

Sul Ross State University
Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences



"If you deliberately plan on being less than you are capable of being, then I warn you that you'll be unhappy for the rest of your life"

~Abraham Maslow

PSY 1302 – Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2026-Asynchronous Online Course

Course Syllabus – Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Gloria Hudson

Office Hours: Virtual – By Appointment

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Required Course Materials

- The SOOMO webtext is fully integrated into Blackboard Ultra. Students will access all assigned readings, interactive activities, and learning resources directly through each weekly Blackboard module. No separate printed textbook is required.

Always access SOOMO through Blackboard Ultra so your progress and grades sync correctly. If your course materials are provided through Sul Ross State University's Inclusive Access program, you do not need to purchase a separate textbook. If prompted to purchase access and you believe your materials are included, contact the Sul Ross Bookstore or your instructor before purchasing.

Course Description:

An introduction to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, exploring topics such as

biological influences, learning, memory, development, personality, psychological disorders, and social behavior. Emphasis will be placed on applying psychological principles to everyday life.

My name is Dr. Gloria Hudson, and I will be your instructor through this interesting journey we call the world of psychology. Psychology is the *scientific* study of behavior and mental processes. 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 observe how many times a human being may act, but mental processes become tricky. To observe, analyze, describe, and infer/predict mental processes, we use more sophisticated methods like neuroscientific procedures and brain imaging.

In this class, we will focus solely on observable phenomena in psychology and understand why this is a scientific discipline. We will track the development of psychology and research, and venture into examining personality, the body and brain, learning, perception and action, emotion and motivation, memory, and psychological disorders.

Textbook Requirements

Soomo Learning – Psychology Webtext

This course uses the **Soomo Learning Psychology webtext**, an interactive online textbook that combines required readings with learning activities and assessments.

Access Requirements:

- Students are required to have access to the Soomo webtext for the duration of the course.
- Access the Soomo webtext through the link provided in **Blackboard**. Follow the prompts to register and activate your access.
- Depending on the access option provided for this course, students may be prompted to purchase access, enter a bookstore passkey/access code, or activate access that has already been included through course fees.
- A reliable internet connection and a current web browser such as Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari are recommended.
- Students may also use the **Soomo Reader app** on a compatible mobile device.

How Soomo Works:

The Soomo webtext is more than a traditional electronic textbook. As you move through each assigned chapter, you will complete readings and interactive activities designed to reinforce important psychological concepts. These may include multiple-choice questions, short-answer activities, polls, response boards, videos, and other learning exercises.

Many questions provide **immediate feedback**, allowing you to check your understanding while you are learning the material. Your work and progress are saved within Soomo, and assigned activities may contribute to your course grade.

Students should complete the assigned Soomo readings and activities **by the deadlines listed in Blackboard and the course schedule**. Simply opening or reading a chapter does not necessarily constitute completion; students are responsible for completing all required activities within the assigned section.

Because Soomo activities are an integral part of this course, students should obtain access **at the beginning of the semester** and regularly check Blackboard for assigned chapters and due dates.

Technical Assistance:

If you experience technical problems with the Soomo webtext, contact **Soomo Learning Support** through the Help/Messenger feature within the webtext. Technical difficulties should be addressed as soon as possible and should not be left until an assignment deadline.

Asynchronous Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

- Active participation is required and will be factored into your final grade. This includes responding to questions, contributing to discussions, and participating in group activities.
- Because this is a 100% asynchronous online course, there are no required live class meetings. Students are expected to complete all weekly modules and assignments by the published deadlines.

Technology Requirements

- A computer, laptop, or tablet with reliable internet access.

Access to Blackboard through the Sul Ross State University student portal.

Classroom Etiquette (Virtual Environment)

- Log in to Blackboard regularly, review weekly announcements, and complete each module in sequence.
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- Use respectful, professional language in discussions and chat.
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- Dress appropriately for a professional/academic setting.

Assignments and Assessments

- Assignments will be submitted through Blackboard before the stated deadlines.
- Quizzes and exams will be administered online during scheduled class times.
- Some in-class activities may be graded for participation credit.

Missed Classes

- Weekly instructional materials, announcements, and learning resources are available within each Blackboard module.
- Students are responsible for reviewing missed content and submitting any missed assignments.
- Participation points cannot always be made up for missed live interactions, except with instructor approval.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify major concepts, theories, and research findings in psychology.
2. Apply psychological principles to everyday situations.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of research methods in psychology.
4. Analyze human thought and behavior from multiple perspectives.

Grading Policy

Assignment Type	Percentage
Quizzes (7 total)	20%
Reading Reflection Papers (6 total)	20%
APA Paper	20%
Discussion Boards	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%

Guidelines for Chapter Reflection Papers

Purpose:

The chapter reflection paper is designed to deepen your understanding of the assigned textbook chapter by summarizing key concepts, connecting them to your personal experiences or current events, and analyzing their relevance to real-world applications.

Due Date:

- **Sunday by 11:59 PM** (except during Thanksgiving Break).
- Submitted via **Blackboard** in the designated assignment folder.

Length:

- **1–2 full pages** (approximately 300–500 words), double-spaced, excluding the title and reference page.

Formatting:

- APA 7th edition format.
- 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced.

- Include a title page with your name, course number, date, and chapter number.
- Use proper in-text citations when referring to the textbook or other sources.

Content Requirements:

Your reflection paper should include the following elements:

1. **Summary of the Chapter** (Approx. 1–2 paragraphs)
 - Summarize the main concepts, theories, and findings presented in the chapter.
 - Use your own words; avoid copying directly from the textbook.
2. **Personal Connection or Application** (Approx. 1 paragraph)
 - Relate at least one concept from the chapter to your own life, an observation, a personal experience, or a current event.
 - Explain how the concept helps you better understand yourself, others, or a societal issue.
3. **Critical Analysis** (Approx. 1 paragraph)
 - Discuss the strengths or weaknesses of a theory, study, or concept presented in the chapter.
 - Suggest questions for further research or areas you would like to explore more.
4. **APA Citation**
 - Reference the *Psychology in Everyday Life* textbook and any other sources used.
 - Include a separate reference page in APA format.

Grading Criteria (10 points each week):

- **4 points:** Accurate and thorough summary of chapter content.
- **2 points:** Clear and meaningful personal connection/application.
- **2 points:** Critical thinking and analysis demonstrated.
- **1 point:** Proper APA formatting.
- **1 point:** Clarity, grammar, and organization.

Tips for Success:

- Take notes while reading each chapter to help with summarizing.
- Be specific in your personal connection; vague statements will not receive full credit.
- Proofread before submission to avoid grammar and spelling errors.
- Use the grading criteria as a checklist before submitting your work.

End-of-Semester APA Research Paper Assignment

Course: Introduction to Psychology (PSY 1302 – Undergraduate)

Instructor: Dr. Gloria Hudson

Due Date: Sunday, December 6, 2026 by 11:59pm

Submission Method: Blackboard → “Final APA Paper” submission link

Assignment Overview

The End-of-Semester APA Paper is designed to give you the opportunity to explore a psychological concept, theory, or issue in depth, connect it to course material, and demonstrate your ability to write in proper **APA 7th edition student paper format**.

This assignment will strengthen your skills in:

- Understanding and applying psychological concepts
- Using research from scholarly sources
- Organizing ideas clearly and persuasively
- Following APA style guidelines

Topic Selection

Choose **one** of the following approaches:

1. **Theoretical Paper** – Explain and analyze a major psychological theory (e.g., Operant Conditioning, Cognitive Dissonance, Attachment Theory).
2. **Applied Psychology Paper** – Discuss how psychology applies to a real-world topic (e.g., Social Media & Mental Health, Psychology of Learning, Sleep & Memory).
3. **Biographical Analysis** – Explore the life and work of a major psychologist (e.g., Pavlov, Skinner, Piaget) and connect their work to course concepts.

Paper Requirements

Length:

- 3–4 pages **of content** (not including title page and reference page)

Sources:

- Minimum of **2 scholarly sources** (peer-reviewed journal articles or academic books)
- You may also use the course textbook as an additional source

Formatting (APA 7th Edition):

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- Double-spaced, 1-inch margins
- Student title page (title, your name, institution, course, instructor, date)
- Proper in-text citations for all paraphrased and quoted material
- Reference page on a separate page at the end

Paper Structure

1. **Title Page** (APA 7th student format)
2. **Introduction**
 - Introduce your topic and explain why it is important in psychology
 - End with a **clear thesis statement** that previews your main points
3. **Body**
 - **Section 1:** Define and explain your topic using course concepts and scholarly research
 - **Section 2:** Present examples, applications, or case studies
 - **Section 3:** Discuss current research findings and/or controversies
4. **Conclusion**
 - Summarize your key findings
 - Restate the importance of the topic in psychology
 - Suggest possible future research or practical applications
5. **References**
 - APA-format list of all sources cited in the paper

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

Sul Ross State University's policy strictly prohibits plagiarism, including copying another student's work or failing to credit sources. All assignments will be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Plagiarism may result in a zero on the assignment and further disciplinary action.

Refer to the **SRSU Academic Integrity Policy** in your syllabus for details.

Criteria	Excellent	Points
Introduction & Thesis	Clearly introduces the topic, establishes purpose, and presents a strong, focused thesis.	10
Application of Psychological Concepts	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of psychological concepts and accurately applies them throughout the paper.	20
Critical Thinking & Analysis	Analyzes ideas rather than simply summarizes information. Demonstrates insight, synthesis, and evaluation of evidence.	20
Integration of Scholarly Research	Effectively incorporates a minimum of five scholarly sources, including the SOOMO webtext, to support arguments.	15
Organization & Development	Ideas are logically organized with smooth transitions and strong paragraph development.	10
APA 7th Edition Format	Correct title page, headings, citations, references, formatting, and overall APA compliance.	10
Writing Quality & Grammar	Professional writing style with clear sentences, appropriate word choice, and minimal grammar or spelling errors.	10
Assignment Requirements	Meets length requirement, addresses all assignment components, submitted on time, and follows all instructions.	5

Tips for Success

- Start early and keep track of your sources
- Use the SRSU Library Database or Google Scholar for scholarly sources
- Review the **APA 7th Edition Student Paper Guidelines** before starting
- Ask questions early if you are unsure about your topic or formatting

PSY 1302 – Introduction to Psychology

Student Learning Outcomes & Core Curriculum Alignment

Fall 2026 • Undergraduate • 100% Online Asynchronous

By the end of this course, students will demonstrate the following learning outcomes aligned with Sul Ross State University core curriculum expectations.

Student Learning Outcome	Core Curriculum Outcome	Assessment / Evidence of Learning
SLO 1: Describe major psychological concepts, theories, perspectives, and research methods.	Empirical & Quantitative Reasoning	SOOMO chapter activities, chapter quizzes, discussion boards, midterm exam, and final exam.
SLO 2: Apply psychological principles to everyday experiences, behavior, relationships, learning, and well-being.	Social Responsibility	Reflection papers, discussion boards, SOOMO application activities, and course reflection assignments.
SLO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking by evaluating psychological claims, research findings, and real-world examples.	Empirical & Quantitative Reasoning	Quizzes, reflection papers, discussion boards, midterm exam, and final exam.
SLO 4: Communicate psychological ideas clearly and effectively in written assignments and online discussions.	Communication / Teamwork	Discussion board posts and replies, reflection papers, APA-style writing assignments, and final course reflection.
SLO 5: Analyze personal, social, and public issues using psychological concepts and research.	Social Responsibility	Reflection papers, discussion boards, applied psychology examples, and final reflection assignment.
SLO 6: Demonstrate personal responsibility by using APA formatting, citing scholarly sources, meeting deadlines, and practicing academic integrity.	Personal Responsibility	APA-formatted reflection papers, citations and references, Blackboard submissions, and adherence to course deadlines.

Note: All assignments are completed through Blackboard Ultra and/or the SOOMO Psychology in the Real World webtext. Due dates are listed in the course schedule and Blackboard modules.

Late Assignments/Projects/Checklists

You are expected to meet assignment/checklist deadlines. I do not accept late assignments. For excused absences (university-authorized, legal or medical issues), speak with me **before the absence** so arrangements can be made.

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 in the Messages platform in Blackboard. For PERSONAL or PRIVATE ISSUES email me at gloria.hudson@sulross.edu. 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.

Required by Americans with Disability Act Statement (ADA) - ADA Statement

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 Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email <mailto:mschwartz@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.

Introduction to Psychology – Fall 2026 Course Schedule

All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central Time unless otherwise noted.

Module	Chapter / Topic	Dates	Assignment(s)	Due Date
Start Here	Course Orientation	Aug. 24	Review syllabus, access SOOMO, introduction activities	Aug. 24
Module 1	Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology	Aug. 24–30	SOOMO Chapter 1; Discussion Board #1; Reflection Paper #1	Sunday, Aug. 30
Module 2	Chapter 2: The Brain and the Nervous System	Aug. 31–Sept. 13	SOOMO Chapter 2; Discussion Board #2; Quiz #1 (Ch. 1–2)	Sunday, Sept. 13
Module 3	Chapter 3: Consciousness	Sept. 14–27	SOOMO Chapter 3; Discussion Board #3; Reflection Paper #2	Sunday, Sept. 27
Module 4	Chapter 4: Learning	Sept. 28–Oct. 11	SOOMO Chapter 4; Discussion Board #4; Quiz #2 (Ch. 3–4)	Sunday, Oct. 11
Module 5	Chapter 5: Memory	Oct. 12–25	SOOMO Chapter 5; Discussion Board #5; Reflection Paper #3	Sunday, Oct. 25
Midterm	Chapters 1–5	Oct. 26–Nov. 1	Midterm Examination	Sunday, Nov. 1
Module 6	Chapter 6: Thinking and Intelligence	Nov. 2–8	SOOMO Chapter 6; Discussion Board #6; Quiz #3 (Ch. 5–6)	Sunday, Nov. 8
Module 7	Chapter 7: Development	Nov. 9–15	SOOMO Chapter 7; Discussion Board #7; Reflection Paper #4	Sunday, Nov. 15
Module 8	Chapter 8: Personality and the Self	Nov. 16–22	SOOMO Chapter 8; Discussion Board #8; Quiz #4 (Ch. 7–8)	Sunday, Nov. 22
Thanksgiving Break	No New Assignments	Nov. 23–29	No new assignments; use this week to review or catch up	—
Module 9	Chapter 9: Social Psychology	Nov. 30–Dec. 6	SOOMO Chapter 9; Discussion Board #9; Reflection Paper #5	Sunday, Dec. 6
Module 10	Chapter 10: Mental Health	Dec. 7–11	SOOMO Chapter 10; Discussion Board #10; Quiz #5 (Ch. 9–10); Final Exam Review	Friday, Dec. 11
Final Exam	Comprehensive Final Exam	Finals Week	Online Final Examination	Per official SRSU finals schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes