**University of North Texas**

PSYC 1630.004 General Psychology I

Fall 2025 Course Syllabus

T/R 9:30am-10:50am

Phys Rm 102

**Instructor:** Dr. Jane Whittington

**Office:** TH 331

**Email:** [Jane.Whittington@unt.edu](mailto:Jane.Whittington@unt.edu)

**Office Hours:** M/W/F 9am-11am, T/R 11am-1pm

**TA Contact Information**

**Name:** Rebekah Griffin

**Email:** RebekahGriffin@my.unt.edu

**Office Location:** TH 242

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays**:** 11am-2pm

**Name:** Dannie Haakinson

**Email:** DannieHaakinson@my.unt.edu

**Office Location:** TH 215, Desk #71

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays: 12pm-1:30pm, Thursdays: 11am-12:30pm

**Communication with Your Learning Team (Dr. Whittington and your TAs)**

Our office hours are listed above, we simply request that you email us ahead of time or make arrangements with us in class. Your TAs should be your first point of contact. Our learning team will do our very best to have your assignments or assessments graded in a timely manner. If you have any questions at any point during the class, please feel free to ask.

We want you all to succeed and will do our best to make sure that happens. However, you need to be willing to put in the required effort. We can only help you if we know that there is a problem, so please COMMUNICATE with us! Help us, help you.

**NOTE: Our learning team has 48 hours to respond to your emails, as other class responsibilities and obligations may limit our email abilities. Thank you for your patience.**

**Course Overview and Objectives**

This course will introduce psychology as a scientific discipline and a profession. Emphasis will be placed on the diverse theoretical approaches within psychology and applications of these theories. We will broadly cover core areas in psychology such as research methods, developmental, cognitive, personality, abnormal behavior, and social psychology. You will be exposed to directed readings from your textbook, real case studies, videos, simulations, team activities, and engaging lecture material.

**Course Learning Objecvtives (C.L.Os)**

* Apply psychological research to solve real-world problems in an ethical manner
* Understand the complexity of sociocultural diversity, neurodiversity, and societal inequality
* Analyze individualized perspectives of the world, and how those perspectives contribute to unique experiences, attitudes, and beliefs
* Think critically about your own psychological, biological, and social development
* Practice effective collaboration

**Course Structure**

This is an in-person, face-to-face course that meets weekly on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am-10:50am. Class will begin and end promptly at the respective times. Your attendance is expected and essential and will be taken at the beginning of each class period.

**Required Text**

*Essentials of Psychology*, Kassin, Privitera & Clayton, (1st Edition)

**Canvas**

We have a web site for the course on Canvas. A copy of this syllabus is available on the site. In addition, there will also be descriptions of assignments and their related rubrics posted on the site. Throughout the semester we will use Canvas very frequently to post important documents, resources, assignments, rubrics, grades and links, as well as to make announcements. Therefore, it is your responsibility to check the course’s Canvas site frequently, in addition to your UNT email.

**Minimum Technology Requirements**

* High Speed Internet
* Mobile Hotspot (if you live off campus)
* Speakers
* Microphones
* Plugins
* Ability to stream videos
* Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint and Excel, specifically)
* Outlook Email (your UNT email, specifically)
* Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

**Technical Assistance**

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight

- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight

- Friday: 8am-8pm

- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

**What to Do if Canvas Fails**

All assignments for this course will be submitted through Canvas. Canvas is online technology, and therefore, can crash. If this happens to you, or if you experience any technical difficulties, you must email me and the UNT Student Help Desk ([helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)) immediately. The UNT Student Help Desk and I will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. If there are technical issues or doubt whether assignments have been/will be successfully submitted, please take a screenshot of the error messages or time-stamped copies of the assignment submissions. Importantly, if you do not email me within 12 hours of your Canvas issue and include a screenshot of the error message you receive, it will likely not be able to be remedied and you will not be able to complete the missed assignment.

**Assessments**

**Supplementary Material Assignments (SMA) (10 Assignments; 25%)**

Each week you will have a short,written assignment due relating to that week’s assigned supplementary material. Supplementary materials may be in the form of an additional reading, a video, or a podcast. Your submission needs to demonstrate an understanding of the content from the assigned supplementary material and a connection between the material and that week’s lecture topic.

**Quizzes (10 Quizzes; 25%)**

The weekly quizzes will be posted online and contain 5 multiple-choice questions that will cover information discussed in last week’s materials. Each question is assessed objectively and the student’s total score is out of 5.

**Exams (2 Exams; 35%)**

Your exams will be non-cumulative, comprised of 35 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions corresponding with the main topics covered for each corresponding half of the semester. These questions will require you to demonstrate your understanding of various topics by solving applied problems that may be comprised of several steps. Critical thinking will be a crucial component to your success on the exams, not simple mechanical reproduction of definitions and examples from lecture and the textbook.

**Signature Assignment (1 Paper with Peer Review; 15%)**

Our signature assignment is a wellness plan that requires you to apply operant conditioning concepts to a patient with a heart condition. The patient needs to live a healthier lifestyle, so it is your goal to develop a wellness plan that incorporates Frank's likes and dislikes to increase healthy behaviors. After you have finished the first draft of your wellness plan, you will submit it to peers for review. After the peer review, you get an opportunity to improve your plans before the final submission. This wellness plan allows you to complete an application-based assignment that requires peer-review participation.

Learning Outcomes:

* Develop critical-thinking skills by connecting human behaviors with potential outcomes using knowledge about psychology
* Apply the scientific process of operant conditioning to a real-world health problem
* Participate in perspective-taking to develop a manageable lifestyle change for a person unlike yourself
* Clearly communicate your wellness plan to a group of peers for a constructive review
* Collaborate with others to provide feedback about possible improvements to their wellness plan

**Grading**

Your final course grade will be determined by the following **4 criteria**:

* **Supplementary Material Assignments:** 25%
* **Quizzes:** 25%
* **Exams:** 35%
* **Signature Assignment**: 15%
  + **TOTAL:** 100%

Assignment and Assessments grades will be posted on Canvas.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage** |
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% or Less |

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Class Attendance, Preparation, and Participation Policy**

Attendance in this course or in any course is *essential*. Your understanding of material from one week typically serves as a foundation for material in upcoming weeks of the session. It is important to read the assigned readings prior to the assignments due for the week. That is, the assignments that are due each week assume that you have already read the chapter and/or viewed the Powerpoint slides for the week. It is expected that you regularly attend class and login to Canvas to review, submit, and complete assignments prior to their due dates/times. Therefore, we will regularly check to ensure that students are completing their work and actively participating in class.

Students are expected to read the materials, ask questions, give comments, and, in a word, *participate*. Course success will be negatively impacted by repeated absences and/or lack of participation.

**ODA STUDENTS**

If you are an ODA student with accommodations, we will meet the first week of class to discuss your accommodations. You should expect an email from me as soon as I receive your ODA letter confirming your accommodations. Importantly, without the official UNT ODA accommodations letter, you will be expected to complete all assignments as listed in the syllabus.

**Class Recordings**

Since this is an in-person class, lecture recordings will not be created. Importantly, students are not allowed to record class lectures. If a student does create a recording without written consent of the instructor, disciplinary action will be taken.

**Grading Appeals**

If you think you should have received credit for something that was scored as incorrect, you may appeal in writing. Only written requests will be considered. You should e-mail your rationale – this rationale should include references to specific page numbers in your text, lecture dates, the syllabus, etc. to support your appeal. All appeals must occur within 3 days of the due date of the assignment. In addition, remember that despite our best attempts to present an appearance of infallibility, we actually are not. If you are concerned that I have made a recording error, it is always fine to reach out with any questions you have. If you reach out past the 3 day period, no action will be taken.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

Please follow the University’s guidance and I will email you the morning of to answer questions. Should inclement weather impact our ability to meet in person, we will meet via Zoom. The link will be posted on Canvas and emailed to you. Importantly, if you commute to campus and the university is still open, you will be expected to be in class.

**Late Assignments and Extra Credit**

Late submissions will **not** be accepted in this course. It is expected that you will complete all assignments and assessments by their respective due dates and times. Occasional exceptions may be made in the case of a documented illness or significant situation that was out of your control. Some form of written documentation (e.g., note from MD) should accompany your assignment if it is not submitted by the due date/time. You should also email your professor/TA as soon as possible. No exceptions will be made regarding point deductions if acceptable written documentation is not provided.

It is generally not the professor’s policy to provide extra credit opportunities, however if there is any exception to this policy it will be presented to the class via email and a Canvas posting.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **TOPIC** | **ASSIGNMENT** | **ASSESSMENT** | **ASSIGNMENT** |
| **1**  *8/18-8/22* | Syllabus  Ch.1: Psychology and Its Methods | Submit Syllabus Acknowledgement  Due Saturday 8/23 by 11:59pm | Pre Post Extra Credit Quiz Due Tuesday 8/26 by 8:59am |  |
| **2**  *8/25-8/29* | Ch. 2: Behavioral Neuroscience | SMA #1 Due Saturday 8/30 by 11:59pm | Quiz #1 Due Tuesday 9/2 by 8:59am |  |
| **3**  *9/1-9/5* | Ch. 3: Sensation and Perception | SMA #2 Due Saturday 9/6 by 11:59pm | Quiz #2 Due Tuesday 9/9 by 8:59am |  |
| **4**  *9/8-9/12* | Ch. 4: Consciousness | SMA #3 Due Saturday 9/13 by 11:59pm | Quiz #3 Due Tuesday 9/16 by 8:59am |  |
| **5**  *9/15-9/19* | Ch. 5: Learning | SMA #4 Due Saturday 9/20 by 11:59pm | Quiz #4 Due Tuesday 9/23 by 8:59am |  |
| **6**  *9/22-9/26* | Ch. 6: Memory | SMA #5 Due Saturday 9/27 by 11:59pm | Quiz #5 Due Tuesday 9/30 by 8:59am |  |
| **7**  *9/29-10/3* | Ch. 7: Thought, Language, and Intelligence | Study for Midterm | |  |
| **8**  *10/6-10/10* | Review Session in Class Tuesday  Midterm Exam Thursday | | |  |
| **9**  *10/13-10/17* | Ch. 8: Personality | SMA #6 Due Saturday 10/18 by 11:59pm | Quiz #6 Due Tuesday 10/21 by 8:59am |  |
| **10**  *10/20-10/24* | Ch. 10: Social and Cultural Influences | SMA #7 Due Saturday 10/25 by 11:59pm | Quiz #7 Due Tuesday 10/28 by 8:59am |  |
| **11**  *10/27-10/31* | Ch. 11: Motivation and Emotion | SMA #8 Due Saturday 11/1 by 11:59pm | Quiz #8 Due Tuesday 11/4 by 8:59am |  |
| **12**  *11/3-11/7* | Ch. 12: Health, Stress, and Wellness | SMA #9 Due Saturday 11/8 by 11:59pm | Quiz #9 Due Tuesday 11/11 by 8:59am |  |
| **13**  *11/10-11/14* | Ch. 13: Psychological Discorders | SMA #10 Due Saturday 11/15 by 11:59pm | Quiz #10 Due Tuesday 11/18 by 8:59am |  |
| **14**  *11/17-11/21* | Ch. 14: Treatment and Interventions | Signature Assignment Draft Due Monday 11/24 by 11:59pm | Bonus Quiz Due Tuesday 11/25 by 8:59am |  |
| **15**  *11/24-11/28* | Thanksgiving Break No Class | Peer Review Due Monday 12/1 by 11:59pm | |  |
| **16**  *12/1-12/5* | Signature Assignment Help Day Tuesday  Final Exam Review Day Thursday | Signature Assignment Final Version Due Friday 12/5 by 11:59pm | |  |
| **17**  *12/8-12/12* | Final Exam TBD | | |  |