

# PSYC 1315 Syllabus for Spring 2026

## Instructor Information

- **Name:** Rachel Baldridge, M.S.
- **Office Location:** SWSH 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
- **Email:** [Rachel.baldridge@uta.edu](mailto:Rachel.baldridge@uta.edu)
- **Faculty Profile:** [Click Here](#)
- **Office Hours:** By Appointment Only

## Course Information

### Section Information

PSYC 1315-700

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the phenomena, principles, and theories of psychology. Psychologists study how biological, cognitive, social, and cultural factors interact to determine how we develop such a complex range of behaviors, emotions, and cognitions. Psychologists seek to understand why and how risk factors lead some individuals to suffer from psychological disorders, while others are resilient in the face of adversity. This course is designed to interest and meet the needs of both psychology majors and non-majors. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences. As such, it contains core objectives in critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility.

### Time and Place of Class Meetings

This course is online and asynchronous, with deadlines in Central Time.

### Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to:

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

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:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills** include effective development, interpretation and

expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility** includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

## Course Materials & Technology

### Textbook Information

Required Textbook:

King, Laura (2023) The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View e-book with accompanying Connect Plus software.

Your textbook (eBook) and other learning resources are all linked directly to your course to ensure that you have the correct course materials on the first day of class, and at a much lower cost. The charge for your eBook and other digital materials goes directly to your UTA account, making it eligible for Financial Aid. You may also purchase a loose-leaf copy of the textbook from McGraw-Hill if you would like to have a physical copy of the text. **The link to the eBook and Connect will be available in Canvas.** When registering for Connect for the first time, you must log in to Connect through Canvas to sync up your Connect and Canvas gradebooks. If students fail to sync their accounts, they will not have their Connect grades show up in Canvas, and they will have 10 points deducted from their overall grade. **Please use your UTA email address when you register for Connect. Registration for the class within Connect will not be available until the course start date.**

Connect Plus can be accessed on your iPhone or iPad and synced with your Canvas:

- Go here to download the iPhone app:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learnsmart/id365879172?mt=8>
- All work completed on the iPhone/ iPad app WILL sync with Canvas; however, you MUST check in via computer once per chapter to get the mobile work to sync.

### Technology & Equipment Requirements

Canvas: Canvas will be an important component of the course throughout the semester. **All course communication will come via Announcements in Canvas so please check daily.** In addition, grades and supplemental resources are posted on Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1 (855) 597-3401.

Microsoft PowerPoint: PowerPoints will be provided within Canvas for each chapter, and you will need to download the PowerPoints in order to access the lecture audio. All students can download Microsoft Office for free using this link: [Free Microsoft Office Download](#)

Microsoft Teams: Office hours will be held via Microsoft Teams. There may also be opportunities to meet as a class via Teams as well. **Students must log in using their UTA email address.**

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

### Syllabus Quiz

The Syllabus Quiz is administered within Canvas to ensure students understand the course structure and expectations. It is a 10-point quiz that students can take as many times as necessary to earn a perfect score.

### SmartBooks

SmartBook is an interactive text designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The SmartBook system, which can be found in Connect, continually adjusts to your level of content mastery. A link to each SmartBook assignment can be found in Canvas.

Each chapter on average will take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete, depending on your level of mastery. Each SmartBook assignment is worth 10 points, for a total of 130 possible points. Students may continue to utilize SmartBook as a study tool, even after they have earned credit. SmartBook assignments will be automatically graded within Connect. Students will receive credit based on whether they spent the required time (30-45 minutes, depending on level of mastery).

### Chapter Discussions

There are 17 Chapter Discussions within Canvas. **Students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment as a whole, and they will be reported to the Office of Community Standards. This includes students who copy and paste from platforms similar to ChatGPT.** A rubric is included within Canvas, and the grading of discussions will be completed following the Unit Deadline.

### Quizzes

There are 13 chapter quizzes that are worth 15 points each. The quizzes can be accessed in Connect via Canvas. These quizzes are meant to help with better comprehension and application. For this reason, you may use your textbook to answer questions, and you will have two attempts. Students are encouraged to take advantage of both attempts in order to earn the highest points possible. The highest score will automatically be recorded. **I will not give you one of your attempts back due to technical issues** (poor wifi connection, dead battery on your computer, etc.) so please make sure that nothing is going to interfere with completing your quiz. The quizzes have a time limit of 25 minutes. **If you start a quiz and do not finish, Connect Plus will automatically submit your attempt so please be sure to not begin a quiz unless you have the time to finish it.** Quizzes are automatically graded, with the highest grade kept.

## Core Curriculum Quiz

The Core Curriculum objectives (critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility) will be assessed as items in an end of course, multiple-choice, 43-question quiz that will be posted on Canvas, and it will be automatically graded.

## Final Exam

There will be a comprehensive Final Exam at the conclusion of the course that will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. Students will have access to the eBook and their own, personal notes during the Final Exam, but must complete the exam entirely on their own. The Final Exam will have a time limit of 110 minutes. As with quizzes, please make sure to allot yourself adequate time to complete the exams. **Connect will automatically submit your exam if you fail to finish the exam so make sure you have enough time to complete the exam and that you will not have technical issues that interfere. The exam will automatically be graded.**

## Grading Information

Assignments		Values
Syllabus Quiz		10 points
SmartBooks	17 @ 10 points each	170 points
Chapter Discussions	17 @ 15 points each	255 points
Quizzes	17 @ 15 points each	255 points
Core Curriculum Quiz		40 points
Final Exam		100 points
		Total: 820 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 Grade Calculations

Earned Points	Letter Grade
734 – 820	A
652 – 733	B
570 – 651	C
488 – 569	D
Below 488	F

**Should there be any discrepancy between the letter grade that is automatically calculated by Canvas and the syllabus grading scale, the syllabus grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade.**

**Do not e-mail the instructor to ask for more points so that you can get the grade that you want. If you want a specific grade, then you need to put in the effort necessary to obtain said grade. I do not round up to the next letter grade so pay close attention to the cut-off for each letter grade.**

## Late Work Policy

This course is an asynchronous, online course, meaning students have all resources, assignments and exams available from the course start date. Students are given the flexibility to complete the coursework when they are able to, with the expectation that they submit all coursework by the indicated unit deadlines. Because of this, late work will NOT be accepted, with the exception of formal documentation related to ongoing illness.

## 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](#). The grade grievance form can be found [here](#).

## Course & 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 online section, I have structured this course in a manner that facilitates your participation. Your progress with online reading assignments and quizzes will be monitored and tracked, similar to physical attendance in a traditional class setting.

While UTA does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

### Instructor's Email Policy

Students can expect a reply within 48 hours for emails sent Monday through Thursday, 8am to 5pm. Emails sent between Friday and Sunday can expect a reply by Monday no later than 5pm. If the answer to a student's question can be readily found in the Syllabus and/or Canvas, the student should expect a brief reply of “See Syllabus/Canvas”.

### 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.

## Course Schedule

### Unit 1: Chapters 1 – 5

Syllabus Quiz

### Chapter 1 – What is Psychology?

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 2 – Psychology’s Scientific Method

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 3 – Biological Foundations of Behavior

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 4 – Sensation & Perception

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

**Unit 1 Final Deadline is Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm**

The Syllabus Quiz, all Chapters 1 – 5 SmartBook Assignments, Canvas Discussions, and Quizzes must be completed. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

## Unit 2: Chapters 6 – 9

### Chapter 6 – Learning

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 7 – Memory

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 8 – Thinking, Intelligence, and Language

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 9 – Human Development

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

**Unit 2 Final Deadline is Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

All Chapter 5 – 8 SmartBook Assignments, Canvas Discussions, and Quizzes must be completed. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

## UNIT 3: Chapters 10 – 13

### Chapter 10 – Motivation & Emotion

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 11 – Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 12 – Personality

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 13 – Social Psychology

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Unit 3 Exam – Chapters 10 – 13

**Unit 3 Final Deadline is Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

- All Chapter 9 – 13 SmartBook Assignments, Canvas Discussions, and Quizzes must be completed. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

## UNIT 4: Chapters 14 – 17

### Chapter 14 – Industrial & Organizational Psychology

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 16 – Therapies

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Chapter 17 – Health Psychology

- SmartBook
- Discussion
- Quiz

### Core Curriculum Quiz

## **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM – Chapters 1 – 17**

**Unit 4 & Final Exam Deadline is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

All SmartBook Assignments, Canvas Discussions, Quizzes, the **Core Curriculum Quiz**, and the Final Exam must be submitted. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Rachel Baldridge, M.S.*