertain to psychology); and 4) learning how to evaluate, discuss, and critique information, becoming more intelligent consumers of information, and becoming independent thinkers.

Course Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students will:

- Have a basic understanding of research design and the scientific method.
- Have a basic understanding of the differences between biological, cognitive, developmental, and social components of psychology.
- Gain an understanding of the major theoretical contributions to psychology.

- Have a basic understanding of the brain and the nervous system.
- Have a basic understanding of broad groups of psychopathologies.
- Have a basic understanding of basic learning principles.
- Have a basic understanding of major theories of personality and their empirical support.
- Have a basic understanding of biological versus environmental influences on behavior.
- Have a basic understanding of at least two major types of treatment for psychological disorders.

Course Materials & Requirements

Textbooks and Materials

The OpenStax Psychology Textbook for this course is FREE. It is an Open Educational Resource (OER) for students. Students may view the FREE textbook online or download a PDF of the textbook to read offline on a computer or smartphone. In addition to these options, students may purchase a print version (around \$40).

Spielman, R., Dumper, K., Jenkins, W., Lovett, M., et al. (2020). *Psychology*, 2nd Ed. Retrieved from <https://openstax.org/books/psychology-2e/pages/1-introduction>
 Hardcover: ISBN-13: 978-1-975076-45-0
 Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-1-975076-44-3

Technical Requirements

Students should have a basic working knowledge of how to navigate and use our online course platform, Desire2Learn (D2L). I will use D2L to post course announcements and updates. You can access the readings, lectures, and assignments via D2L. You will also use D2L to take exams. Therefore, it is essentially that you regularly log into D2L and use our course page to be successful in this course. You should also turn on notification for D2L to ensure you are up to date about information posted there.

The OIT Student Helpdesk can assist in problem-solving most technical problems (i.e, unable to log into D2L or access course materials). Students can call the help desk at 423-439-4648 or email the help desk at helpdesk@etsu.edu. For assistance with D2L, students can find answers to many frequently asked questions at <http://www.etsu.edu/d2l/students>. If your question is not answered here, contact the Student Helpdesk.

Course Policies and Expectations

Email Communication

Email is the best way to reach me, and I am happy to discuss any questions you may have about the class. Please use your ETSU email account to contact me, including your name and the course number in your email (PSYC 1310). I will attempt to respond to email within 48-hrs Monday-Friday (8a-5p) and will expect students to respond to emails within that same timeframe if a response is requested. This response time expectation is not held for university sanctioned

holidays. I am also happy to schedule an appointment with you via Zoom if you have any questions or concerns about the course that you would like to talk through. Before reaching out via email with any questions, please make sure your question is not already answered in the syllabus.

Attendance

Pre-recorded lectures will be posted to D2L each week. There are no scheduled class meetings. It is expected that a student will log into D2L weekly to complete course reading, review the video lecture, and complete weekly assigned activities.

Missed assignments

The opportunity to make-up a missed exam or class work will only be granted to students with a University-approved excuse. Valid University-approved excuses include notes from the Dean of Students, notes from the University Health Center, documentation of hospitalization, or documentation from coaches or leaders of other university-approved activities. **Unless your situation is an emergency, you need to inform me about missing an exam before it occurs.**

Course Expectations for Students

- Students log into D2L each week to view course content (readings, lecture) and complete assignments. If there are extenuating circumstances, please discuss it with me in advance or as soon as is possible.
- Some weeks require more time for readings/assignments than others; please plan accordingly.
- Be respectful toward your instructor.
- If any course information or links do not work, please let me know ASAP.
- Cheating/Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Academic Misconduct

All students must comply with the University's regulations on academic misconduct. The ETSU academic honor code holds each student responsible for 1) upholding the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, 2) refusing to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and 3) fostering a high sense of integrity and social responsibility. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will **NOT** be tolerated. Any act of academic dishonesty will automatically result in a zero for the affected work, and will be reported to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs within the College of Arts and Sciences (per Tennessee Higher Education Commission policy effective January 1st, 2012). Punishment for such misconduct is in accord with the Tennessee Board of Regents policy. For more information regarding the University's academic misconduct policy, refer to the [ETSU Student Handbook website](#).

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of minority perspectives and voices, and the appreciation of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. The academic community, and this class, is a space that respects the rights, dignity, and welfare of all individuals and that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or

intimidation. This course will provide opportunities for all students learn about issues of diversity including, but not limited to, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, religion, and sexual orientation.

Every student in this class, regardless of personal history or identity categories, is a valued member of this group. Your experiences are valuable and important, and you should feel free to share them as they become relevant to our class. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. Please maintain courteous and respectful communication, regardless of differences of opinion. No student in this class is ever expected or believed to speak for all members of a group.

In this class, you have the right to determine your own identity, including being referred to by the name and pronouns you prefer. Please advise me of this preference so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. If you find that there are aspects of course instruction, subject matter, or class environment that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Course Grading

Exams: There will be 4 non-cumulative exams that are based upon the text, lecture, and class discussions. Exams will be administered via D2L during a specified day/time limit. The exams are 100 points each. The lowest exam grade is dropped. See course schedule for exam dates.

Weekly assignments: There will be unit quizzes throughout the semester, each of which are 10 points. See course schedule for dates.

Research Requirement:

To aid in the understanding of the science of psychology, each student is **required** to complete a research portion of this course. You may complete this requirement in one of two ways:

1) Participate in studies currently being conducted by researchers in the department of psychology. Computer sign-up for the studies you may participate in is located at <http://etsu.sona-systems.com>. After you create a username and password, you may browse through the studies being offered and sign up for different studies. Experiments conducted in a laboratory are worth substantially more credit than online surveys. Please note that online and lab-based studies are added to Sona throughout the semester. Participation in Sona studies must be completed by **11:59pm on Friday, December 3rd**. To view a Sona tutorial, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>. Please also see the Sona Participant User Manual posted to the D2L site for this course.

2) Fulfillment of this research requirement may also be accomplished by completing summaries of empirical research articles. Computer sign-up for the alternative assignment is located at <http://etsu.sona-systems.com>. After you create a username and password, you may sign up to complete multiple article summaries. Please see the instructions posted on the D2L site for this course regarding completing the research alternative. Alternate assignments must be completed by **11:59 on Tuesday, November 30th**.

Fulfillment of the research requirement may also be accomplished by completing studies on Sona and by completing summaries of empirical research articles. That is, you may do them in combination to complete the research requirement.

Each student must earn a total of 5 research credits. Failure to complete this research requirement will result in a deduction of 1% point from your final grade for the course for each ½ credit you are deficient. For example, if your final grade for the course was 90%, but you only earned 4.5 research credits, 1% would be deducted from your final grade resulting in an 89%. If you were to only earn 2 research credits, 6% would be deducted from your final grade resulting in an 84%. If you did not earn any research credits, 10% would be deducted from your final grade resulting in an 80%. For further instructions and details about the research requirement, please refer to http://www.etsu.edu/cas/psychology/department_features/sona.php. Should you need any assistance with Sona, please contact the ETSU Sona Administrator at etsusona@etsu.edu.

Extra Credit: Once you have completed the research requirement, you may earn up to 10 extra credit points for the semester by participating in psychology studies or by completing article summaries. As with the research requirement, extra credit must be completed by noon on Wednesday, December 1st.

GRADING:	Points
In-class exams (4 total, lowest grade dropped)	100 points each, 300 points total
Weekly assignments (10 total)	10 points each, 100 points total
5 Research credits	1 credit = 2% of grade
Extra Credit	10 points

Grading Scale

A: 93-100%	A-: 90-92%	B+: 87-89%
B: 83-86%	B-: 80-82%	C+: 77-79%
C: 73-76%	C-: 70-72%	D+: 65-69%
D: 60-64%	F: < 60%	

Please note that a grade of C or higher is required for all Psychology majors and minors.

Course Schedule

Below is a tentative class schedule. I will give you at least one week's notice if anything changes to this schedule.

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Assignments
Week 1: August 23-27	Syllabus Review, Introduction Research Methods	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	
Week 2: August 30-Sept 3	Biological Psychology	Chapter 3	Quiz #1 due 9/5
Week 3: September 6-10	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	Quiz #2 due 9/12
Week 4: September 13-17	Consciousness	Chapter 4	Exam 1 due 9/19
Week 5: September 20-24	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10	Quiz #3 due 9/26
Week 6: September 27- Oct 1	Theories of Learning	Chapter 6	Quiz #4 due 10/3
Week 7: October 4-8	Memory	Chapter 8	Quiz #5 due 10/10
Week 8: October 11-15 <i>Fall Break, No classes on Oct 11-12</i>	Mini Lecture on Thinking and Intelligence	Chapter 7	
Week 9: October 18-22	Finish Thinking and Intelligence	Chapter 7	Exam 2 due 10/24
Week 10: October 25-29	Developmental Psychology (Daryl guest lecture)	Chapter 9	Quiz #6 due 10/31
Week 11: November 1-5	Personality	Chapter 11	Quiz #7 due 11/7

Week 12: November 8-12 <i>Veterans Day, University closed Nov 11</i>	Social Psychology (Daryl guest lecture)	Chapter 12	Exam 3 due 11/14
Week 13: November 15-19	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	Quiz #8 due 11/21
Week 14: November 22-26 <i>Thanksgiving Break, University Closed Nov 24-26</i>	Mini lecture on Psychotherapy	Chapter 16	Quiz #9 due 11/28
Week 15: Nov 29-Dec 3	Resume Psychotherapy Stress and Coping	Chapter 14	Quiz #10 due 12/5
Finals week: No class			Exam 4 due 12/8

Student Services and Technical Resources

Student Services

The [ETSU Services webpage](#) includes a comprehensive list of services available to all ETSU students.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in the D.P. Culp Center, Room 326, telephone 423-439-8346. [Visit the Disability Services webpage for more information.](#)

Center for Academic Achievement (CFAA)

Located on the first floor of the Sherrod Library, the CFAA (439-7111) is the place for students to go for help with writing and speaking, mathematics, natural sciences, general education courses, and many other subjects. The Center offers tutoring on a walk-in and appointment basis and is open during library hours, including during evenings and weekends. In addition to scheduling an appointment with a CFAA tutor, students can work on homework in the Center and attend drop-in sessions in many subject areas. [Visit the CFAA webpage](#) for more information.

Undergraduate Student Success Specialist

Undergraduate students face many competing demands, including classes, social life, family

matters, and working/finances. Balancing these demands can be stressful and affect performance in class and progress towards your degree. The Undergraduate Student Success Specialist is available to listen and help find the resources students need to be successful at ETSU. Contact a specialist by calling 423-439-8777, emailing undergradsuccess@etsu.edu, or stopping by their office in Room 452 Sherrod Library.

Mental Health Resources

Students often have questions about mental health resources, whether for themselves or for a friend or family member. There are many resources available on the ETSU Campus, including the ETSU Counseling Center (439-3333); the ETSU Behavioral Health & Wellness Clinic (439-7777); the ETSU Community Counseling Clinic, (439-4187); and BucsPRESS2, a 24-hour mental health helpline (423-439-4841). **If you or a friend is in immediate crisis, call 911.** Available 24 hours per day is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Safe Space



My office is a safe space and I consider myself an ally for all groups of students, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. I want you to know that you can feel safe from judgmental attitudes when interacting with me. More information can be found at [the Safe Zone web site](#).

Technical Resources

ITS Help Desk

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk is the best resource for most technical problems. Find answers to common questions on the [Help Desk website](#), call, email, or stop in to see them on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. Phone: 423-439-4648 Email: itshelp@etsu.edu

Desire2Learn (D2L) Online Help

Many answers to D2L related questions can be found on the [D2L Help Student Home](#). If you are still having trouble finding what you need, contact the Help Desk.

Microsoft Office Software

Microsoft Office productivity applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and more, are available free for students through the University's Office 365 campus agreement. For instructions on how to obtain the software, see the [Office 365 page of the ITS Help Desk website](#).

Turnitin Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin is a plagiarism detection service available to students and faculty at ETSU. This tool compares student written work against a comprehensive database of other work as well as various internet sources. Faculty may employ this service for some or all written assignments, in order to help students learn to cite sources accurately and to ensure academic integrity. Learn more on the [Turnitin home page](#).

ETSU Technical Resources

Many other technical resources can be found on the [Online Help webpage](#).

University Information

Syllabus Attachment

The [ETSU syllabus attachment](#) includes important material such as permits and overrides, advisement, hours, dates and other ETSU information.

ETSU Catalogs

[Current Undergraduate Catalog](#)

[Current Graduate Catalog](#)