

Sul Ross State University – Behavioral and Social Science Department

PSY 1302 Course Syllabus – Spring 2020 (Section 3)

Course Title:	General Psychology
Required Text:	Globalyceum (<i>Introduction to Psychology</i> textbook): https://www.globalyceum.com/site/sign_in
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Office (LH 306) Hours:	Wednesdays (10:00am to 12:00pm); Tuesdays & Thursdays (12:30 to 1:30pm) Appointments: https://calendly.com/amtsulross
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 (Globalyceum) or the actual textbook written by David Myers.**
 - a. One of the texts for this course is **Globalyceum Psychology**. Go to: <https://www.globalyceum.com>, register, and subscribe for this course with the following **Unique Section Number GHH6VTDN** (This number is case sensitive.) *The payment grace period for the fall semester is 14 days from the first day of the semester.*
 - b. You can also purchase a print copy of the essays, or text chapters, on the site. The print copy will be sent to your home or the shipping address that you provide. Your purchase options are debit/credit, or check/money order.
 - c. Please make sure to verify your browser and update it if necessary on the Sign In page. Globalyceum recommends Chrome, and Firefox. If you have any technical problems during the term, please contact: support@globalyceum.com
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 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 **15%** 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 5 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 for the midterm and final exam consecutively 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 50% 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 ten (10) question test given in Globalyceum to ensure that you have read the assigned chapter 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 obtain immediate feedback. Checklists are **only** accessible for the scheduled time period so make sure you do them as soon as they are posted!

Globalyceum Exercises – These exercises will be assigned for each chapter in Globalyceum. When you log into Globalyceum, you will see that these exercises will be opened for you to complete. There will be approximately ten (10) exercises and they must be completed by this date – **Friday March 6th for the Midterm Exam and Wednesday April 29th for the Final Exam at 11:59pm.**

Midterm and Final Exams - Two (2) exams will be given during the course of this term. They consist of 50 to 60 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. This assignment is due **Friday March 6th at 11:59pm**.

- ✓ 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 a thorough understanding of your research papers and to reflect on your course experiences. The portfolio may relate the information from class to life beyond your introduction and selected research paper, and may encourage you to ponder and critique psychologically in the real world. 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 **Wednesday April 29th**.

- ✓ *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. (50 points)
- ✓ *Chapter Presentation*
 - Oral Presentation -. You will describe your article you selected for your information technology exercise and link it to two concepts from **two** of the chapters covered in class. This powerpoint exercise will be 8 to 10 minutes long. A template for this presentation will be provided. (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) 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).

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

Course Outline

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

Unit 1 – Introduction to Psychology, Personality & Neuroscience and Biological Foundations

Day	Content
January 13 th & 15 th (INTRO)	Introductions – Who are you? What is Psychology? Learning Globalyceum... (Jan. 16 th – Last day for late registration and schedule changes)
Homework	Journal Reflection (Who are you?)
January 22 nd (MARS)	Personality - Freud and the Psychodynamic Perspective
Homework	Journal Reflection (Personality)
January 27 th & 29 th (MERCURY)	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Human Genetics</i> (Jan. 29 th – Last day to drop classes without creating an academic record)
Homework	Checklist 1 on Human Genetics
February 3 rd & 5 th (JUPITER)	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Cells of the Nervous System</i>
Homework	Checklist 2 on Cells of the Nervous System; Journal Reflection (Neuroscience and Biological Functions)
February 10 th & 12 ^h (VALENTINE)	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Systems of the Body</i>
Homework	Checklist 3 on Systems of the Body

UNIT II: Research, Learning, Perception and Action and Psychologists!

Day	Content
February 17 th & 19 th (MOON)	Learning;
Homework	Checklist 4 on Learning
February 24 th & 26 th (CERES)	Research in Psychology – <i>Part 1</i> - Learning how to search and read journal articles
Homework	Checklist 5 on Approaches to Research; Find Journal Article
March 2 nd & 4 th (SUN)	Research in Psychology – <i>Part 2</i> - Understanding structure of journal article; comparing websites Information Literacy Assignment: DUE Friday March 6th MIDTERM EXAM (Online in Blackboard): DUE Sunday March 8th at 11:59pm

	Enjoy Spring Break!
March 16 th & 18 th (NEPTUNE)	Psychology Revue
Homework	Checklist 6 on Psychology Revue
March 23 rd & 25 th (SATURN)	Perception and Action
Homework	Checklist 7 on Perception and Action

UNIT III: Psychological Disorders and Treatments, Sensation & Perception, Memory and Personality (again)

Day	Content
March 30 th & April 1 st (URANUS)	Psychological Disorders and Treatments (March 30 th - Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences) (Apr. 3 rd – Last day to drop a course with a 'W' by 4pm)
Homework	Checklist 8 on Sensation and Perception
April 6 th & 8 th (EASTER)	Memory
Homework	Checklist 9 on Memory
April 13 th & 15 th (VENUS)	Personality
Homework	Checklists 10 on Personality
April 20 th & 22 nd (ERIS)	Presentations
Homework	Work on Chapter Presentations of your Portfolio Project

UNIT IV: Presentations and Final Exam

Day	Content
April 27 th & 29 th (CALLISTO)	Presentations and Final Exam Review
Homework	Study for Final Exam
May 5th (EARTH)	Final Exam: 12:30pm to 2:30pm