

Sul Ross State University – Behavioral and Social
Science Department **PSY 2315 Course Syllabus**



Course Title: Psychology of Human Relations

Required Texts (1): Scarbrough, S. (2023). *Psychology of human relations*. Open Oregon Educational Resources.
<https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/psychologyofhumanrelations/>

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Student Hours: By appointment: <https://calendly.com/amtsulross/summer-hours>

Description

My name is Professor T, Dr. T, or Ms. T - as long as it is a respectful acknowledgement – and I am teaching this course to orient you to basic psychological concepts when interacting and working with human beings. Many of you will be graduating and entering the workforce soon after? How do you maintain professional relationships with your employer? How do you work with your colleagues most efficiently to complete a work project? Working with others ensures that the project is finished, but the process of getting there employs your strengths and builds on your weaknesses. In this class, you will learn about your own strengths and weaknesses

¹ OpenAI. (2026). Psychology of Human Relations [AI-generated image created with ChatGPT, GPT-5.5]. ChatGPT.

so that, when you enter the workforce, you can clearly communicate what you can contribute and where you will need support in a team setting.

Course Objective:

This course is designed to introduce you to the practical applications of psychological concepts in areas of selfhood, perception, diversity, motivation, attitudes, group processes and dynamics, interpersonal relations, teamwork, stress, and conflict. It will be a general survey of human relations and the reflection of sparking those relationships will begin with you. Once you are aware of your own strengths and weaknesses, you will have the knowledge to learn the skills to engage and improve successful interpersonal relationships in professional settings.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to think about how the disciplinary content presented can shed light on what is occurring in your own lives. Briefly stated, the objectives of this course include (though are not limited to):

1. Given theories of social influence on a person's emotion and behavior, students will be able to apply basic human relations concepts and their foundations to common issues.
Method of Formative Assessment: Assignments, Journals, AI Conversations, and Discussions
2. Given the understanding of what determines a person's perception of events and other's emotions and motives, students will be able to discuss culture and diversity constructs, and their impact on professional relationships.
Method of Formative Assessment: Journals, Assignments, and Discussions
3. Given the awareness of what influences people to behave in particular ways, students will be able to analyze their own interpersonal style and apply conflict resolution theory to interpersonal situations.
Method of Formative Assessment: Assignments, Journals and AI Conversations
4. Given how professional relationships are formed and maintained, students will be able to develop and practice their "soft skills" (e.g. self-awareness, self-regulation, adaptability, dependability, work ethic, teamwork and collaboration skills, problem solving, emotional intelligence, time management) in hypothetical workplace situations.
Method of Formative Assessment: Assignments, Journals, AI Conversations, and Discussions

Course Requirements:

1. The text must be obtained (DIGITAL, and older edition is acceptable).
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.

SRSU Accessibility and Disability Services:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 counseling@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 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 Sul Ross International 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.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Tutoring Center

- ❖ Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- ❖ Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

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](#).

In this course, we may use generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) to examine the ways in which these kinds of tools may inform our exploration of the topics of the class. You will be informed as to when and how these tools will be used, along with guidance for attribution if/as needed. **Your use of generative AI tools must be properly documented and cited for any work submitted in this course.** Any use of generative AI tools outside of these parameters constitutes plagiarism and will be treated as such.

Observing Class guidelines

Class Participation

This is a course that requires online interaction and discussion because it is an online asynchronous course. Your active, daily participation in this course is essential and required in order to be successful, including checking email daily and Black Board announcements, keeping up with your *Perusall* reading assignments, including commenting, and participating in online discussions. **Class attendance IS REQUIRED and participation is important.** Class participation and *Perusall* activity will be worth **31%** of the final grade. The percentage is considerable so your engaged presence will *help* your ability to complete all of assignments for this class.

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 [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

Regular communications with the professor: The most efficient way of contacting me is by email or via *Messages* in Blackboard. 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. GENERAL QUESTIONS are to be posted to *Messages* in Blackboard. For PERSONAL or PRIVATE ISSUES email me at alicia.trotman@sulross.edu or

call me at 432-837-8147. 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. If you do need to meet with me during student office hours, you can schedule a meeting with me here <https://calendly.com/amtsulross/summer-office-hours>). Please note that my student office hours are limited during summer semesters so make an appointment as soon as you can.

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>

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

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](#).

Late Assignments

You are expected to meet assignment, quiz, discussion, and journal deadlines. Journal posts submitted after their due dates will be marked as zero. *Perusall* readings and discussions will be marked as zero after Wednesday July 1st. Assignments will be reduced by 10% of the overall assignment for the first day of lateness and 40% for lateness beyond the first day.

“What we call our destiny is truly our character and that character can be altered. The knowledge that we are responsible for our actions and attitudes does not need to be discouraging, because it also means that we are free to change this destiny. One is not in bondage to the past, which has shaped our feelings, to race, inheritance, background. All this can be altered if we have the courage to examine how it formed us. We can alter the chemistry provided we have the courage to dissect the elements.” ~ *Renais* *Win*

EVALUATION

Video Introduction & Syllabus Quiz – This is an asynchronous class, so we are not meeting as a class at any time during the semester. As a result, I will only see your products through your work and not have any idea how *you are uniquely you!* The video introduction helps to give the context I need. The syllabus quiz is to make sure you did not gloss over this... but actually read it! Therefore, I expect you to know what is expected of you in this class, and you know what is expected of me as your instructor.

Assignments – These ten (10) assignments are marked as (A) in the course schedule. These assignments are designed to challenge you to use your critical thinking skills, and to gain a stronger understanding of perspectives in the psychology of human relations.

Discussions – These two (4) discussions are marked as (D) in the course schedule. These four discussions will be enacted with the entire class. You must post and respond to all these discussions in a timely manner, as shown in the course schedule. **If not, you will receive a zero after the posted due date.** A rubric is provided to assess how discussions are scored. All discussions must be completed by **Wednesday July 1st**.

Journals – These five (5) journal entries are marked as (J) in the course schedule. Your journal entries will not be shared with other students in the class and will be kept confidential, so you can choose to write freely. Your journal is available for the duration of the course but must be completed by their due dates. **They will be marked as zero after their due dates.** A rubric is provided to assess how journal entries are scored.

AI Conversations – There will be two conversations that you will take place with an AI agent, and these are marked as [C] in the course schedule. These conversations are designed to facilitate interactions with professionals that may take place in workplace settings. They are designed to simulate resolving conflicts and initiating and leading new workplace projects.

Grading

Students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class sessions and to engage in thoughtful discussions in light of these assignments.

Grading:	1000 points total		Final Grade
Video Introduction & Syllabus Quiz	70 points	7%	
Assignments	500 (50 @ 10 assignments)	50%	
Blackboard Discussions	120 (30 @ 4 discussions)	12%	
AI Conversations	60 (30 @ 2 conversations)		6%
Journals	150 (30 @ 5 journals)	15%	
Participation:	100 points	10%	

Course Outline

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

START HERE

Days	Content
July 6th	Getting Started Activities - Syllabus Quiz, Introduction Video

Unit 1 – Your – SELF!

Days	Content
July 7 th to FRIDAY July 10 th	Self-Concept <i>July 8th: Last day for late registration and schedule changes</i>
Homework	(J1) Journal 1 (A1) Assignment 1

Unit 2 – Culture and Behavior

Days	Content
July 10 th to TUESDAY 14 th	Cultural Diversity
Homework	(A2) Assignment 2 (J2) Journal 2
July 14 th to FRIDAY July 17 th	Behavioral Change
Homework	(A3) Assignment 3 (D1) Discussion 1

Unit 3 – Personality, Emotions, and Perception

Days	Content
July 17 th to TUESDAY July 21 st	Personality Development
Homework	(A4) Assignment 4 (D2) Discussion 2
July 21 st to FRIDAY July 24 th	Emotions
Homework	(A5) Assignment 5 (J3) Journal 3 (J4) Journal 4
July 24 th to TUESDAY July 28 th	Perception
Homework	(A6) Assignment 6 (D3) Discussion 3

UNIT 4: Communication

Days	Content
July 28 th to FRIDAY July 31 st	Interpersonal Communication <i>July 31st: LAST Day to withdraw from the course with grade of 'W'</i>
Homework	(A7) Assignment 7 (D4) Discussion 4

Unit 5 – Managing Stress and Conflict

Days	Content
July 31 st to TUESDAY August 4 th	Stress
Homework	(A8) Assignment 8 (J5) Journal 5
August 4 th to MONDAY August 10 th	Conflict Resolution
Homework	(A9) Assignment 9 (C1) AI Conversation 1

Unit 6 – Workplace Settings

Days	Content
August 10 th to WEDNESDAY August 12 th	Workplace Success
Homework	(A10) Assignment 10 (C2) AI Conversation 2
Wednesday August 12th	ALL class assignments must be completed.