

PSY 1302-W01: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Professor:	Dr. Bibiana M. Gutierrez	Office Hours:	Request appointment via email bmg15th@sulross.edu
Office:	Telephone appointments ONLY No in-person office hours	Office Phone:	432.386.3223 (cell/text - must leave message, identify yourself, specify course, specific question/issue)
Email:	bmg15th@sulross.edu		

Required Textbook: Chapter readings will be uploaded to Blackboard. They will come from Feldman, Robert S., Understanding Psychology, 12th Edition, ISBN 978-1-259-33035-3

Course Purpose: By the end of this course students will be able to demonstrate:

1. A basic knowledge of the history, research methods, and statistics used in psychology.
2. Knowledge of learning, memory, cognition, language, and intelligence.
3. Gain insight into behavior through the understanding of motivation and emotion, sexuality, and development across the lifespan.
4. Familiarity with basic psychological principles including those related to personality, abnormal behavior and therapy, social psychology, biological psychology, stress and coping, states of consciousness, and eastern psychology.
5. Familiarity with major subfields of psychology, issues of diversity, and neuroscience.
6. Become an informed consumer of psychology and its applications in the 21st century.

Student Learning Outcomes: Throughout the course, these are the outcomes that we will aspire to gain . . .

- a. Biological psychology indicating that value has been added over the course of their psychology education.
- b. Clinical-personality psychology indicating that value has been added of the course of their psychology education.
- c. Social psychology indicating that value has been added over the course of their psychology education.
- d. Experimental methods indicating that value has been added over the course of their psychology education.

Marketable Skills:

1. Speaking Effectively: Students will demonstrate competency in public speaking (including virtual) and communicating scientific information to diverse audiences.
2. Describing Feelings: Students will demonstrate empathic or active listening and conversational skills, and/or write clearly about their affective stance, respectfully attuned to the needs of their audiences.
3. Identifying Resources: Students will demonstrate the aptitude to locate, organize and evaluate the credibility of information from multiple sources.
4. Analyzing: Students will demonstrate ability to examine the underlying issues of a scientific problem, attending to the pertinent details and creating a plan of action, recognizing ambiguity and complexity as essential components.

The Online Support Help Desk:

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your convenience. **You can reach the support desk:**

- By calling **888.837.6055**
- Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

- Using resources from the **Technology Support tab** within blackboard
- Clicking the **Support Desk graphic** on the course homepage

****As always, academic questions about course assignments, due dates and general course questions should be directed to me (instructor).***

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.

Course Policies:

1. Participation:

This is a web-based course during a 6 week summer session, so there are no regular classroom meetings.

However, your active, daily participation in this course is essential and required in order to be successful. The speed of a summer course condenses the 15 weeks of a normal semester into 6 very short weeks.

There is absolutely no time to procrastinate; once you get behind it is extremely difficult to catch up.

2. 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 Blackboard which gives you instructions depending on the nature of your question. **If you call my cell phone you must leave a message for me to call you back; I do not answer unknown numbers.**

3. Students with Special Needs:

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. **Please contact Ms. Rebeca Wrenn, Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Room 112) at 432.837.8363; mailing address is P.O. Box C-171 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.**

4. Religious Observance:

Any student who is unable to participate in the course for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to make-up an exam or complete an assignment scheduled for that day. Arrangements for missing an exam or assignment due to a religious observance must be made with the instructor prior to that absence.

5. Course Behaviors - Respect and Disruptions:

Watch the **VIDEO on NETIQUETTE** on Blackboard. 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).

6. Academic Integrity:

Any instance of academic misconduct such as turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, cheating and plagiarizing written assignments, collusion, or misrepresenting facts will be punished to the full extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. You are responsible for reading the statement on *Academic Honesty* in the SRSU Student Handbook

(http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf). The faculty considers academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly. Students caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will receive no credit for assignments/exams and more severe penalties may be pursued, including but not limited to failing the course.

7. Communicating with the Professor:

The best way to contact me is through the **VIRTUAL OFFICE** on Blackboard. For **PERSONAL or PRIVATE ISSUES** email the professor directly at bmg15th@sulross.edu. I strive to respond as soon as possible. If you do not receive a reply within 24 to 48 hours during the work week, please resend your email or call me at 432.386.3223 and leave a message so that I will return your call; I do not answer unknown phone numbers. During weekends and holidays there may be a longer delay in my responding.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Regular and active Blackboard Participation (BP = 50 points; 10 points/week).** Your individual activity on Blackboard will be monitored via logs maintained by Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check your email daily and for any announcements relevant to this course. (This is a subjective judgment on my part regarding the quality of your participation, taking exams when scheduled, and posting as required by due dates).
- Complete ORIENTATION TO BLACKBOARD if this is the first time you have taken a web-based course. Review if needed.**
- Five (5) Exams (each EXM = 100 points; 500 total points).** ***There are ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UPS on the Final Exam. It is NOT cumulative.***
- Discussion Posts (DP = 20/post; 120 pts total)** (paragraph in the range of 3 – 4 sentences or more if you wish) of your thoughts, feelings, ideas, and/or reactions to your chapter readings. ***These summaries will be posted publicly for all students in the course to view*** for the purpose of creating a sense of universality of your experience and enhancing shared learning. It can also be a springboard to encourage conversations (threads) among students. ***Please be mindful that once posted, your post cannot be changed or deleted, and will be monitored by the professor.***
- Summary Paper (SP = 50 points).** A summary of your experience in this course, what you learned, how you may have changed, future aspirations, etc. ***Does not need to be in any specific writing format.*** ☺ ***Your work will be graded on organization, grammar, spelling, and quality of effort.*** Paper must be 2-3 pages double-spaced

EXAMPLE:

(50 pts – BP) + (OBB – 25pts) + (EXM1 – 82pts) + (EXM2-85pts) + (EXM3-93pts) + (EXM4 – 85pts) + (EXM5-91pts) + (DP - 110) + (SP – 50pts) = 671/745 = 90.07 = “A”

GRADE SCALE:

90–100 = A; 80 –89 = B; 70–79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F

***EXTRA CREDIT:** There is NO extra credit offered in this course.

PLEASE READ: During the course of this class, Students 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.

If you have any issue or concern, I would appreciate you speaking with me first. If you feel we cannot come to a reasonable resolution, know that you can speak with the BASS Department Chair, Dr. Mark Saka (432.837.8157) regarding your concerns.

I endeavor to maintain as safe as possible learning environment for all and expect the highest standard of conduct from each one of us and the collective. I welcome constructive feedback in the service of this goal.

This syllabus is accurate to the best of my ability, but I reserve the right to modify it at any time and will inform you as soon as possible. If I do make any changes, I aspire to do so for the reasons of student fairness and/or circumstances beyond my control.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	ASSIGNMENTS & DUE DATES
W – 6/2	First day of class
WEEK 1 (6/2 – 6/6)	<p>>READ Chapters 1 & 2 (by Friday 6/4)</p> <p>>SYLLABUS QUIZ and START HERE orientation to Blackboard (by Sunday 5/24 <i>midnight</i>)</p> <p>>POST1 Introduce yourself (by Sunday 6/6 <i>midnight</i>)</p>
WEEK 2 (6/7 – 6/13)	<p>> POST2 on Chapters 1 & 2 (by Monday 6/7 <i>midnight</i>)</p> <p>>READ Chapters 3 & 4 (by Friday 6/11)</p> <p>>EXAM1 over Chapters 1 & 2 Available on Blackboard (90 mins to complete)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open from 8am (Monday 6/7) <u>CLOSES midnight (Sunday 6/13)</u></p>
WEEK 3 (6/14 - 6/20)	<p>> POST3 on Chapters 3 & 4 (by Monday 6/14 <i>midnight</i>)</p> <p>>READ Chapters 5 & 6 (by Friday 6/18)</p> <p>>EXAM2 over Chapters 3 & 4 Available on Blackboard (90 mins to complete)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open from 8am (Monday 6/14) <u>CLOSES midnight (Sunday 6/20)</u></p>

6/20 - Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences. Must reach the EVP and Provost of Academic Affairs' office by June 20 at 4 p.m.

WEEK 4 (6/21- 6/27)

- > **POST4** on Chapters 5 & 6 (by Monday 6/21 *midnight*)
- > **READ** Chapter 11 (by Friday 6/25)
- > **EXAM3 over Chapters 5 & 6** Available on Blackboard (90 mins to complete)

Open from 8am (Monday 6/8) CLOSES midnight (Sunday 6/27)

6/25 - Last day to drop a course with a "W" must be submitted to Registrars by 4pm

WEEK 5 (6/28- 7/4)

- > **POST5** on Chapter 11 (by Monday 6/28 *midnight*)
- > **READ** Chapter 14 (by Friday 7/2)
- > **EXAM4 over Chapter 11** Available on Blackboard (90 mins to complete)

Open from 8am (Monday 6/28) CLOSES midnight (Sunday 7/40)

WEEK 6 (7/5 – 7/7)

7/5 July 4th Holiday

7/6 Final Examinations, end of term, session I

- > **SUBMIT Summary Paper (DUE Tuesday 7/6 midnight) (50 points)** Summary of your experience in this course, what you learned, how you may have changed, future aspirations, etc.
- > **FINAL EXAM over Chapter 14** Available on Blackboard (90 mins to complete)

Open from 8am (Friday 7/2) CLOSES midnight (Tuesday 7/6)

~ ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UP FINALS ~

- >7/7 Final grades posted by noon

It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all exams, posts, and summary paper are completed by TUESDAY 9/6 MIDNIGHT. You can check My Grades in blackboard to see all of your grades.

Please do not email asking what your grade is in the class and when it will be posted. Grades will be posted by due date listed in SRSU Academic Calendar.