

Course Syllabus
General Psychology (PSY 2012)
Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Ronald D. Blue, Jr.
Office/Classroom: Building 11, Room 223
Phone: (850) 474-2107
Email: rblue@uwf.edu
Class meeting times: Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-5:15pm
Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 5:15-6:00, 7:15-7:30, and by email
Credit: 3.0 Credit Hours
Prerequisites or Corequisites: None

Welcome to General Psychology! I am excited to be your instructor for the course and I believe you will enjoy your experience. We will learn as a team while exploring a diverse array of ideas and topics. Our class will be a mixture of activities that will require you to read, think, reflect, problem solve, and collaborate.

Course Description: A survey of methods, theories, and body of knowledge of contemporary psychology, including such topics as learning, motivation, sensation and perception, development, thinking, personality, social behavior, psychological adjustment, and methods of therapy. Meets General Education requirement in Social Sciences.

General Psychology is designated as a General Education course. The General Education curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies. This course has been approved as meeting your Florida Common Core requirement in the Social Sciences area. The major General Education learning outcomes for this course are Critical Thinking and Integrity/Values.

Critical thinking (solve problems using social science methods), and Integrity/Values (reason ethically in an appropriate disciplinary context). Critical Thinking will be assessed through practice activities and exams applying psychological principles to address behavioral problems described later in the syllabus. Integrity/Values will be assessed via written, multiple choice, short answer and essay examinations. A separate Research Methods/Statistics and Integrity/Values will be assessed via an online quiz.

If you are interested in a major in Psychology you should contact the Psychology Department at 850-474-2363. If you are undecided about your major you should contact your academic advisor or contact the Career Center at 850-474-2254.

Required Materials & Textbook

- Internet Access (broadband is recommended)
- Activated UWF ArgoNet Account

Minimum Technical Skills and Special Technology Utilized by Students

- Activate a MyUWF student account
- Access the MyUWF portal a minimum of 2-3 times a week
- Access UWF email account (Gmail) 2-3 times a week
- Have basic word-processing knowledge
- Other skills or technologies, if applicable

See the UWF Resources Important Student Information page for technology web links.

Technology Support Canvas Support Hotline (Open 24/7) - 1-844-866-3349

UWF ITS Help Desk - 1-850-474-2075 or email itshelpdesk@uwf.edu

The required text for our class is: Psychology in Everyday Life, 4th Edition (Myers & DeWall)- ISBN-13: 978-1319104191, ISBN-10: 1319104193. This book is available through the bookstore and other commercial outlets. The textbook for this course is also available on Reserve at the Circulation Desk at the John C. Pace Library for a 2-hour loan period (books must stay in the Library). Please take advantage of this resource, but keep in mind that copies of textbooks for each course are limited and may be in use by another student, particularly right before an assignment or reading is due, so plan your textbook use accordingly.

Attendance Statement for General Education Courses

Per [UWF AC-33.01](#), the University expects students to take full responsibility for their academic work and academic progress. To progress satisfactorily, students must meet the requirements of each course for which they are registered. Successful work depends to a large extent on regular class attendance. Student attendance in General Studies Courses is mandatory. Class attendance is regarded as an academic matter. Each faculty member will provide a written attendance policy to each class within the first week of classes. It is the responsibility of students to know the attendance policy of each course they are taking. Students must inform their instructor(s) of absences from classes prior to or as soon as possible after the absence. Instructors have the right to request verification for all excused absences. Students are held accountable for all assignments in each course, whether or not the assignments were announced during an absence. Faculty members must allow each student who is absent due to a reason recognized or accepted as an "excused absence," as set forth below, the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence. The use of attendance records in grading and handling of any excuses for absences is left to the discretion of the faculty member responsible for the course, subject to the guidelines given below:

- Students will be excused from class to observe religious holidays of their faith in accordance with [UWF REG 3.041 Religious Observances](#). No major test, major class event, or major University activity will be scheduled on a major religious holiday.
- Absences for imposed legal responsibilities (e.g., jury duty, court appearance) and military obligations will be recognized as excused absences.

- Absences resulting from participation in extracurricular activities in which students are official representatives of the University will be recognized as excused absences.
- Absences for serious illness, death or serious illness within the student's immediate family or other sound reasons offered by the student may be accepted as excused absences.

The Student Handbook requires students to make arrangements with their instructors for any assignments or tests that may be missed because of an excused absence before any scheduled absence for a University-sponsored event (p. 8, [**UWF Student Planner and Handbook**](#)). You can find the University of West Florida's attendance policy here: <https://catalog.uwf.edu/undergraduate/classattendance/>

Important Information and Updates

Course information, including any changes or updates as the course progresses will be conveyed to students through **Canvas/Classmate**. Additional information regarding key policies and processes that are relevant to all General Education courses at UWF, including this one, can be found on the [General Education website](#).

Class Attendance Policy: Attendance is vital to classroom performance and is mandatory in a General Education course. In addition, attendance is a component of grading. Students will be asked to sign the roll sheet for each class meeting (signing on another student's behalf is considered academic misconduct). If you miss class or do not complete the attendance record you will be considered absent. Only absences that are defined in the University class attendance policy will be considered excused absences. Please be prepared to provide appropriate documentation (e.g., note from health care professional) for an excuse to be honored. Students are expected to turn in missed assignments and complete exams immediately upon return.

The following point structure will be used to calculate the attendance portion of grading: If more than three (3) unexcused absences are accrued, the overall (final grade/points) will be reduced by five (5) points for each absence after the third. Again, please be prepared to provide appropriate documentation (e.g., note from health care professional) for an excuse to be honored.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through the completion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Understand the basic methods employed in psychological research.
- Describe the professional ethical principles that apply to the practical applications and research activities of the discipline of psychology.
- Provide examples of theories and applications of the learning, social, emotional, biological, cognitive, and developmental influences on behavior.
- Exhibit discipline-based higher order thinking skills.
- Practice appropriate standards related to respect for intellectual property.

Requirements: As a university student, you are regarded as a responsible adult, capable of making independent decisions. Therefore, what you learn and the grade you earn in this class are in your hands. Please refer to the university policy on class attendance in the [UWF Catalog](#). This class is set up to follow a weekly sequence of activities (modules) for you to follow (readings, quizzes, lectures, and exams). It is your responsibility to stay on task. Material presented in class may include material from sources other than the textbook.

Grading: Students will be assessed on five (5) exams, a Research Project, Psychology Research Pool (PRP) participation (ArgoPoints), a Research Methods/Statistics and Integrity/Values online quiz, and optional extra credit projects.

Each exam and final project will be worth 100 points. Questions on exams will be developed from course lectures and information from the textbook and may include short answer, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, multiple choice and essay questions. Points from exams, research paper, PRP participation (ArgoPoints), and the online Research Methods/Statistics and Integrity/Values quiz will be summed (619 total points) to produce a final class grade (see below for grading scale and point/grade ranges).

As part of your grade, you are required to earn 4 ArgoPoints. You may also earn three (3) additional ArgoPoints to apply as extra credit in the class. Students may earn additional points by completing extra credit assignments on topics related to the course. A separate Module outlining specific requirements will be provided in Canvas.

For the Research Project, students will select a topic and corresponding reading material approved by the instructor. Students will compose a research paper synthesizing the subject of their reading material and the ideas, psychological theories, techniques, and/or methods covered in the course. The first part of the paper should include an executive summary and in the second part students will integrate course content, application, and reflection. A rubric will be provided in Canvas outlining specific components for the paper.

The following point structure will be used to calculate the attendance portion of grading: If more than three (3) unexcused absences are accrued, the overall (final grade/points) will be reduced by five (5) points for each absence after the third. Once again, please provide appropriate documentation (e.g., note from health care professional) for an excuse to be honored.

Grade scheme with ranges & points

Letter grades will be assigned as follows (numbers in the right column represent the minimum total points necessary to attain the designated numeric grade):

A 94% to 100%	581
A- 90% to 93.9%	557

B+ 87% to 89.9%	538
B 84% to 86.9%	519
B- 80% to 83.9%	495
C+ 77% to 79.9%	476
C 74% to 76.9%	458
C- 70% to 73.9%	433
D 61% to 69.9%	377
F 0% to 60.9%	371

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the class design as conditions warrant.

Research Engagement: Psychology Research Pool (PRP) Participation

Research Articles Deadline: Friday, November 18th

Research Studies Deadline: Wednesday, November 23rd

A required part of this course is participating in psychological research via the Psychology Research Pool (PRP) at UWF. ArgoPoints are research participation credits that will be translated into course & extra credit at the end of the semester. These activities are designed to enhance your understanding of current psychological research. **You must sign up for a PRP account at <https://uwfprp.sona-systems.com/>.** Please sign up in the 2nd week of the semester NOT the first week as classes will not be set up.

As part of your grade, you are required to earn 4 ArgoPoints. You can also earn 3 additional ArgoPoints to apply as extra credit in the class. You cannot earn more than 7 total ArgoPoints for this class.

There are 2 options for earning ArgoPoints through the PRP:

Option 1: Participating in research studies. You can earn ArgoPoints by being a participant in a research study through the PRP. You can find a list of current studies on the PRP webpage at <https://uwfprp.sona-systems.com/>. Studies may be in a laboratory setting on campus or may be research completed online. You will earn 1 ArgoPoint for every half hour of participation, and 1 additional point for participating in laboratory studies or for completing multi-session studies.

Option 2: Reading Psychological Research. If you do not want to participate in a study or you cannot participate in a study (e.g., no time slots fit your schedule, you do not fit the participant criteria, etc.), you can also earn ArgoPoints by reading and summarizing an empirical journal article. Each study will have ONE paper associated with the study. You can read that study instead of participating in the study. If you participate in the study, you cannot also do the paper associated with THAT study.

You can find a list of approved articles as well as instructions on how to complete and submit article summaries by emailing in Sona or by contacting the PRP Coordinator. **All articles must be turned in to the PRP Coordinator (NOT your instructor), spbsprp@uwf.edu.**

If your article summary shows signs of plagiarism (e.g., language comes directly from the article, or the summary has also been submitted by another student, etc.), the incident will be reported to Student Affairs.

You may choose to earn ArgoPoints by completing only Option 1, only Option 2, or any combination of both options 1 and 2. You can track your ArgoPoints online at <https://uwfprp.sona-systems.com/>. I will add your points to your final points total at the end of the semester. **All PRP related questions should be sent to the PRP Coordinator at spbsprp@uwf.edu.** You can find answers to frequently asked questions here: <https://uwf.edu/ukcoh/departments/psychology/research/psychology-research-pool/>

Expectations for Academic Conduct / Plagiarism Policy

The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The Student Code of Academic Conduct defines various forms of academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, and describes the process for addressing allegations of academic misconduct. More information and links to the University regulations governing both student conduct and academic conduct can be found on the Dean of Students website listed under the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (See: UWF Resources > [Important Student Information for web links](#))

Class Rules:

Students are expected to adhere to University rules of conduct regarding courtesy and cheating. The [Student Code of Conduct](#) (PDF) sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) (2009) defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Student Accessibility Resources:

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the [Student Accessibility Resources](#) (SAR). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850-474-2387.

Veterans Services Statement:

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill ® education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in Bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 850-474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>

Reserve/National Guard Duty:

To fulfill a reservist or National Guard military obligation of no more than two weeks concurrent with a normal academic semester at UWF, students must receive written permission for such absences from the instructors and departmental chairpersons for each course in which they are enrolled. The approval is not automatic but is discretionary with the instructors and departmental chairpersons.

Information for Students Who Receive Financial Aid:

In compliance with federal regulations, financial aid can only be disbursed to students who have 'confirmed attendance' during their first week of the classes. Confirmed attendance is conducted by verifying classroom attendance. If you have been approved for financial aid, your money will not be released until I confirm your attendance. To receive financial aid on the normal distribution timeline, your attendance must be confirmed within seven calendar days of the course start date. You can check see if I have confirmed your attendance using the "My Classes" app in MyUWF. If you stop attending class for any reason, you will not automatically be

withdrawn, and you will still be responsible for any missed work. If you simply stop coming to class you may be awarded a grade of NF, which may affect your financial aid eligibility or require you to repay some of the funds awarded to you.

Emergency Information and Course Continuity Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the campus might be closed and classes cancelled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM.

Weather Emergency Information

- WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the University. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast.
- In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and MyUWF will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes, and the closing of the University.

Emergency plans for the University of West Florida related to inclement weather are available on the following UWF web pages: [Hurricane preparedness and other emergency procedures.](#)

University Policies

Discrimination or Harassment Reporting

The University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination and harassment policies. Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty are required to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with the UWF's Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420. This service is free for students. Faculty can also help direct you, or you may refer to the [University's Title IX website.](#)

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will

be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, www.uwf.edu/sar, e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850-474-2387.

Mental Health Support

At the University of West Florida, we recognize that to learn, thrive, and flourish; you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources online or on campus.

- For health concerns, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172.
- For mental health or substance use concerns, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420.
- For 24/7 crisis counseling, call 850-474-2420 and press option 6.

All students are encouraged to utilize Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) to strengthen skills to cope with anxiety, depression, stress management, and more. TAO is an interactive web-based self-help program that is available 24/7. Access TAO anonymously at uwf.edu/tao.

If you feel like you need somewhere to talk anonymously to others who can support you, peer support is available to all students 24/7 via TogetherAll. TogetherAll is an online community where members are anonymous and can share how they are feeling and support each other. Learn more and join TogetherAll at uwf.edu/togetherall

Mental Health is one aspect of holistic health, which encompasses all of the eight wellness dimensions. The eight dimensions do not have to be equally balanced. Instead, you should strive to achieve your own authentic personal harmony. You have unique goals, priorities, and aspirations. You determine how to live your best life. ArgoWell is here to help you make the healthy choice, the easy choice, and support you in your wellness journey. Meet ArgoWell

The Office of Case Management Services is available to help students experiencing challenging or difficult life circumstances which might impede academic success. For example, unforeseen events or circumstances may occur that cause a student to be absent from class. These could include illness, bereavement, accident or a catastrophic event such as a fire. If such issues arise, students are encouraged to notify their instructors as soon as possible in order to apprise them of the circumstances leading to their absence from classes and to develop a plan, with a timetable, to make up missed coursework. Professors may require students to provide documentation to Case Management Services following an absence. If required, students should contact Case Management Services to discuss the circumstances of the absence, submit supporting documentation and review available supportive resources. Among the most critical functions of case management at UWF are identifying campus and community resources, analyzing students' concerns, recommending appropriate solutions and courses of action and determining possible outcomes.

Modality Syllabus Statement

University of West Florida operations may be disrupted from time to time by weather, pandemics, and other events outside of our control. It is important for faculty and students alike to plan for contingencies that may affect individual course sections. With this in mind, faculty may opt to hold some class meetings in a modality other than that originally planned in order to

make certain that the class continues in the best manner possible given the immediate circumstances. It is important to be flexible and understand that we are operating in a dynamic environment.

Recording in Class Statement

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by faculty or guest lecturer, as part of a University of West Florida course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. The following actions are prohibited: recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of UWF-REG 3.010 Student Code of Conduct and may be a violation of the law.

Course Schedule

Month & Day	Topic
8/23	Welcome, Introduction, Course Outline & Requirements
8/25	Chapter 1: Thinking Critically in Psychology; Philosophy of Science
8/30	Ethics, Research Methodology & Statistics: Appendix A (pp. A1-A9) of text; PRP registration
9/1	Chapter 2: The Biology of Behavior
9/6	Chapter 2: The Biology of Behavior (Part II); Anatomy & Physiology of the Brain + Neuroscience
9/8	Chapter 3: Consciousness
9/13	Exam 1 Chapters 1, 2, & 3; EC1
9/15	Chapter 4: Developing Through the Lifespan
9/20	Chapter 4: Developing Through the Lifespan (Part II); Child Psychology
9/22	Research Project Development (Pace Library), Individual Presentations
9/27	Chapter 5: Sex, Gender & Sexuality
9/29	Exam 2 Chapters 4 & 5; EC2
10/4	Chapter 6: Sensation & Perception; Research Methods/Integrity Canvas Course
10/6	Chapter 7: Learning
10/11	Chapter 8: Memory
10/13	Chapter 9: Thinking, Language, and Intelligence + Artificial Intelligence
10/18	Exam 3 Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 9; EC3
10/20	Chapter 10: Motivation & Emotion; Chapter 11: Stress, Health, and Human Flourishing
10/25	Chapter 12: Social Psychology
10/27	Chapter 12: Social Psychology (Part II)
11/1	Exam 4 Chapters 10, 11 & 12
11/3	Chapter 13: Personality
11/8	Chapter 13: Personality (Part II)
11/10	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
11/15	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders (Part II); *Research Project Due
11/17	Forensic Psychology & Behavioral Pathology; PRP Articles Deadline 11/18
11/22	Chapter 15: Therapy; PRP Studies Deadline 11/23
11/24	Thanksgiving Day (No class meeting)
11/29	Chapter 15: Therapy (Part II); Conclusions & Reflections-The Unification & Application of Knowledge
12/1	Review for Final Exam
Thursday Dec 8 2-4:30pm	Final Exam: Chapters 13, 14 & 15 Personality, Psychological Disorders, Psychotherapy, Forensic Psychology & Behavioral Pathology + Cumulative Concepts

*Please check [the official UWF Academic Calendar](#) for important dates, including holidays, withdrawal, and registration dates. Note: Content of Syllabus is subject to change. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the class design as conditions warrant. Students will be notified.