

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY – BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
PSY 1302 COURSE SYLLABUS – FALL 2023

Course Title:	General Psychology
Required Text:	Please note that you do not need to purchase the textbook or digital platform access for (Achieve for Psychology with David Myers Psychology in Everyday Life ebook) for this course. Free access to the text and Achieve platform will be provided to you as part of an optional research study. Study participation will not be required.
Contact Information:	Alicia M. Trotman, PhD – alicia.trotman@sulross.edu
Office (LH 306) Hours:	Mondays (3:00 to 5:30pm), Tuesdays (1:00 to 4:00pm), Wednesdays (3:00 to 5:30pm) & Fridays (Online 1:00 to 2:00pm) Appointment: https://calendly.com/amtsulross/office-hours-appointment
Office Phone:	432-837-8147

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? We also work with persons who can connect (and communicate) with the spiritual or natural aspects of life. Woah! Really? Yes, and some of that material is covered in our other classes like *Psychology of Religion & Spirituality*.

In this class, we will focus solely on observable phenomena in psychology and understand why this 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.**
 - a. Please follow the instructions on the Macmillan Learning website for accessing the course **for the full term:** <https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Achieve-Access-Code-FAQ> using the following access code **BGT55S4T**. This is case sensitive.
 - b. If you sign up for the free two-week trial access, **your access will expire**. If this occurs, you will need to take the steps outlined here before the expiration:
<https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Achieve-Join-a-course>
 - c. What is this research study? Here is an optional 8-minute video explaining the study and how you can participate if you wish to do so:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B8Lw0p8KCvB3aVDUZRB0z5qcuchSZ5rc/view?usp=sharing>
2. Respect for students and lecturer must be maintained at all times when we meet online and in person. Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. We will do our best to embrace the difficulty of fruitfully discussing controversial and sensitive issues. Respect is a basic human characteristic that entitles each person to their own rights 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 (<https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-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.

CORE CURRICULUM (2022-2023)

1. *Critical Thinking.* Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. *Communication.* Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

SRSU DISABILITY AND COUNSELING SERVICES:

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. Alpine Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz, LPC, 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 mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/sulross). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

LIBRARY SERVICES STATEMENT

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

HONORING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Other instances of academic misconduct are lying in connection with your academic work, cheating, misrepresenting facts and/or collusion and **using open AI** sources unless *permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall. All these 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. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

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 (on Fridays)**. Class participation will be worth **20%** 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 participate in ALL online activities in **Macmillan Achieve**. 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 dates*. To be successful in this course, you need to check your Sul Ross email daily, and Macmillan announcements and deadlines, and keep up with and keep **with Achieve for Psychology with David Myers Psychology in Everyday Life** readings.

Attendance and Online Meetings (on Fridays) – Class attendance is governed by the SRSU Undergraduate Academic Regulations policy stated in the schedule of classes. If you are unable to participate online and in class frequently (every week), please discuss the reason with me and arrange to review the online 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 4 weeks) will result in a failing grade for the course**. Most of the course curriculum is FULLY ONLINE with with Macmillan Achieve, so we will meet on **Fridays online in Blackboard Collaborate** from 11:00 am to 11:50am. You are expected to attend these Blackboard Collaborate meetings on Fridays. I elaborate further in these meetings on the **Achieve for Psychology with David Myers Psychology in Everyday Life** readings and answer questions about the course.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, such as 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 a secure login. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

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 and/or the syllabus which provides you with contact hours for the rest of the semester. 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 leave a voice mail message (432-837-8147) or make an appointment with me (<https://calendly.com/amtsulross/office-hours-appointment>). 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.

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, to the extent that we need to return online fully. 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](#).

Cell phone and computer use: During the entire class period, you should be fully engaged in the class's activity. Laptop computers or phones are welcomed for the academic purposes of note taking or following along with the instructor's lesson. Off-topic activity (e.g., reading texts or posts, checking email, game playing) not directly related to the class is considered extremely disrespectful. However, you know how you study and learn for classes, so not paying attention usually has undesirable consequences not limited to failing a course.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS/CHECKLISTS

You are expected to meet assignment/checklist deadlines. Reflections and quizzes submitted after their due dates will be marked as zero. Late assignments or projects will be reduced by 5% for the first day of lateness and for every day for 14 days 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

Quizzes – This is a 10-question chapter quiz given to ensure that you have read the chapters and understand the most pertinent concepts. Some of these questions will be on the midterm and final exams. These quizzes are available immediately after the chapter is discussed in class and are **due** before the following chapter is introduced. These are automatically graded and you can review your answers two days before the midterm and final exam respectively. Quizzes are only accessible for the time posted so make sure you do them as soon as they are available!

Assignments – These exercises will be assigned for each chapter in the *Macmillan Achieve for Psychology with David Myers Psychology in Everyday Life*. When you log into Macmillan Achieve, you will see that these assignments have due dates. The first half of the assignments must be completed by the midterm date – **Monday October 21st at 11:59pm** and the second half of the assignments must be completed by the end of the semester – **Sunday December 10th at 11:59pm**.

Pre-Class Reflections – These reflections will be assigned for before each chapter in in the *Macmillan Achieve for Psychology with David Myers Psychology in Everyday Life*. When you log into Macmillan Achieve, you will see that these exercises are assigned every Sunday at 11:59pm before a new chapter begins. The reflections will only be available before a new class chapter begins.

Video Activities – These video activities will be assigned for some chapters in in the Macmillan Achieve for Psychology with David Myers Psychology in Everyday Life. The first half must be completed by the midterm date – **Monday October 21st at 11:59pm** and the second half must be completed by the end of the semester – **Sunday December 10th 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 quizzes. 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.

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). The deadline for this paper is **Friday December 9th**.

EXTRA CREDIT ACTIVITY – These points may be received for participating in up to two of the following activities (5pts/activity; 10pt maximum):

1. 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.
2. 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	120 (8 @ 15 points each)	12%
Assignments	220 (22 @ 10 points each)	22%
Video Activities	14 (14 @ 10 points each)	14%
Reflections	30 (6 @ 5 points each)	3%
Attendance/Participation:	200 points total	20%
Midterm Exam:	120 points	12%
Final Exam:	120 points	12%
Self-Introduction:	50 points	5%

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 28 th	Introductions – Who are you? What is Psychology? Learning Macmillan... (Aug. 31st – Last day for late registration and schedule changes)
Homework	Chapter 1 - <i>Psychology's Roots, Critical Thinking and Self-Improvement Tools</i>
Week of September 5 th UNIT 1	Chapter 1 - <i>Psychology's Roots, Critical Thinking and Self-Improvement Tools</i> (Labor Day – September 4 th)
Homework	Chapter 1 Assignments
Week of September 11 th UNIT 2	Chapter 1 - <i>Psychology's Roots, Critical Thinking and Self-Improvement Tools</i> (September 13 th – Last day to drop classes without creating an academic record)
Homework	Chapter 1 Assignments
Week of September 18 th UNIT 3	Chapter 2 - <i>The Biology of Behavior</i>
Homework	Chapter 2 Assignments
Week of September 25 th UNIT 4	Chapter 2 - <i>The Biology of Behavior</i>
Homework	Chapter 2 Assignments

 UNIT II: EMOTION & MOTIVATION AND PERCEPTION & SENSATION

Day	Content
Week of October 2 nd UNIT 6	Chapter 3 – <i>Motivation & Emotion</i>
Homework	Chapter 3 Assignments
Week of October 9 th UNIT 7	Chapter 4 - <i>Sensation and Perception</i>
Homework	Chapter 4 Assignments
Week of October 16 th	Chapter 4 - <i>Sensation and Perception</i>
Homework	<i>Chapter 4 Assignments</i>

 UNIT III: LEARNING, MEMORY, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS & TREATMENTS AND PERSONALITY

Day	Content
Week of October 23rd MIDTERM Exam	Midterm Exam – Wednesday March 22nd
Homework	Chapter 5 Pre-Class Reflections
Week of October 30 th UNIT 9	Chapter 5 - <i>Learning</i>
Homework	Chapter 5 Assignments
Week of November 6 th UNIT 9	Chapter 6 – <i>Memory</i>
Homework	Chapter 6 Assignments
Week of November 13 th UNIT 10	Chapter 7 – <i>Psychological Disorders</i> November 14th: LAST Day to apply for Spring 2024 graduation without a late fee November 17th: LAST Day to withdraw from the 16 week course with grade of ‘W’ November 17th: LAST Day to apply for Fall graduation
Homework	Chapter 7 Assignments
Week of November 20th UNIT 10	Chapter 8 - <i>Personality</i> (Thanksgiving Break – Wednesday November 22 nd – Friday November 24 th)
Homework	Chapter 8 Assignments
Week of November 27th UNIT 10	Chapter 8 - <i>Personality</i>
Homework	Chapter 8 Assignments

 UNIT IV: PORTFOLIO AND FINAL EXAM

Day	Content
December 4 th & 6 th	Work on Self-Introduction <i>Due Date for Self-Introduction – Wednesday December 6th</i>
Homework	Study for Final Exam
Tuesday December 12th (10:15am to 12:15pm)	Final Exam