PSYC 1315-001: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2026

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus and schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.
- Alan Hernandez Cortes, Instructor

Jump to: Instructor Information | Course Information | Materials & Technology
Assignments & Exams | Grades | Course Policies | Support Services | Schedule

Instructor Information

Name

Alan Hernandez Cortes, Ph.D.

Office Location

Life Sciences Building 404

Office Phone

817-272-2281

Email

alan.hernandez@uta.edu

Faculty Profile

Coming soon!

Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays 11:30 am – 12:30pm

By appointments (in-person and online) (send me an email so we can work out a meeting time)

Communication Guidelines

My preferred communication method is email.

I will usually be able to respond to emails and voice messages within 24 hours during weekdays. Messages sent after business hours on Friday or during the weekend will be answered the following weekday.

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 1315-001

Course Description

Course Title: Introduction to Psychology

This course provides students an extensive survey of the science of psychology. The course focuses on the understanding of basic principles, concepts, theories, and real-world applications relating to the areas of cognition, social psychology, motivation, personality, health, therapy, and many others. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core social and behavioral sciences curriculum requirement. As such, it contains core objectives in critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility.

Prerequisites: None

Time and Place of Class Meetings

Time: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 10:00 am – 10:50 am

Location: SH 103

Time Zone
This course operates on Central Time. All times listed for class meeting times, exams, and assignment deadlines are in Central Time (CT).

Classroom/Lecture Recording Policy

Faculty maintain the academic right to determine whether students are permitted to record classroom and online lectures. Recordings of classroom lectures, if permitted by the instructor or pursuant to an ADA accommodation, may only be used for academic purposes related to the specific course. They may not be used for commercial purposes or shared with non-course participants except in connection with a legal proceeding.

Recording of classroom and online lectures in this course is not allowed.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Be familiar with key psychological theories
2. Understand the basic principles of psychological research
3. Be aware of the various sub-disciplines in psychology
4. Have a basic understanding when reading and evaluating psychology articles
5. Understand how psychology can be applied to our everyday lives

In addition, as this course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences, it contains core objectives and learning outcomes in the following:

6. Critical Thinking Skills include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
7. Communication Skills include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
8. Empirical and Quantitative Skills include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
9. Social Responsibility includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Materials and Technology

Textbook Information

Required Textbook:

King, Laura (2023) The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View e-book with accompanying Connect Plus software. ISBN: 1264246552. Cost: $100 USD

This course participates in the Inclusive Access Program, which means that you will have access to the textbook on the first day of class. You have acquired access, at a reduced cost, to the textbook when you enrolled in the class. In our course Canvas page, there will be a link that you can use to register for Connect (the software used to access the textbook and assignments). Make sure you register to Connect through Canvas so your grades from the assignments can be linked to your class grades on Canvas.

Technology & Equipment Requirements

All course materials will be available through Canvas. To access the class textbook and assignments, you will need to register for a Connect account, which can be done through the link that is available on Canvas. You will also need to download and install a proctoring software to take each of the four exams. During the first days of class, be sure you have access to Canvas, Connect, and the proctoring software, if you have any difficulties doing so, please contact me as soon as possible.

Visit the OIT Services page for a list of Applications and Software available through UTA.

Visit the UTA Libraries Technology page for a list of items that can be checked out or used at the library.

Assignments & Exams

Exams

There will be 4 exams (including the final) that will be worth 100 points each. The first three exams will cover a subset of chapters from the textbook, and the final exam will be comprehensive. The content for the exams will include material covered in both the textbook and in class, and material covered only in the textbook or covered only in class. Each exam will contain approximately 50 questions (e.g., multiple choice, T/F questions). In the lecture prior an exam we will hold a review session (see **Course Schedule** below), so be sure you attend class on these days to help you prepare for the exams. While taking an exam, only the browser and

tab in which you are taking the exam should be open. All browser tabs, programs, apps, etc., should be closed before beginning to take an exam. Browsing the internet (e.g., switching browser tabs), using notes or class materials (e.g., lecture slides), using the textbook, the use of GenAI, using your phone, or any other study aid is not allowed during exams as it will count as cheating. Cheating or other academic misconduct will be reported to the university as a violation of academic integrity and the exam will receive a grade of 0. Phones should be put away (e.g., in your pocket, backpack, etc.) while taking the exam, they are not allowed to be used during exams. Also, the lowest exam grade will not be dropped.

IMPORTANT – Exams (including the final exam) will be taken on Canvas **using Proctoring software** during class, so you will need to bring a laptop to class on exam dates (see the dates below). **You will NOT be able to receive credit for the exam if you are not present in the classroom.** Exams that are started or completed outside of the classroom will automatically receive a grade of 0. If you're unexpectedly unable to make it to an exam, you should not take the exam outside of class (otherwise it will receive a grade of 0), but you should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss if it's eligible to make up (see **Make-up Exams & Late Work Policy** section below). Also, **WEBCAMS WILL BE USED** during the exams to record the testing session, so you will need to make sure your laptop has a working webcam. It is your responsibility to make sure the proctoring software is installed and fully functional by the time you show up to class (or the ATC) for an exam. Be sure your laptop is fully charged before arriving in class so the battery won't run out during the exam. Students with accommodations may take the exams in the Alternative Testing Center (ATC).

SmartBook Assignments

Each SmartBook Assignment will help you learn the class material (e.g., using multiple choice questions) from a given chapter in the textbook and there will be one assignment for each chapter (total: 17). These assignments will be completed in Connect (accessed through links posted on Canvas). Take a look at the **Course Schedule** to check out the deadlines.

Core Curriculum Quiz

At the end of the semester, you will be required to take a comprehensive, multiple-choice quiz over the contents of the class that will be worth 40 points. More information about the quiz will be provided during class.

Syllabus Quiz

This is a simple, short quiz (worth 20 points) that will check your knowledge about this syllabus. You may take the quiz multiple times (the highest grade will be recorded) by the deadline (see **Course Schedule** below).

Research Participation Requirement

The Psychology Department requires that all students taking Introduction to Psychology complete a 6-credit research requirement. You will be able to complete this requirement by participating in on site or online research conducted by department faculty and their research assistants. As an alternative to participating in research, you may choose to write reviews of approved research articles. Completing this assignment will be done via Sona (https://uta.sonasystems.com/). A departmental handout detailing this requirement and important deadlines can be found at www.uta.edu/psychology at the research participation

information link. Questions pertaining to this assignment can be sent to psycpool@uta.edu. Points are not added to the course grade for completion of the research participation requirement. Further details about the alternative to participating in research will be provided during class.

If you fail to complete the Research Participation Requirement, you will receive an Incomplete for the course.

Grading Information

Assignments	Values (pts)
Exams (4)	400 points (100 each)
SmartBook Assignments (17)	340 points (20 each)
Syllabus Quiz	20 points
Core Curriculum Quiz	40 points
	Total: 800 points

Students are expected to track their performance throughout the semester, which Canvas facilitates, and seek guidance from available sources, including the instructor, if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. Refer to the Student Support Services section below.

Final grades will not be "bumped" up to a higher grade.

Final Grade Calculations

Earned (pts or %) Range	Letter Grade
89.5 – 100%: **716 – 800** points	A
79.5 – 89.4%: **636 – 715** points	B
69.5 – 79.4%: **556 – 635** points	C
59.5 – 69.4%: **476 – 555** points	D
0 – 59.4%: **0 – 475** points	F

Late Work Policy

All late work will incur a 5% penalty for every 24-hour period it is late.

Make-Up Exams Policy

Exams can be made up at the discretion of the professor and if you miss an exam day due to illness or a university-related event and you can provide the appropriate note to support the reason for your absence.

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester. For some extra credit opportunities, you will only be able to receive credit if you are present in class.

Grade Grievance Policy

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog: Grades and Grading Policies.

Course and University Policies

Attendance Policy

Students should review the University Class Attendance Policies on the Class Attendance Policies page. The following attendance policy will be applied in this course.

As the instructor of this section, I will not be taking daily attendance, but I strongly encourage you to be present in class every day to both help you keep up with the material and because we might have extra credit opportunities for which you can only receive credit if you are present in class.

Generative AI Use in This Course

The use of Generative AI (GenAI) in course assignments and assessments must align with the guidelines established by the instructor. Unauthorized use of GenAI could result in breaches of academic integrity. Instructors are responsible for clearly delineating the permissible uses of GenAI in their courses, underscoring the importance of responsible and ethical application of these tools.

Community Standards within the Office of the Dean of Students articulate the university's stance on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty. These standards extend to the use of GenAI. Unauthorized or unapproved use of GenAI in academic work falls within the scope of these policies and will be subject to the same disciplinary procedures.

As the instructor for this course, I have adopted the following policy on student use of GenAI.

Prohibition of GenAI Use:

In this course, the focus is on the development of independent critical thinking and the mastery of subject-specific content. To ensure that all submitted work accurately reflects personal understanding and original thought, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools in completing assignments or assessments is strictly prohibited. This policy supports our commitment to academic integrity and the direct measurement of each student's learning against the course's Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). Any work found to be generated by AI will be subject to academic review.

Institutional Policies

UTA students should review the University Catalog and the Syllabus Institutional Policies page for institutional policies and contact the specific office with any questions. The institutional information includes the following policies, among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Academic Integrity
- Electronic Communication

UTA Honor Code

UTA students are expected to adhere to and observe standards of conduct compatible with the University's functions as an educational institution and live by the University of Texas at

Arlington's Honor Code. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Arlington to uphold and support standards of personal honesty and integrity for all students consistent with the goals of a community of scholars and students seeking knowledge and responsibility.

Student Support Services

Student Services Page

The Student Services page provides links to many resources available to UTA students, including:

- Academic Success
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Health Services
- Students with Disabilities
- Veteran Services

Students are also encouraged to check out Career Center resources to enhance their career-readiness, find student employment, search for internships, and more. We encourage Major Exploration and the use of Experiential Major Maps to keep students on track for graduation. Refer to the Graduation Help Desk for more details.

Accessibility of Course Materials

Some course materials, such as PDFs of musical scores, technical drawings, graphs, blueprints, design plans, or artworks (common in fields like drawing, painting, or construction drafting), may not fully comply with all Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) requirements.

The University of Texas at Arlington is dedicated to ensuring all students have equal access to information. If you experience any accessibility barriers with course materials, please know that accommodations are available. You can get assistance through the Student Access and Resource (SAR) Center or by contacting your instructor directly. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.

Online Academic Success Guide

Visit the Online Academic Success Guide to explore a list of helpful tips and resources to help you succeed in your online journey.

UTA Health and Wellbeing Resources

UT Arlington is committed to the safety, success, and well-being of our students. To support our community, UTA has established a Community Advocacy, Response, and Engagement (CARE) Team, a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for helping students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risks to the health or safety of the community. If you know of someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, needing resources, or causing a significant disruption to the UTA community, please submit a CARE Referral by visiting the CARE Team page. You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support.

UTA students also have access to virtual, on-demand emotional support, appointment-based counseling, advanced psychiatric care, and more. For more information, visit TimelyCare.

NOTE: If a person's behavior poses an immediate threat to you or someone else, contact UTA Police at 817-272-3003 or dial 911. If you or someone you know needs to speak with a crisis counselor, please reach out to the MAVS TALK 24-hour Crisis Line at 817-272-8255 or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to Librarians by Academic Subject who can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism, citation references, as well as support with databases and course reserves.

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments Due
Week 1	Mon. 1/12	Class Intro & Ch. 1: What is Psychology?	
	Wed. 1/14	Ch. 1 (cont.)	
	Fri. 1/16	Ch. 2: Psychology's Scientific Method	**Syllabus Quiz Due** (11:59pm)
Week 2	Mon. 1/19	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	
	Wed. 1/21	Ch. 2 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 1 - 2 Due** (11:59pm)
	Fri. 1/23	Ch. 3: Biological Foundations of Behavior	
Week 3	Mon. 1/26	Ch. 3 (cont.)	
	Wed. 1/28	Ch. 4: Sensation and Perception	
	Fri. 1/30	Ch. 4 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 3 - 4 Due** (11:59pm)
Week 4	Mon. 2/02	Exam Review	
	Wed. 2/04	Exam #1	
	Fri. 2/06	Ch. 5: States of Consciousness	
Week 5	Mon. 2/09	Ch. 5 (cont.)	
	Wed. 2/11	Ch. 6: Learning	
	Fri. 2/13	Ch. 6 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 5 - 6 Due** (11:59pm)
Week 6	Mon. 2/16	Ch. 7: Memory	
	Wed. 2/18	Ch. 7 (cont.)	
	Fri. 2/20	Ch. 7 (cont.)	
Week 7	Mon. 2/23	Ch. 8: Thinking, Intelligence, & Language	
	Wed. 2/25	Ch. 8 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 7 - 8 Due** (11:59pm)
	Fri. 2/27	Exam Review	
Week 8	Mon. 3/02	Exam #2	
	Wed. 3/04	Ch. 9: Human Development	
	Fri. 3/06	Ch. 9 (cont.)	
Week 9	Mon. 3/09	Spring Break	
	Wed. 3/11		
	Fri. 3/13		
Week 10	Mon. 3/16	Ch. 10: Motivation and Emotion	
	Wed. 3/18	Ch. 10 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 9 - 10 Due** (11:59pm)
	Fri. 3/20	Ch. 11: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	
Week 11	Mon. 3/23	Ch. 11 (cont.)	
	Wed. 3/25	Ch. 12: Personality	
	Fri. 3/27	Ch. 12 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 11 - 12 Due** (11:59pm)

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments Due
Week 12	Mon. 3/30	Exam Review	
	Wed. 4/01	Exam #3	
	Fri. 4/03	Ch. 13: Social Psychology	
Week 13	Mon. 4/06	Ch. 13 (cont.)	
	Wed. 4/08	Ch. 14: Industrial and Organizational Psychology	
	Fri. 4/10	Ch. 14 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 13 - 14 Due** (11:59pm)
Week 14	Mon. 4/13	Ch. 15: Psychological Disorders	
	Wed. 4/15	Ch. 15 (cont.)	
	Fri. 4/17	Ch. 16: Therapies	
Week 15	Mon. 4/20	Ch. 16 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignments Ch. 15 - 16 Due** (11:59pm)
	Wed. 4/22	Ch. 17: Health Psychology	
	Fri. 4/24	Ch. 17 (cont.)	**Smart Book Assignment Ch. 17 Due** (11:59pm)
Week 16	Mon. 4/27	Exam Review	**Core Curriculum Quiz**
	Wed. 4/29	Student Study Day (No Class)	
	Fri. 5/01	**Final Exam** – Friday, May 1st 8:00am – 10:30am Room SH 103	