

Sul Ross State University – Behavioral and Social Science Department

PSY 1302 Course Syllabus – Fall 2020 (Online)

Course Title: General Psychology

Required Text: Globalyceum (*Introduction to Psychology* textbook)

Contact Information: Alicia M. Trotman, PhD

Office (LH 306) Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (3:00 to 5:00pm)

Office Phone:

Description

My name is Alicia Trotman and I am very excited to teach you my favorite subject – Psychology! Why? Psychology is the *scientific* study of behavior and mental processes. The science is important because psychologists use the same scientific method that biologists, chemists, agricultural scientists, physicists and geologists use. But there is a slight difference! Our ‘objects’ are human beings and not necessarily inanimate objects. Essentially human beings are our subjects, and we use the scientific method to observe, analyze, describe, and infer their behavior and mental processes. Now, studying behavior is clearer because you can actually observe how many times a human being may act, but mental processes become tricky. In order to observe, analyze describe and infer/predict mental processes, we use more sophisticated methods like neuroscientific procedures and brain imaging. We also use transcendental methodologies. What is that? Work with persons who can connect (and communicate) with the spiritual aspects or nature of life. Woah! Really? Yes, and most of that material will covered in a class called *Religious and Spiritual Psychology* taught mostly in the Fall.

In this class, we will focus more on the observable phenomena in psychology and understand why it is a scientific discipline. I have taught this course for more than 10 years and I am always enthusiastic about teaching it because I learn something new every time. And not only the content sparks my interest, but your comments, questions, and a-ha moments will make this course a lot more engaging for you, and everyone else! For the purposes of this course, we will track the development of psychology and its venture into examining personality, the body and brain, learning, perception and action, emotion, memory and psychological disorders.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Given the basic characteristics of the *science* of psychology, students can explain the nature of psychology as a discipline and the different divisions in the American Psychological Association (APA).
Method of Formative Assessment: Activities, Participation and Exams
2. Given the necessity for ethical behavior and social responsibility in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology, students can identify research ethics and the psychologists who abided by those ethics, and explain why ethics are important.
Method of Formative Assessment: Checklists, Activities, Participation and Exams
3. Given the connections between mind and body, students can label parts of the brain and body that impact psychological processes and describe the mechanisms and/or habits that enable those connections to be viable or not.
Method of Formative Assessment: Checklists, Activities, Participation and Exams

4. Given the significance of the scientific model and the importance of this model to the discipline of psychology, students can discuss basic research and statistical concepts in scientific psychology, including experimental and correlation methods.
Method of Formative Assessment: Checklists, Activities, Participation and Exams
5. Given sociocultural and international contexts that influence individual differences in a person's beliefs, values, and interactions, students can examine how psychology's main principles in learning, perception and action, and memory have demonstrated those differences.
Method of Formative Assessment: Checklists, Activities, Participation and Exams
6. Given how psychological states can negatively or positively affect personal development, students will evaluate themselves using theories from emotion, personality, and psychological states, to determine the validity/reliability of these theories. In addition, the knowledge gained will hopefully strengthen self-understanding and intercultural competence to effectively engage with others in local and global communities.
Method of Summative Assessment: Checklists, Activities, Participation, Exams and Portfolio

Recognizing Course Requirements:

1. **The text MUST be obtained (Globalyceum).**
 - a. The text for this course is **Globalyceum Psychology**. Go to: <https://www.globalyceum.com>, register, and subscribe for this course with the following **Unique Section Number GM78HX99**. (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 Paypal.
 - 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: <mailto:support@globalyceum.com>.
2. Respect for students and lecturer must be maintained at all times when we meet online and in person. 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.

SRSU Disability Services:

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. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

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 will be determined with ONLINE participation.** Class participation 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.

Online Participation - You are expected to be participate in ALL online activities in Globalyceum. You should be actively involved. *Active involvement includes active listening, writing, participating via an online poll or quiz, engaging in online discussions and taking exams by the **deadline date**.* In order to be successful in this course, you need to check your Sul Ross email daily, and Black Board announcements, conduct research, and keep with Globalyceum readings.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Regular communications with the professor: It is essential that you keep me current on your progress and any difficulties you may be having so that I can respond in real time to support your success. The most efficient way of contacting me is the VIRTUAL OFFICE on Black Board which provides you with contact hours for the rest of the semester.

Course Behaviors - Respect and Disruptions: Watch the VIDEO on NETTIQUETTE - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk_Zv7nB8 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80uRE972uQ0>. You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts in this web-based course in the same manner as in a face-to-face course. Please treat each other with dignity and respect

and avoid disruptive behaviors. You are responsible for knowing what behaviors are acceptable versus unacceptable as referred to in the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the SRSU Student Handbook (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf).

Communicating with the Professor: The best way to contact me is through the VIRTUAL OFFICE on Black Board. GENERAL QUESTIONS are to be posted to a discussion board for all. For PERSONAL or PRIVATE ISSUES email me at Alicia.trotman@sulross.edu or text me. I strive to respond as soon as possible. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours during the work week, please resend your email or text me.

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 and you can review your answers two days before the midterm and final exam respectively. Checklists are **only** accessible for that time 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 the end of the semester – **Wednesday December 4th 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 documentatio.

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 6th**.

- ✓ *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 on Social Media Issue* - You will an issue you found on social media (e.g. SnapChat, Instagram, Facebook) and link it to two concepts from one of the chapters covered in class. This powerpoint exercise will be 8 to 10 minutes long. You will discuss the main ideas from your 'post' and link your ideas to two chapter concepts (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, Myers-Briggs or SIGI (<http://www.sulross.edu/page/2452/assessments>) with the Career Center. Contact Rocio Aguado (<https://srinfo.sulross.edu/fs/1235>) if you need more information about the Myers-Briggs assessment.
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 @ 15 points each)	15%
Activities	20 (20 @ 10 points each)	20%
Attendance/Participation:	200 points total	20%
Midterm Exam:	150 points	15%
Final Exam:	150 points	15%
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 and Research Methods & Neuroscience and Biological Foundations

Day	Content
Week of August 24 th	Introductions – Who are you? What is Psychology? Learning Globalyceum... (Aug. 27 th – Last day for late registration and schedule changes)
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Biology and Behavior & Human Genetics</i>
Week of August 31 st UNIT 1	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Part 1</i>
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Cells of the Nervous System & Systems of the Body</i> (C1) Checklist on Biology and Behavior & Human Genetics
Week of September 7 th UNIT 2	Neuroscience and Biological Functions – <i>Part 2</i>

Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Why is Scientific Research Important?</i> and <i>Psychology Revue</i> (C2) Checklist on Cells of the Nervous System & Systems of the Body
Week of September 14 th UNIT 3	Research in Psychology – <i>Part 1</i> (Sept 9 th – Last day to drop classes without creating an academic record)
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Approaches to Research</i> (A) Journal Article Exercise
Week of September 21 st UNIT 3	Research in Psychology – <i>Part 2</i>
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Perception and Action</i> (C3) Checklist 3 on Approaches to Research

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

Day	Content
Week of September 28 th UNIT 4	Perception and Action
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Learning</i> (C4) Checklist 4 on Perception and Action
Week of October 5 th UNIT 5	Learning
Homework	(C5) Checklist 5 on Learning
Week of October 12 th MIDTERM EXAM	<i>Complete all Globalyceum activities and Review for Midterm Exam</i>
Homework	<i>Midterm Exam – Friday October 9th & Saturday October 10th</i>

UNIT III: Motivation and Emotion & Personality

Day	Content
Week of October 19 th UNIT 6	Memory
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Psychological Disorders and Treatments</i> (C6) Checklist 6 on Memory
Week of October 26 th UNIT 7	Psychological Disorders and Treatments
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Emotion</i> (C7) Checklist 7 on Psychological Disorders and Treatments

Week of November 2 nd UNIT 8	Emotion
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Psychological Disorders and Treatments</i> (C8) Checklist 8 on Emotion
Week of November 9 th UNIT 9	Personality - <i>Part 1</i>
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Humanistic, Biological and Trait Perspectives</i> (C9) Checklist 9 on Freud and the Psychodynamic Perspective and The Social Cognitive Perspective
Week of November 16 th UNIT 10	Personality - <i>Part 2</i> (Nov. 10 th - Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences) (Nov. 13 th – Last day to drop a course with a ‘W’ by 4pm)
Homework	Globalyceum – Read <i>Freud and the Psychodynamic Perspective</i> and <i>The Social Cognitive Perspective</i> (C10) Checklist 10 on <i>Humanistic, Biological and Trait Perspectives</i>

UNIT IV: Portfolio and Final Exam

Day	Content
Week of December 30 th	Work on your Portfolio Project <i>Due Date for Portfolio – Friday December 6th</i>
Homework	Study for Final Exam
December 7th & 8th	Final Exam