

Syllabus: General Psychology (PSY201)
Winter 2022

Welcome to General Psychology!

Here we explore the biological and cognitive aspects of psychology, including history, methodology, biological foundations of behavior, human development, sensation, perception, learning, memory, language, and problem-solving.

Instructor: Laura Jones, Ph.D.

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** I teach several courses. When you email me, identify your full name, course you are attending & course time. Due to time considerations, it is not possible to respond to emails without this information.*

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, noon to 12:50 (Zoom). Others by appointment.

Required Materials

Myers & Dewall (2020). Psychology in Everyday Life, 5th Edition. New York, NY: Worth.

Where do we meet?

Class is a 'virtual hybrid.' We meet virtually via Zoom once per week (Wednesdays, 2-3:50) to cover key concepts and do small group interactive work to practice and strengthen comprehension of the concepts. It is very important that you view your recorded lecture and do your assigned reading **before** we meet - the activities we engage in depend on you having done so. And your classmates are depending on you. These meetings will be recorded, so if you can't meet at the designated time, you can view them later. Class is delivered via Moodle and Zoom. There is information in the class that will be covered in the Knowledge Checks so not attending (either live or via a recording or the class) will compromise your performance in the class. This is an open classroom time and an opportunity to interact with me and other students.

What will I learn? As a result of successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Describe major facts and theories from the domain of psychology.
- Recognize/articulate interplay between social, psychological and biological forces.
- Apply relevant psychological phenomena to everyday relationships and situations.
- Combine and synthesize psychological concepts and theories to draw reasonable conclusions, develop intelligent skepticism, and critically analyze information.

What can I do to be successful in this class?

Students who are successful in this class do the following:

1. **Visit the Moodle site each Monday** and open the weekly checklist that gives you an overview of your assigned text reading, additional readings, and activities due.

2. **Open each weekly assignment and read it.** One is a forum response related to our topics (concept assignment) and the other is related to your paper (paper tasks Weeks 1-7 only). Your responses for both are *due by 9am on Thursdays*. These assignments often ask you to do something in advance, before you respond in writing, so checking in at the beginning of the week gives you time to complete your missions.

3. **Review the topics of focus** before you do your weekly assigned text reading. This will give you an idea of the material you want to focus on before you take your weekly Knowledge Check.

4. **Do your assigned weekly text reading**, taking notes over material highlighted in the topics of focus.

5. **Watch the recorded lecture**, located in the *Weekly Lecture and Class Meeting* folder. Again, paying special attention and taking notes on the material highlighted in the **topics of focus** for the week. Each lecture is about 45-60 minutes, so if you plan to view it in at least 2 sittings, you will ensure that you are focused enough to truly take in the information.

6. **Attend class on Wednesdays.** We will spend our time on Wednesday going more deeply into the topics introduced in your recorded lecture as well as preparing you for your paper assignment. Engage in interactive activities with your classmates to help you learn the concepts & boost your performance in the Knowledge Checks. If you have to miss a Wednesday class, there will be a recording available in the *Weekly Lecture and Class Meeting folder* by noon on Thursday.

7. **Take your Knowledge Check.** Students have reported that they have the most success if they take the Knowledge Check soon after attending the Wednesday class.

How much time should I expect to spend on this course? Online courses take the place of almost four hours of lectures and outside class assignments required in a traditional face-to-face class. Expect to devote about 10-12 hours per week on the online interactions and other class assignments. Set aside specific time each week to work on this class.

How to avoid getting dropped. Complete the following activities by Thursday, 1/6 at 9 am or you will be dropped from the class:

1. Enter the [Moodle](#) course shell & read your syllabus and watch the overview (course introduction), (2) Complete your first Weekly Assignment response and your Week 1 Paper Prep response.

Instructor Responsibilities: My aim is to facilitate a classroom environment that encourages active, effective, and respectful activities, discussion and learning. I will:

- Post your current week's content and assignments.
- Be available to support your learning when requested.
- Be present to teach the class.
- Hold you accountable.

Student Responsibilities

- Critically read/analyze assigned information
- Use your LBCC email account to communicate with me and always identify the course CRN when you email me;
- Effective/timely participation in class assignments, activities, quizzes, and exams.

Tools for Success in this Course: In an online course, the teacher is a **resource** in the learning process, while you, the student, takes a more active role. If you are new to online learning, be aware that you will need to take the initiative to read all documents and materials thoroughly for your own understanding. Self-direction and self-discipline are critical. It is up to you to keep track of deadlines and complete and upload your assignments. The assignments, Knowledge Checks and weekly forum are ways for me to gauge your understanding of the teaching/learning process in which you are participating. I am here to help. I will respond to your assignments with feedback. If you have carefully read course materials and still have a question, post your question to the **Question-and-Answer Forum** right away.

Course Requirements: Knowledge Checks, the recorded lecture and assignments are posted before noon on Monday and must be completed/ submitted on Moodle by the due dates (see Course Calendar). Your coursework is submitted/conducted online via Moodle. Your final grade in this class will be determined by your performance on the following:

Weekly Concept Practice Assignments: Experiential activities linked to the current week's topic. You respond by 9 am on Thursdays and reply to a classmate's response by the following Monday. Be sure to read the task at the beginning of the week so that you have time to complete it before the Thursday at 9 am deadline for your response.

Paper Prep Tasks: Tasks during weeks 1-7 to help boost your paper grade. These tasks start out easy and are increasingly difficult. Read the task at the beginning of the week so that you have time to complete it before the Thursday at 9 am deadline. Some tasks are assignments, others are forums that ask you to respond and then read a classmate's response and give feedback via a reply.

Paper: One of the main objectives of this course is to learn how to be a wise consumer of psychological research. The research paper assignment will give you practice summarizing published research and critiquing a media report of the same research.

10 open book Knowledge Checks are taken on Moodle. Knowledge Checks assess your understanding of the course material (see summary of course requirements for more information) and are cumulative.

Late Assignments. On-time assignments are an essential element of college success. Please talk to me if you are having difficulty meeting course deadlines and we can work on a solution so that you don't get behind. I may allow a late assignment if you communicate your need for an extension in advance of the deadline.

Summary of Course Requirements				
Requirement	Summary	Points Possible per unit	Units	Total
Weekly Concept Practice Assignment	Experiential activities linked to the current week's topic.	10	10	100
Paper Prep Tasks	Tasks during weeks 1-7 to help you write your paper. Some are assignments and some are forums where you will be asked to read and reply to a classmate's response.	15	7	105
Research Paper	Final Paper	100	1	100
Weekly Knowledge Checks over the text reading, embedded readings, readings associated with assignments/assessments, class meeting and recorded lecture.	Number of items varies. Item types include multiple choice (1 pt.), multiple choice with more than 1 option (2 pts.), matching (3 pts.) and True/False (1 pt.). Items reflect knowledge gained up to the current week with more emphasis on the current week.	25	10	250
Total Possible Points				555

** A cumulative Knowledge Check is one that tests a student on the material since the beginning of the term. The focus of this type of test is to ensure that students have understood and retained the information they have learned throughout the duration of the course.*

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topic	Due each Thursday before 9 am (date listed below)	<i>Point earners due each Monday before 9 am (Date listed below)</i>
1 1/3	Introduction Thinking Critically (Chapter 1)	Thursday, 1/6 Weekly Assignment response Paper prep task	January 10 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment & paper prep task (reply to classmate)
2 1/10	The Biology of Behavior & Consciousness (Chapter 2)	Thursday, 1/13 Assignment response Paper prep task	January 17 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment (reply to classmate)
3 1/17	Introduction to Development & prenatal - newborn period (Chapter 3, pages 69-77)	Thursday, 1/20 Assignment response Paper prep task	January 24 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment & paper prep task (reply to classmate)
4 1/24	Lifespan Development Infancy and Childhood (Chapter 3, pages 77-97)	Thursday 1/27 Assignment response Paper prep task	January 31 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment & paper prep task (reply to classmate)
5 1/31	Lifespan Development Adulthood (Chapter 3, pages 97-103)	Thursday 2/3 Assignment response Paper prep task	February 7 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment & paper prep task (reply to classmate)
6 2/7	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality (Chapter 4, pages 117-130)	Thursday 2/10 Assignment response Paper prep task	February 14 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment & paper prep task (reply to classmate)
7 2/14	Sensation and Perception (Chapter 5)	Thursday 2/17 Assignment response Paper prep task	February 21 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment & paper prep task (reply to classmate)
8 2/21	Learning (Chapter 6)	Thursday 2/24 Assignment response	February 28 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment (reply to classmate)
9 2/28	Memory (Chapter 7)	Thursday 3/3 Assignment response	March 7 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment (reply to classmate) Paper due
10 3/7	Thinking: Our biases and language (Chapter 8, pages 213-228)	Thursday 3/10 Assignment response	March 14 Knowledge Check Weekly Assignment (reply to classmate)

11	<i>Option to retake or make up one missed Knowledge Check (you must note your preference before 9am on Friday 3/11 if you want this option). I will send a form Week 9 where you can tell me what Knowledge Check you want to take/retake. Please wait for my email Week 9 with a link to the form. If you have taken all Knowledge Checks, this is a 'free' week.</i>
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Course Access

Moodle. All LBCC students have a Moodle account. Access with Single Sign-On ID and password. [How to get started with Moodle.](#) LBCC will enroll you in the Moodle site for this course during the 1st week of classes. You will access the syllabus, your grades, Knowledge Checks, and additional activities on Moodle. It is an expectation for this course that you will use Moodle independently and seek help from the [eLearning center](#) if you have questions related to using Moodle. For information on how to use Moodle, check out this site. Alternatively, you can [visit the Student Helpdesk](#). **Do not email coursework.**

Accessibility Resources aids students who have documented disabilities by:

- Reviewing documentation to confirm eligibility
- Planning reasonable accommodations
- Coordinating services in the classroom
- Providing support i.e., assistive technology, and accommodations
- Success coaching and advocating

If you have a disability and feel that you will need accommodations as a student at Linn-Benton Community College, Accessibility Resources is here to support you: Contact Center for Accessibility Resources Voice: 541-917-4789 Email: cfar@linnbenton.edu

Cheating/Plagiarism

Using someone else's work as your own or using information without proper citation (this is plagiarism) can lead to your failing the activity, test, or class. References and in text citations are required whenever you use outside sources, including internet sources (unless otherwise indicated). Do not directly reproduce material from another source in your weekly assignment or assessment (even if you cite it!). Provide material written in your own words with your original ideas.

Important note

I shut down Moodle and all associated activities for grading noon on Thursday, Week 11. **No course materials can be accepted after 5pm on Tuesday finals week under any circumstances.** Be sure to check your gradebook between 5 pm on Tuesday and noon on Thursday during finals week.