PSY 301: Introduction to Psychology

Texas Common Number: PSYC 2301

Psychology 301 is designed to provide students with an overview of the broad field of psychology. The course begins with an examination of various perspectives held by psychologists and a review of research methods. Subsequent lessons discuss the brain and other biological systems, exploring in detail the ways in which these systems work together to influence mental processes and behavior. These lessons integrate discussions of sensation and perception, consciousness, learning and memory, thought and language, intelligence, motivation and emotion, and human development. The later lessons discuss personality, psychological disorders, social cognition, and responses to social influences.

Prerequisites

PSY 301 is a freshman-level course, with no prerequisites to enrollment.

Course Organization

This course is divided into five learning modules containing a total of fifteen lessons. Each lesson contains a list of learning objectives and key concepts, a reading assignment, instructor’s commentary, and study questions. All lessons within a learning module must be completed before moving onto the next module. The instructor commentary contains the written equivalent of what a student might expect to hear in a traditional classroom lecture. These sections also incorporate activities to enrich student comprehension of the material. While these exercises are not submitted for grading, working through them will give student meaningful practice in recalling information and clarifying the relationship of ideas. These exercises, also, will help students to appreciate the impact of psychology on their everyday life, boost understanding of course readings and materials, and prepare for the midterm and final exams.

Required Materials

ISBN 978-1111301552
**Grading**

The course consists of several computer-graded assignments (multiple choice questions), nine (9) instructor-graded assignments (short essay questions), a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Both exams must be taken in a proctored location, with arrangements to be made by the student. An instructor is available throughout the course via a message center to answer questions and provide guidance.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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In addition to earning the minimum number of points on assignments to receive a passing grade, students must earn a score of at least 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

This course is independent study and is self-paced. Students have five (5) months upon registration in which to complete all coursework, plus an additional thirty days in which to take the final exam.

**University Extension**

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit [www.utextension.org](http://www.utextension.org). Questions may be directed to our office at (512) 471-2900 or [uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu). Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.