

## Sul Ross State University – Behavioral and Social Science Department PSY 1302 Course Syllabus – Fall 2018 (Section 1)

- Course Title:** General Psychology
- Required Text:** Globalyceum (*Introduction to Psychology* textbook): [https://www.globalyceum.com/site/sign\\_in](https://www.globalyceum.com/site/sign_in) OR Myers, D. G. (2017). *Psychology: Twelfth edition in modules* (12<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers ([https://www.amazon.com/Psychology-David-G-Myers/dp/131905062X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534824391&sr=8-1&keywords=psychology+in+modules+12th+edition](https://www.amazon.com/Psychology-David-G-Myers/dp/131905062X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1534824391&sr=8-1&keywords=psychology+in+modules+12th+edition)), Earlier editions also accepted
- Contact Information:** Alicia M. Trotman, PhD – [alicia.trotman@sulross.edu](mailto:alicia.trotman@sulross.edu)
- Office (LH 306) Hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (12:30 – 1:30pm) & Thursdays (12:30 – 2:30pm)
- Office Phone:** 432-837-8147
- Prerequisites:** None

### Course Description

This is a general introduction to the basic concepts, methods, and findings of contemporary psychology, covering the science of behavior and mental processes.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Throughout the course, these are the outcomes that we will aspire to gain:

1. Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline and describe the basic characteristics of the science of psychology.  
**Method of Formative Assessment:** Checklists, participation and exams
2. Establish familiarity with, and critically think about major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology. Explain the necessity for ethical behavior and social responsibility in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology.  
**Method of Formative Assessment:** Checklists, information technology exercise, participation and exams
3. Identify the various divisions of psychology (e.g. biopsychology, behaviorism, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic & sociocultural), their main foci, and major theorists within these divisions.  
**Method of Formative Assessment:** Checklists, participations and exams
4. Describe basic research and statistical concepts in scientific psychology, including experimental and correlation methods. Explain the significance of the scientific model and the importance of this model to the discipline of psychology.  
**Method of Formative Assessment:** Checklists, information technology exercise, participation and exams
5. Demonstrate how psychology has become more diverse in recent years with contributions from persons of all genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations and cultures. Utilize sociocultural and international contexts that influence individual differences and compare how these differences may influence beliefs, values, and interactions with others.  
**Method of Formative Assessment:** Checklists, participation and exams

6. Apply psychological principles to promote personal development. Strengthen intercultural competence to effectively engage psychological principles when acknowledging the behavior and mental processes of local and global communities. Evaluate how psychological knowledge, skills, and values are used in professional pursuits in a variety of settings, and everyday life.

**Method of Summative Assessment:** Portfolio

### Recognizing Course Requirements:

1. **The text must be obtained (Access to TopHat - \$26 & Purchase of the Textbook - \$50) or the actual textbook written by David Myers.**
2. Respect for students and lecturer must be maintained at all times when we meet. Respect is a basic human characteristic that entitles each person to their own right and identity. It also helps to nurture a healthy learning environment. If you recognize that respecting others may be a problem, please be courteous and alert me or more suitable personnel (e.g. Sul Ross State University psychologists, family members, lecturers, close friends) and or refer to the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).
3. During the course of this class, you may have strong emotional/psychological reactions to the course material and/or discussions. If you feel that you are having difficulty with the learning environment, please discuss this with me immediately before continuing the course. Counseling and Accessibility Services (<http://www.sulross.edu/section/2408/counseling-accessibility-services>) can provide brief, short-term individual and group counseling or refer you to off-campus providers. You have already paid for these services through your Student Service Fee, whether you use them or not.

### AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. **In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, you must first provide proper documentation to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services.** *Please contact Mary Schwartz, Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator in Counseling and Accessibility Services (Office: 112 Ferguson Hall) to set up an accommodations meeting, call (432) 837-8691 or mail to P.O. Box C-171 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832.* Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

### Honoring Academic Integrity

Any instance of academic misconduct such as (1) turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, (2) copying from any source without proper citation, (3) crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, (4) lying in connection with your academic work, (5) cheating, (6) plagiarism, (7) misrepresenting facts and/or collusion are contrary to the purpose of any educational institution and will be dealt with **most severely** to the extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. An instructor who determines that a student has been dishonest academically can at a minimum issue no credit for the assignment/exam, and/or pursue more severe penalties, including but not limited to failing the course. Before the penalty is imposed, the student has the right to appeal to the division chairperson or Assistant Provost for the Academic Affairs. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the [SRSU Student Handbook](#) and procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the [Scholastic Dishonesty Policy](#).

## Observing Class guidelines

### Class Participation

This is a course that requires in class, hands on experience and discussion. **Class attendance IS REQUIRED and participation is important.** Class participation and attendance will be worth **10%** of the final grade. The percentage is considerable so your presence will *help* your ability to complete all of assignments for this class.

**Participation** - You are expected to be on time for each class session and you should be actively involved. *Active involvement includes prompt and regular attendance, active listening, writing, participating via an online poll or quiz, engaging in discussions, volunteering or doodling.* Early departure or late arrival for class (more than 15 minutes) on a weekly basis will lower your participation grade. If you repeatedly leave early or are late to class (**more than twice**), this will be counted as one absence and may result in a failing grade for the course. Besides attendance, all other forms of participation judged subjectively by me that showcases active involvement will increase your participation grade.

**Attendance** – Class attendance is governed by the SRSU policy stated in the schedule of classes. If you are unable to attend a class session, please discuss the reason with me and arrange with another student to obtain any notes, handouts or assignments you may have missed. Excused absences entail established religious observance, or providing emergency, university-authorized, legal or medical documentation. **Excessive unexcused absences (more than 7 missed class sessions) will result in a failing grade for the course.**

**Cell Phone and Computer Use** - During the entire class period, you should be fully engaged in the day's activity. Laptop computers or tablets are welcomed at every class meeting for the academic purposes of note taking or following along with the instructor's lesson. Inappropriate computer usage (e.g. checking your e-mail, using instant messaging, accessing Facebook, etc.) or off-topic activity (e.g., reading the newspaper, cell phone use) is highly discouraged and very disrespectful to the instructor and your peers. Please be advised that computer or cell phone use not pertaining to the class activity or discussion will be noted and result in being marked "absent" for the day.

### Late Assignments/Projects/Checklists

You are expected to meet assignment/checklist deadlines. Checklists submitted after their due dates will be marked as zero. Late assignments or projects will be reduced by 10% of the overall assignment for the first day of lateness and 20% for lateness beyond that for unexcused absences. For excused absences (university-authorized, legal or medical issues), speak with me **before the absence** so arrangements can be made.

### Discussing Evaluation

**Checklists** – This is a 10 question test given to ensure that you have read the chapters and understand the most pertinent concepts. These checklists are **available immediately before** the chapter is discussed in class and are **due** before the midterm exam, and final exam respectively. These are automatically graded so you will get immediate feedback. Checklists are **only** accessible for that time so make sure you do them as soon as they are posted!

**Midterm and Final Exams** - Two (2) exams will be given during the course of this term. They consist of 50 questions each. Some of the questions for these two exams will be derived from the checklists. The dates of the exams are planned for the dates listed below in the class schedule. Please note that there will be no make-up exams unless it is an excused absence with corresponding documentation.

**Information Literacy Assignment** – this assignment is designed to improve your skills on finding information that has the following qualities: validity, reliability, timeliness, accuracy, authority and lacks bias.

- ✓ Journal Article – Reading and understanding a research article. (100 points)
- ✓ Website Search – Finding quality information on the internet. (100 points)

*Portfolio Project* - The goal of this assignment is for students to complete the course with an individual collection of materials related to this course, which are relevant to them and/or their field. The portfolio will relate the information from class to life beyond this introduction and may encourage you to reflect, experience, and critique psychologically in the real world. Obviously, people take away different things from the class and your portfolios will display this. This project must include the Self-Introduction and the Chapter Presentation. No late portfolios will be accepted unless due to illness and with documented proof. The deadline for this project is **December 8th**.

- ✓ *Self Introduction* – Write two pages about yourself and your experience in this class. Use one psychology vocabulary word, and the name of a psychologist in your introduction that inspired you. (100 points)
- ✓ *Chapter Presentation*
  - Oral Presentation on an Issue in the chapter - You will choose an issue from the chapter and lead a discussion on the issue for 20 minutes with the class. You will discuss the main ideas from the issue and show a digital media form that accompanies the issue. (100 points)
  - Written Presentation – You will expand on your presentation discussed in class by providing a peer-reviewed article that provides support for your digital media form. You are required to answer the questions by providing a summary of the article (these questions are highlighted in the information literacy assignment). (100 points)

**Extra Credit Activity** – These points may be received for participating in up to two of the following activities (5pts/activity; 10pt maximum):

1. Attend Academic Enhancement Seminars (<http://www.sulross.edu/academic-center-excellence>).
2. Take a career self-assessment, Meyers-Briggs or SIGI (<http://www.sulross.edu/page/2452/assessments>).
3. Attendance at a public lecture or activity related to psychology, such as drug/alcohol abuse, domestic violence, mental health awareness, a cultural event, an international event or religious activity different than your own, etc. Submit a summary to me via email ([alicia.trotman@sulross.edu](mailto:alicia.trotman@sulross.edu)) or on Blackboard of your attendance at the activity and what you learned from it.
4. Participate as a research subject in a psychological experiment or other SRSU study.

## Grading

Students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class sessions and to engage in thoughtful discussions in light of these assignments. In addition, students will take an in-class midterm and an in-class final exam (objective short answer, multiple choice and/or essay).

<b>Grading:</b>	<b>1000 points total</b>	<b>Final Grade</b>
Checklists	10 (10 @ 20 points each)	20%
Attendance/Participation:	100 points total	10%
Midterm Exam:	150 points	15%
Final Exam:	150 points	15%
Information Literacy:	200 points	20%
Portfolio:	200 points	20%

## Course Outline

(This schedule and the topics listed below are subject to modification by the instructor.)

### Unit 1 – Introduction to Psychology and Research Methods & Neuroscience and Biological Foundations

Day	Content
August 27 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> (MARS)	Introductions – Who are you? What is Psychology? Learning Globalyceum...  (Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup> – Last day for late registration and schedule changes)
<b>Homework</b>	Find journal article
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> (MERCURY)	Research in Psychology – <i>Part 1</i>  - Learning how to search and read journal articles
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 1 on Introduction to Psychology
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> (URANUS)	Research in Psychology – <i>Part 2</i>  - Understanding structure of journal article; comparing websites
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 2 on Research in Psychology
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> (SATURN)	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Part 1</i>  (Sept 12 <sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop classes without creating an academic record)
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 3 on Neuroscience and Biological Functions (Part 1); <b>Work on Information Literacy Exercise</b>
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> (JUPITER)	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Part 1</i>
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 4 on Neuroscience and Biological Functions (Part 2); <b>Work on Information Literacy Exercise</b>

### UNIT II: Learning, Memory & Perception and States of Consciousness

Day	Content
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> (MOON)	Learning (Chapter 7); <b>Information Literacy Exercise Due</b>
Homework	Checklist 5 on Learning
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> (NEPTUNE)	<b><i>Make-up Day &amp; Review – Monday October 8<sup>th</sup></i></b> <b><i>Midterm Review &amp; Due Date for Information Literacy Assignment</i></b> <b><i>– Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup></i></b> <b><i>Midterm Exam – Friday October 12<sup>th</sup></i></b>
<b>Homework</b>	

Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> (SUN)	Memory
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 6 on Memory
Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> (MOON)	Perception
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 7 on Perception

### UNIT III: Motivation and Emotion & Personality

Day	Content
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> & Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> (HALLOWEEN)	States of Consciousness
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 8 on States of Consciousness
Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> (EARTH)	Motivation
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 9 on Motivation
Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> (THANKS)	Emotion  (Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> - Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences) (Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup> - Last day to drop a course with a 'W' by 4pm)
<b>Homework</b>	Checklist 10 on Emotion
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> (VENUS)	Personality – (Part 1)
<b>Homework</b>	Work on Chapter Presentations of your Portfolio Project

### UNIT IV: Presentations and Final Exam

Day	Content
Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> (CALLISTO)	Personality – (Part 2)
<b>Homework</b>	Study for Final Exam
<b>Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(HOLIDAY)</b>	<b>Final Exam: 10:15am to 12:15pm</b>