Instructor Information

Instructor:
Rachel Baldridge, M.S.

Office Number:
LS 408

Office Telephone Number:
817-272-2281

Email Address:
rachel.baldridge@uta.edu

Faculty Profile:
My Faculty Profile

Office Hours:
TBD

Course Information

Section Information:
PSYC 1315-009

Time and Place of Class Meetings:
Online

Description of Course Content:
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.

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
- Have a basic understanding when reading and evaluating psychology articles
- 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:
• **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.

**Assessment of Core Curriculum Objectives:**

The Core Curriculum objectives (critical thinking, communication, empirical and quantitative reasoning, and social responsibility) will be assessed as items in an end of year quiz to be explained by your course instructor. Completion of this assessment is required in order to fulfill Core Curriculum objectives.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

**Textbook & Connect Plus**  

The e-book and Connect Plus bundle can be purchased at the UTA bookstore. Using older additions of the textbook should be done at the student’s own risk. There is also the option of purchasing online access to Connect and the digital textbook directly from the Connect website. Connect provides a free two-week trial so there is no excuse for missing the Unit 1 deadline. **You MUST purchase access to Connect in order to pass this course.** It is in your best interest that you do so before your two-week trial runs out, should you choose to go that route.

**Canvas**

As an online course, Canvas will be integral throughout the semester for access to your grades, Connect Plus resources and assignments among other things. Make sure you have access to Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1 (855) 597-3401 or visiting https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**LearnSmart Module Assignments**: LearnSmart is an interactive text designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The LearnSmart system continually adjusts to your level of content mastery. A link to each LearnSmart assignment can be found on Canvas. LearnSmart modules will be due on the last day of the unit by 5pm – see course calendar for all due dates.

Each chapter on average will take approximately 45 to 60 minutes to complete and will include between 50 - 75 questions. Scores are assigned based on the percentage of mastery for each assignment. Each LearnSmart module will be worth 10 points. Although students may believe that 10 points is a small amount of points for 45 to 60 minutes of their time, this is what they should consider their “classroom” time that they would typically have in a traditional lecture setting as they are tasked to learn and apply the material they are reading in the text.

The LearnSmart Assignments can also be accessed on your iPhone or iPad and synced with 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.

**Chapter Quizzes**: There are 17 chapter quizzes that are worth 15 points each. The quizzes can be accessed on the Connect Plus site 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 with the highest score being 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 45
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.

**Exams:** There will be three regular exams (50 multiple choice questions) and a comprehensive final exam (100 multiple choice questions). Each exam is worth 100 points each. Unit exams must be submitted by 5pm on the last day of the unit, no exceptions. The final exam must be submitted by 5pm on Thursday, May 14th – see the course calendar for all due dates.

Unit exams will have a time limit of 60 minutes, while 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 Plus 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.

**Grading Information**

**Summary of Graded Work:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LearnSmart Assignments</td>
<td>17 @ 10 points each</td>
<td>170 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>17 @ 15 points each</td>
<td>255 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Curriculum Quiz</td>
<td>1 @ 40 points</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Exams</td>
<td>3 @ 100 points each</td>
<td>300 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Final Exam</td>
<td>1 @ 100 points</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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Total Points Possible: 865 points

**Final Grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>778 - 865</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>692 - 777</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>605 - 691</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>519 - 604</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 518</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Policies:**
The instructor reserves the right to include additional assignments, tests and/or unannounced quizzes, increasing the number of total possible points.

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 me 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21 – February 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1 – What is Psychology?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 2 – Psychology’s Scientific Method</td>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 3 – Biological Foundations of Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 4 – Sensation &amp; Perception</td>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness</td>
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<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<td>• Quiz</td>
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**EXAM 1**

**ALL UNIT 1 COURSEWORK AND EXAM 1 ARE DUE BY FEBRUARY 20th AT 5PM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 20 – March 19</th>
<th>Unit 2: Chapters 6 – 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6 – Learning</td>
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<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 7 – Memory</td>
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<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 8 – Thinking, Intelligence &amp; Language</td>
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<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<td>• Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 9 – Human Development</td>
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<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<td>• Quiz</td>
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**EXAM 2**

**ALL UNIT 2 COURSEWORK AND EXAM 2 ARE DUE BY 5PM ON MARCH 19th**

<p>| March 19 – April 16 | Unit 3: Chapters 10, 11, 17, 12 &amp; 13 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 10 – Motivation &amp; Emotion</th>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 11 – Gender, Sex &amp; Sexuality</th>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<th>Chapter 17 – Health Psychology</th>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<th>Chapter 12 – Personality</th>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<th>Chapter 13 – Social Psychology</th>
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<tr>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EXAM 3**

ALL UNIT 3 ASSIGNMENTS, EXAM 3 ARE DUE BY 5PM ON APRIL 16TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 16 – May 7</th>
<th>Unit 4: Chapters 14 – 16 and the Core Assessment Quiz</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 14 – Industrial/Organizational Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• LearnSmart</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Quiz</td>
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|                                    | Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders                   |
|                                    | • LearnSmart                                           |
|                                    | • Quiz                                                 |

|                                    | Chapter 16 – Therapies                                 |
|                                    | • LearnSmart                                           |
|                                    | • Quiz                                                 |

CORE CURRICULUM QUIZ (Canvas)

**THE CORE CURRICULUM QUIZ AND ALL UNIT 4 ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY 5PM ON MAY 7TH**

| May 14th                           | DEADLINE FOR FINAL EXAM IS 5PM                          |

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.

**Institution Information**

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the
Institutional Information page (http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Attendance:
At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. 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 UT Arlington 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 need to do their due-diligence to find the answers to their questions regarding the course before reaching out to me via email so please refer to the syllabus and Canvas before emailing me your question. I will try to respond to your email during the week in a timely manner, but you may follow up with me if I do not respond within 48 hours Monday through Friday. If you email me over the weekend, I will respond by the end of the day on Monday. However, if the answer to your question can be found in the syllabus, I may simply reply to your email “See Syllabus”.

Student Success Programs:
Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring by appointment, drop-in tutoring, etutoring, supplemental instruction, mentoring (time management, study skills, etc.), success coaching, TRIO Student Support Services, and student success workshops. For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the Maverick Resources website.

The IDEAS Center (https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring and mentoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR):
The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the Writing Center (https://uta.mywconline.com). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see Writing Center: OWL for detailed information on all our programs and services.
The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza (http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation.

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

**Emergency Phone Numbers**
In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

**Library Information**

**Research or General Library Help**
Ask for Help
- Academic Plaza Consultation Services (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- Ask Us (ask.uta.edu/)
- Research Coaches (http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach)

**Resources**
- Library Tutorials (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- Subject and Course Research Guides (libguides.uta.edu)
- Librarians by Subject (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- A to Z List of Library Databases (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- Course Reserves (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- Study Room Reservations (openroom.uta.edu/)