

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE  
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Fall 2021 PSY 2012 Introduction to Psychology (3 credit hours)**

**Instructor:**  
**Office Location:**  
**Office Hours:**

**Phone:**  
**Email:**

\*\*\* “Virtual” means that I will be online during those times. Please note that the term “office hours” really means *student opportunity time*...times I have set aside to communicate with you. This is a good time to ask any questions about assignments or course content; please note, if the information is in the syllabus or other course documents, I will direct you back to those.

If you would like to speak directly during the virtual office hours times, you can contact me via email (at the address above), and I will email you back during these noted times of availability --- we can then have a live chat within the classroom or ZOOM if that is helpful, or we can arrange a telephone call.

Emails will be returned within 48 hours, generally much sooner. Weekend emails will receive a response on Mondays. Please note that as my schedule allows, I am always happy to arrange additional times to communicate with you if that is helpful.

**Mondays** 9:15am-9:30am, 10:45am-12:00pm

**Tuesdays** 9:00am-12:00pm (virtual)

**Wednesdays** 7:30am-8:00am, 9:15am-9:30am, 10:45am-12:45pm

**Thursdays** 10:00am-11:00am (virtual), 5:45pm-7:45pm (virtual – optional Zoom for discussions for online students) \*\*\* See newsfeed item regarding this option.

**Fridays** – by appointment

**Welcome**

Welcome to General Psychology. You have chosen an interesting and engaging course. We will cover topics ranging from IQ, to Anxiety, to Language Development and much more! I look forward to working with you this semester and am here to help you succeed. Feel free to ask any questions via email and see the communication information above. Be sure to *do your part* to be familiar with all the information/documents available to you in both the Newsfeed and on Brightspace under “Content.”

**Illness and Covid COVID-19 Reporting Procedure** If you suspect you are ill with COVID-19, please contact your local health department so that you can potentially be given a COVID-19 test.

If you are on campus and you suspect you are ill with COVID 19 or another illness, plan to leave the campus as soon as possible.

Students who miss class or web assignments because of an illness will only receive accommodations if they submit the required medical documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students, Dr. Mark Bukowski, 863-784-7104, or [bukowskim@southflorida.edu](mailto:bukowskim@southflorida.edu). Please note: The professor will not provide accommodations without instruction from the Office of the Dean of Students.

Upon compliance, the professor will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the student and provide an opportunity to make up missed work (except for in-class participation points).

**SFSC recommends that you keep up with classwork depending on how well you feel. Please keep your professors informed about what you need, so they can provide academic advice that is in your best interest.**

An “incomplete” grade will only be an option if the student has already successfully completed approximately 90% of the required coursework and has a passing grade.

### **Catalog Description:**

This is an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior. Emphasis is on the process of thinking and learning as the basis for individual adjustment to the physical and social environment.

**Course Specific Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. define psychology and explain how the focus of psychology is different from that of other social and biological sciences;
2. describe the major features of the scientific method and explain the steps and key considerations in research;
3. define basic psychological terminology and explain important features of major psychological concepts and theories;
4. identify leading contributors to the field of psychology and describe their work;
5. explain how biological, psychological, and social factors can affect behavior;
6. identify and describe specific psychological principles in real-life situations;
7. critically analyze information about human behavior and distinguish between conclusions supported by scientific evidence and conclusions based on nonscientific ways of knowing;
8. recognize real-life situations that may call for professional psychological help and know how to use community resources to find help when needed.

Note that you will see these “course outcome numbers” attached to various course activities on other documents. This just notates what outcomes go with each assignment. It isn’t an indication of anything you need to do.

**Note: Student work produced from this course may be used for the college-wide assessment of general Education Outcomes.**

### **Prerequisites:**

There are no other course requirements prior to enrolling in this course. If you are unsure about your ability to navigate the course (utilizing Quizzes, the Drop Box, Discussion Boards, etc.), please review the Course Navigation Document. It is important for you to familiarize yourself with how to cite sources in APA format. There will also be an orientation video posted. You are strongly encouraged to view it. If you are in the fully online/web course, you should plan to attend one of the optional Zoom orientations (see Schedule Syllabus document).

### **Required Course Materials:**

Textbook: Psychology 2e

*Rice University. Psychology.*

ISBN-13: 978-1-975076-45-0

**\*\*Note, this is an Open Resource Textbook – meaning that a digital version is free to students and can be accessed in your Brightspace course under Content. It is available as a pdf, as well as online format (which has many added features) within each week’s module. It is also available as a hard copy for purchase, either from the College Bookstore or other vendors. You can also view it via the web by creating a free account at Openstax.org.**

### **Instructional Methods:**

If you are enrolled in the web course, it is fully online, and you are not required to be on at any specific time. If you are meeting face to face, it is a hybrid course. This means that it involves both face to face meetings, as well as online components. You have access to the dates we meet in a separate document. Weekly chapter quizzes (open book) are all online. Your course includes discussion questions as well as Drop Box assignments.

### **Course Resources:**

**Brightspace:** Panther Central is the web portal for SFSC. With a single sign-on, you get access to information that is relevant to you. As a student, you will have immediate access to each of your classes and e-mail to faculty and classmates. You will also be able to access club information, financial aid, registration tools, the library, the student handbook, and other resources. You will also receive campus-wide and personal announcements. Please make use of the training available for Panther Central, and if your password is not working, please call 784-7134. You can access Panther Central at <http://panthercentral.southflorida.edu> or visit the SFSC website ([www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu)) and choose the “Panther Central” link on the right. Your username is your South Florida State College student email address. You may **access your course resources from the “My Courses” tab in Panther Central.** For

technical assistance for Brightspace, call during business hours at 863 784-7017 or email [Brightspacesupport@southflorida.edu](mailto:Brightspacesupport@southflorida.edu)

<http://online.southflorida.edu> – is our course Brightspace website. All materials can be accessed here, including PowerPoint presentations for each chapter, supplemental materials, class assignments, online quizzes, discussion boards, Drop Boxes, videos, and your current grade. If the school website goes down, you can type this address into your browser, and it will take you to your Brightspace classroom.

Additional Resources include the SMARTHINKING service (see tab at the top of your course page), and others as listed in the Newsfeed.

\*\*\*\*See course document entitled Arts and Sciences Information and Resources under the Content tab.

### **Class Attendance and Tardy Policy:**

All work must be submitted to your instructor by the due dates indicated within the course schedule. If beginning coursework is not submitted, students will be dropped for non-attendance at the beginning of Week 2.

Note that this syllabus constitutes the first warning (per college policy) before being withdrawn for excessive absences. Consistent and timely attendance correlates directly with successful learning. Due dates for assignments are firm and will not be changed for personal issues, vacations, technical issues, conflict with work schedules, etc. Students who fail to submit 5 activities (Discussion Question, Quiz, Drop-Box assignment) or miss the cumulative equivalent of 1.5 weeks of classes prior to the mid-semester drop date, may be dropped from the course for “non-attendance” with no additional notification.

If missing multiple assignments occurs, students should consider their circumstances carefully and speak with an advisor to discuss dropping the course before the last day to receive a “W” instead of an “F.” This may have financial aid implications as well.

### **Course Requirements:**

The expectation is that you will have read the current chapter *before* the first of each week. You will be required to complete weekly chapter quizzes, discussion boards with replies to classmates, and Drop Box assignments. *Late work is not accepted. Occasionally, extra credit is offered, but do not ask me for an exception. If it is offered, it will be for the entire class.*

\*\*\*All written work **must** be cited and referenced as appropriate. You may use either MLA or APA format. There is a substantial point deduction for failure to include this, and it is considered plagiarism. Work must be submitted in the proper format in the appropriate place (no email submissions). Specific

instructions for Drop Box assignments will be provided within each box. You can access all through either the Assignments tab at the top of your course home page, or within each weekly module under the Content tab. The orientation Zoom will show you how to access this area. See information on Discussion Boards below.

\*\*It is very important that you check your email each time you log into the course in between class meetings and read the Newsfeed. Additional information and changes will be communicated there.

You are **required** to be familiar with this syllabus and all documents linked in the Newsfeed and under the Content Tab.

### **Grading:**

The course grade is on a *weighted system*, rather than cumulative points. You will always be able to see your current course grade via the gradebook. If you receive less than 100% or any discussion or assignment, I will provide feedback in the gradebook when the grade is input. I will also share the grading rubrics with you. Again, late work is not accepted and there is no extra credit work.

For the web course, Quizzes comprise 50% of your grade, with Discussions and Drop Box assignments comprising the other 50%.

For hybrid courses, Quizzes compromise 50% of your grade, Discussions and Drop Box assignments are 25% of your grade, and Attendance/Participation is 25%.

**Discussion Boards:** For full credit (10 points each question), you are required to use a reasonable font size (not tiny), use the same font throughout, meet the minimum word count of 150 words (do not go over 250), acknowledge that you have read the article or chapter, or viewed the film identified in the question in your first sentence, reply to a classmate, and provide in-text citations and full references for all materials used. The reply does not have a minimum word count but must be at least two sentences and meaningful. Stating “good job” will not earn the points. You must *fully answer* all parts of the question, write in complete sentences with correct grammar, and refrain from using text slang. \*\*\*YOU MUST INCLUDE PROPER CITATIONS AND REFERENCES. If you mention the textbook (or article or video), use a direct quote, or paraphrase, there needs to be both an in-text citation and complete reference at the end. If you need assistance with this, there are several options for help, and it is crucial you familiarize yourself with how to cite as soon as possible. You may make use of the Smarthinking service by clicking the tab at the top of your page. The Owl at Purdue is also an excellent website for assistance. You may also request assistance from our Tutoring and Learning Center, and I will provide information on how to contact our head librarian directly. I will also post some documents with

examples (note they are in APA format, but if you are familiar with MLA, that is acceptable. \*\*\*Web links are not acceptable as citations or references. There are no exceptions regarding citation. If you include material that is not common knowledge or your own thoughts, you must cite appropriately. Do not simply list a source at the end. *Note that failing to cite constitutes plagiarism and will be addressed according to the College Policy.*

I will also post a link to a resource from our library. You do not have any work for this course that requires a title page; headers and footers are not required.

Note that you will not see classmates' posts until you publish yours. You must respond to a classmate, but there is no word minimum for the response. Do not wait until the last minute to begin your discussions. Some require that you watch lengthy videos, and all are related to the chapters. Discussion responses should always be written in paragraph format.

\*\*\*For web students: you will receive an email regarding the option to complete your discussion with myself and classmates via one of the Zoom times Thursday nights @5:45pm for the weeks we have discussions. This is a fun and MUCH easier option than writing and unless you did zero preparation, you will receive a 100 (even if you are off target with your response). I will post a short video in the Newsfeed about this shortly. All web students are required to do this one time prior to October. Please work your schedules accordingly.

**Drop Box Assignments:** You will be required to submit identified written assignments to a Drop Box. The instructions for each Drop Box due are linked in each Drop Box (found under the Assignments tab). Documents must be submitted in word format. Be careful that you have not submitted in jpeg or any other format other than the accepted ones (pdf, rtf, word). If I cannot open it, you will receive a zero. You are expected to be familiar with the expectations/instructions and ask any questions prior to the due date. If the Drop Box closes, I will not accept assignments via email.

**Quizzes:** You will have weekly chapter quizzes – online, on your own time. You have a Scavenger Hunt quiz (based on this and other course documents you may have with you) due the first week. These are available under the Assessments tab, as well as linked within each Weekly Module. The due dates are **always** Sunday by 11:59pm. The quizzes will be multiple choice. You will have 45 minutes for each attempt. *You will have the option to take the quiz as many times as you like.* The highest of your grades will be used if you take a quiz more than once. You may use your notes or other written reference materials and the textbook, but you may not use a partner or other classmate when taking the exam. *Please note that faculty can monitor D2L Brightspace activity.* There are **no makeup quizzes**, nor will I

reopen any quizzes once they have closed. Please note that these quizzes are now randomized from a large question bank. You will not get the same quiz twice.

Please check with your instructors about your final exam date and time. \*\*\* There is no final exam for this class. Instead, you have a Photo Story assignment that should be your best work.

**Exams:** There will be no final exams for this class. Your mastery of the material and course objectives will be assessed through your performance on weekly quizzes and assignments, as well as your contributions to our discussion boards. This means you should put your best effort into each activity. While it is not difficult to complete, your last Drop Box assignment (called a Photo Story) is very important and is your opportunity to show your mastery on a specific course topic. True effort is expected.

**Technology:** Students need to access a computer with high-speed Internet, audio and video capability. Use of Microsoft Office Suite 2007 or newer is required. The college can provide a free download of the necessary software if needed. You MUST have a backup technology plan and note that equipment failure does not constitute an extension. Files uploaded to the Drop Box must be in word, rtf, or pdf only. JPEGs or Google Docs are not acceptable. If a file is unreadable, the student will receive a zero. If you have technology concerns, please contact the **Educational Technology Desk at BrightspaceSupport@southflorida.edu or 863-784-7017.**

## **Netiquette**

When communicating online, it is essential to observe certain rules of behavior called “netiquette,” which refers to rules of behavior governing the use of all internet services, including discussion groups, webpages, blogs, and social media. Please refer to the handout in Brightspace for further information about behavior and consequences for poor netiquette.

**DISCLAIMER:** Course policies, procedures, and schedule may be changed at any time at the discretion of the instructor. You will be advised of any changes in writing.