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Course syllabus

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

School of Arts and Sciences

Introduction to General Psychology (PSYC 1101)

CRN: 80235 (Section 101)

Instructor Information		
	Name:	Dr. Damon A. McCoy
	Office location:	Virtual – Microsoft Teams (No Physical Campus Location)
	Office telephone:	(404) 721-4938 (Send a text message before attempting to call)
	Email Address	dmccoy@atlm.edu
	Office Hours:	<p>Mondays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Thursdays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Fridays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</p> <p>Office hour disclaimer: If you cannot meet with the instructor during office hours, you may schedule an appointment based on the instructor's availability.</p>
Course Information		
	Pre-requisites	Exit or exemption from Learning Support Reading and English
	Credit Hours	3
	Course Delivery Method	Asynchronous (Online Only; No Mandatory Meetings)
	Catalog Description	This course provides a broad survey of influential theories in psychology, including, but not limited to, research methodology, biological and social factors influencing behavior, development, learning, memory, personality, and abnormal psychology.
	Orienting Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is understanding psychology useful in everyday life, relationships, school, and careers? • How do I understand human experiences and connections?

	Career-Ready Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Thinking & Problem Solving • Intercultural Competence • Perspective-Taking • Persuasion
	Course Textbook	<p>Spielman, R. M., Lovett, M. D., & Jenkins, W. J. (2020). <i>Psychology 2e</i>. OpenStax **No purchase necessary** ISBN: 978-1975076450 – Download the PDF file embedded in the course or rent a tangible (physical) copy from Amazon using the ISBN information.</p>
	Required Resources	Internet connection to access Brightspace/D2L
	Core IMPACTS Learning Outcomes	Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.
	Program Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare various schools of psychology. • Outline the basic concepts of psychoanalytic, behavioral, social learning, and humanistic psychology movements. • Summarize major theoretical movements in psychology and relate the movements to associated modes of therapy. • Distinguishing the biological basis of human behavior from associated sensations, perceptions, and experiences of consciousness. • Summarize the scientific method and relate it to selected scientific concepts.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning, and relate these scientific constructs to the law of effect, schedules of reinforcement, and negative reinforcement.
	Course Learning Objectives	<p>As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the differences and similarities between the psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and humanistic perspectives, as well as the current perspective on the relative influences of heredity and environment on human behavior. • Describe, compare, and provide examples for each of the major research methods used in psychology, including strengths, limitations, and key terminology associated with each, including how descriptive statistics are used to analyze data. • Identify ethical issues in psychology. • Define learning and describe, identify, compare and contrast the major features and principles of operant, classical conditioning, and social learning. • Outline the basic principles of psychoanalytic, humanistic, and cognitive-behavioral theories. Compare and contrast these theories. • Compare and contrast the various approaches to psychotherapy associated with the major psychological theories.
	Important Dates	<p>First Day of Class – Monday, August 18, 2025</p> <p>Attendance Verification (No Show Date) – Friday, August 22, 2025</p>

	<p>Last Day to Reinstate – Tuesday, September 2, 2025</p> <p>Midterm Assessment – Tuesday, October 7, 2025</p> <p>Last Date to Withdraw (without penalty) with a ‘W’ Grade – Monday, October 20, 2025</p> <p>Last Day of Class (Instruction) – Saturday, December 6, 2025</p> <p>Study Day (Final Assessment Preparation) – Monday, December 8, 2025</p> <p>Final Assessment – Tuesday, December 9, 2025</p>
Email Preference	<p>Kindly submit all questions or concerns through Brightspace/D2L email. After sending your email, please follow up with a text message to the number listed above. Responses will be provided within 48 hours for inquiries received Monday through Thursday. All emails submitted between Friday and Sunday will be answered by Wednesday afternoon.</p> <p>Please use the internal course e-mail for general correspondence. I provided my external email address and cell phone number for emergencies only. I will not answer questions, accept assignments, or discuss grades via external e-mail, so please use it for emergencies only.</p>
Attendance:	<p>Attendance is required at Atlanta Metropolitan State College. Students may view their attendance record by going to the Brightspace course page and clicking on “Attendance” from the “Assessments” menu at the top. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her recorded attendance is accurate. Any errors need to be brought to the attention of the instructor as soon as they are discovered.</p>

	Online Attendance and Participation Policy	Being “Present” in class is determined by the student’s active attendance and participation in an “academically related activity” which includes actual presence in a virtual class, submission of an assignment, group projects, completion of an exam or quiz, and discussion forum posting.
	Conduct:	Refer to AMSC College Catalog, page 54
	Late Policy:	All assignments are expected to be submitted by the stated deadlines. Late work will not be accepted unless prior approval has been granted by the instructor before the assignment's due date. Extensions may be considered for documented emergencies or extenuating circumstances. Students are encouraged to communicate early if they anticipate any issues meeting a deadline. Please note that last-minute extension requests <u>will not</u> be granted.
	Extra Credit:	Students who miss graded assignments are encouraged to complete available extra credit opportunities to help offset lost points. While students may accumulate up to 100 extra credit points throughout the term, only 5% of these points (a maximum of 5 raw points) will be added to the final course grade . Extra credit is not a substitute for regular coursework and should be completed by the posted deadlines. All submissions must meet the activity guidelines to earn credit.
	Enrollment Status:	Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the course(s) in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students must periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for making changes, if any, in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing reinstatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog.
	Attendance Verification (No Show)/Reinstatement	Atlanta Metropolitan State College has a "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) policy. This policy is to comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations. Financial Aid recipients at Atlanta Metropolitan State College may become ineligible for funds by not

		<p>attending class session(s) (per enrolled course). Students who do not complete Mandatory Attendance Assignments and attend class sessions are NOT entitled to keep their financial aid award. The Registrar's Office will notify the students and faculty when the Attendance Verification Period has opened. The established "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) procedure will enable Atlanta Metropolitan State College to adjust financial aid awards before funds are issued to students (thereby eliminating liability for both the College and the student). A student reported as non-attending a course must seek the approval of the instructor in order to be reinstated. Once approved, the student will complete the Reinstatement form and submit it. The Office of Registrar will notify students when the course reinstatement process has been completed during the Reinstatement Period.</p> <p>The student can demonstrate compelling reason (s) that have prevented attendance, and the instructor believes that there is a strong probability that the student can catch up in the class, or the instructor made an error, and the student was in attendance prior to being dropped.</p>
	Computer Hardware & Software Requirements:	<p>One of the challenges many encounter with enrolling in and completing an online course is the accessibility to the required and recommended software and hardware. Different institutions, and even different courses within the same institution, have varying technology requirements. Check your hardware and software systems to determine their compatibility with the online course you have selected.</p>
	Minimum Hardware Recommendations to take courses:	<p>D2L System Requirement Internet Connection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ethernet Network Capability required · Wireless Network Capability required <p>Operating System Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible Operating System: • Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome • Mac: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible Operating System: • Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome, Safari <p>Hardware requirements: Minimum Technical Specifications for Hardware:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A processor of 2GHz or faster

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4GB RAM or greater • 500 GB of Hard Drive space • Monitor and video card with a minimum resolution of 1024x768 • Keyboard and mouse <p>Minimum Technical Specifications for Computer Peripherals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers • Headphones • Microphone • Webcam <p>Software requirements:</p> <p>Browser Requirements/Supported Browsers</p> <p>Compatible Browsers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple Safari - https://support.apple.com/downloads/safari (Mac) • Google Chrome - https://www.google.com/chrome/ (Mac or PC) • Mozilla Firefox - https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/ (Mac or PC) <p>Application Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Office 2016 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) (Mac or PC) • Adobe Reader - https://get.adobe.com/reader/ <p>Plug-ins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Java - https://www.java.com/en/download/ • Adobe Flash Player - https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/ • Windows Media Player - https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=20426 • Apple QuickTime - https://support.apple.com/downloads/%2523quicktime • Microsoft Silverlight - https://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default <p><u>Accessibility:</u> Wi-Fi is also available for use in the campus parking lots.</p>
Tutoring Services	<p>Students improve their self-confidence and increase their chances of excelling in their courses when they utilize their college/university academic support services. The following tutoring services are available to AMSC students:</p>

	<p>❖ The AMSC Writing Center is open year-round to support students, staff, and faculty at AMSC. It offers virtual and in-person tutoring for various writing projects, assists at any stage of the writing process, and increases improvement in structure, use of sources, style, grammar, and more. The Writing Center is located in Building 100, Room 211. Students can walk in during hours of operation or schedule an appointment at https://calendly.com/amscwritingcenter/30min</p> <p>❖ Tutor.com is a virtual space for students to access writing tutors outside of AMSC faculty. Access tutor.com in Brightspace by logging into your course. Next, click the 'Free Tutoring' tab and choose Tutor.com from the dropdown options. Students are granted five (5) hours per semester, and registration is not required. Contact the Center for Student Success and Advising at (404) 756-5690 for assistance.</p> <p>❖ TutorOcean is a tutorial for students enrolled in STEM courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer Science. Access TutorOcean and sign up at https://atlm.tutorocean.com</p>
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement	<p>Atlanta Metropolitan College is committed to providing support for all students and making their college experience an enriching opportunity. In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The Department/Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services, located in the Student Services & Success Center, building 650-Suite 252, oversees the coordination of services for students with documented disabilities. The Coordinator of Disability Services collaborates with faculty and staff to offer provisions for reasonable accommodation to students who meet the requirements.</p> <p>It is the policy and practice of AMSC to make all Web information accessible to students with disabilities. If you, as a student with a disability, have difficulty accessing any part of the course materials for this class, please notify the instructor immediately.</p> <p>Accommodation cannot be provided until a reasonable accommodation plan is in place. To the greatest extent possible, all college representatives shall observe confidentiality.</p>

Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services	<p>The Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services operates under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws in order to assist in leveling the playing field for students who have disabilities with those who do not.</p> <p>The amended ADA, otherwise known as ADAAAA, defines “disability” as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. If you feel that you have a disability or impairment that may limit your academic functioning, please contact Dr. Dorothy Williams, the Director of Counseling and Accessibility Services, at 404-756-4016 or at https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx.</p> <p>The Coordinator of Counseling and Accessibility Services reviews all accommodation requests. In order to receive accommodation, the student’s illness or disability must be verified in writing by a physician, psychiatrist, or other healthcare provider or specialist. Students who choose to access disability support services should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible after acceptance to AMSC. Please be aware that late notifications may result in complications for establishing accommodation in a timely fashion.</p>
Withdrawal	<p>Withdrawal from a course is solely the responsibility of the student. Instructors will not initiate student withdrawals. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course MUST submit a completed Withdrawal Form (Schedule Reductions Form) to the Registrar’s Office before mid-term in order to receive a grade of “W” for the course.</p> <p>A student who withdraws after the Midterm date receives a “WF” unless the Vice President for Academic Affairs determines that it is a hardship case, then a “W” will be recorded. The possibility that a student may fail the course will not be considered a hardship.</p>
Incomplete Grade Policy	<p>An incomplete may be awarded at the instructor's discretion for non-academic reasons that prevent the student from completing the course requirements. The student must have a passing score at the time that the Incomplete is awarded and must sign an "Awarding of Incomplete" agreement. Unless otherwise stated, the incomplete should be removed by the end of the following semester; otherwise, the instructor will change the grade to an “F” grade.</p>

Time Commitment	<p>Successful completion of this course requires discipline, dedicated time, and commitment. Students should organize their schedules to ensure sufficient time is allocated for coursework. It is recommended to devote at least seven (7) to ten (10) hours per week to thoroughly review each chapter and complete the corresponding assignments. Additional time may be necessary to adequately prepare for quizzes and examinations.</p>
Student Expectations	<p>Students are expected to be fully invested and engaged in their learning. The following guidelines are included to facilitate your course success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in this course by following the guidelines of this syllabus and any additional information the instructor provides by email, telephone, discussion forums, etc. • Please speak with your instructor <u>in advance</u> if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing your assignments by the designated due dates. If a medical emergency occurs, you will need to provide a written medical / doctor's notice for the period in which you are unable to participate in class or complete any of the assignments (discussion, case studies, quizzes, exams, etc.). Without a medical / doctor's notice, all assignments missed will be scored as zero. • Sign in to Brightspace D2L and/or Courseware to complete assignments regularly. • Read, study, and complete all assignments by the due dates. • Monitor Brightspace D2L course calendar. • Have access to a computer and the Internet. Make certain the computer meets the technical requirements for the computer course. • Be courteous, polite, and respectful to faculty, staff, and fellow students.

		For online courses, the instructor will use Brightspace D2L email for all course-related correspondence. Check <u>Brightspace D2L email</u> as well as <u>Ginger email daily</u> to stay abreast of what is going on in class.
	Online Discussion Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the discussion forum is to have interactive online discussions with our class community about specific topics, assignments, or readings. • Be constructive and positive. You can challenge ideas and course content yet avoid becoming negative online. When you disagree respectfully and politely, you stimulate and encourage great discussion. • You are expected to conduct yourself in a mature, courteous, and mutually respectful manner. • Always sign your name. • Postings should be well written with proper punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Avoid the use of all caps or multiple punctuation elements (!!!???). Postings should be a minimum of 3–4 sentences. • Check postings for responses from others and respond in kind. • Postings should be evenly distributed throughout the week. Avoid making only weekend postings. • Foster ongoing dialogue by expanding upon existing discussion threads. <p>The instructor may not respond to every post. However, he/she will be monitoring each discussion forum. A response may be made to contribute to a discussion, clarify a situation, or redirect the conversation.</p>

Degree Relevance and Enrollment Status	Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the course(s) in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students must periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for making changes, if any, to his/her enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing reinstatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog.
Abandoning a Course	Abandoning a course should be avoided (it can be costly). Abandoning a course instead of following official drop procedures will result in a grade of —F at the end of the course. It is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the withdrawal process.
Academic Honesty	<p>Only the epitome of professionalism is expected of each student. Cheating or the abetment of cheating is not tolerated.</p> <p>Per pages 91-93 of the 2019-2020 Atlanta Metropolitan State College Catalogue, the Penalties for Academic Misconduct read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cases where a student is found guilty of cheating or exhibiting academic misconduct involving an instructor-generated assignment or examination, the instructor may impose a penalty. • Types of penalties may include, but are not limited to, the instructor assigning a grade of “F” for the assignment, the instructor not accepting the work, the student being assigned additional work, or the student receiving a grade reduction for the assignment. <p>The maximum penalty the instructor may impose is a grade of “F” for the course.</p>
Class Cancellation	Procedure regarding long-term emergency closure of the college (attendance policy): In the event of an emergency that forces the college to close for an extended period, students MUST contact the instructor of this class within 48 hours using contact information (e.g., email address in BrightSpace/D2L) on the syllabus to obtain directions for continuing the

		<p>course. The instructor will provide directions for the transmission and submission of course assignments and course assessments, including due dates.</p> <p>The student is responsible for submitting valid, accurate contact information, including an active AMSC email address to the instructor by the end of the first week of the course. Students can obtain an Atlanta Metropolitan State College Student email address in the Academic Support Center on the third floor of the Library Building.</p> <p>If the instructor for the course cannot be reached within the specified period (within 48 hours), the Dean of the School responsible for the course can be reached at the email address posted on the college's website.</p>
	Grading Scale	<p>90- 100% = A 80-89% = B 70- 79% = C 60- 69% = D Below 60%= F</p>
	Grade Distribution	<p>Discussion Boards (7) – 15% Critical Thinking Assignment(s) (1) – 20% Syllabus/APA/Unit Quizzes (7) – 15% Group Project (1) – 15% Midterm Assessment (1)– 10% Unit Reflection (5) – 15% Final Exam (1) – 10%</p>
	Class Schedule	<p>See pages 17-19</p>
	Grade Appeals and Student Complaint Policy and Process	<p>Please follow the Grade Appeals Process outlined in the AMSC Student Catalog, Pages 61/62. You can also refer to the Grade Appeal brochure at: https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/CAAS%20Grade%20Appeal%20Brochure.pdf For student complaint policy and process, refer to AMSC student catalog pages 51/52.</p>

	Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Links	
	I need:	LINK
	What is Brightspace (D2L), and how can I access it?	<p>Brightspace(D2L) is the virtual space where students access their online courses and some face-to-face class resources, quizzes, assignments, etc.</p> <p>You can access Brightspace (D2L) from https://atlm.view.usg.edu/</p> <p>You can also access Brightspace (D2L) from the College's webpage and click on Brightspace (D2L) on top.</p>
	Who is my Advisor? Where can I receive Advisement and Tutoring assistance?	Center for Academic Advising and Success (CAAS)
	What do I do if I face technical issues while taking a quiz or turning in an assignment in Brightspace	<p>https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/ You can reach the GaView Helpdesk 24/7/365 days at 18557724423</p> <p>If you are unable to submit a quiz or assignment or face a technical glitch, please contact the University System of Georgia's GaView Helpdesk at 1855 772 4423. The Helpdesk is open 24/7 all 365 days. If your issue cannot be resolved right away, the Helpdesk will issue a ticket to your Atlm Ginger email address. That ticket needs to be forwarded to your instructor to prove that you faced a technical issue that forced you to miss a deadline.</p>
	I can't download Respondus Lockdown Browser. What do I do?	<p>If you are unable to download Respondus to your computer, please email the Office of Testing at Testing@atlm.edu at least 24 hours in advance requesting a testing appointment at the Testing Lab.</p> <p>For Respondus issues, please contact https://web.respondus.com/contact/.</p>

	Where do I go for ADA Accommodations?	https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx
	I have a complaint. Where do I go?	Fill out and submit the Student Complaint form
	I have an issue with my grade. How may I appeal to my grade?	Read the brochure and follow the instructions to appeal your grade .
	How do I Withdraw from a Course?	Follow the Course Withdrawal Process here
	I have a Hardship. How do I do a Hardship Withdrawal?	Follow the Hardship Withdrawal Process here
	To Know the Campus Carry/HB 280 Policy	House Bill 280 Guidelines
	Disclaimer	<i>Information contained in this syllabus and schedule was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. This syllabus should be considered only a guide for instructor and students, not a formal contract between Atlanta Metropolitan State College and any student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of AMSC, to make changes in course content or instructional techniques.</i>

Course Schedule: MAY CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION

Week	Unit	Topic/Read	Assignment	Due Date
1	Unit 0: Introduction to PSYC 1101	Welcome Week Introduction to Academic Writing	Introductory Discussion Syllabus Quiz	08/21/2025 (Last day to drop 15-week classes AMSC course without penalty) Initial Post – 08/23/25 Peer Responses 08/26/25
2	Unit 1: Foundations of Psychology	Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology Chapter 2: Psychological Research	Unit 1 Discussion: Foundations of Psychology	Initial Post – 08/30/25 Peer Responses 09/02/25
3		Chapter 3: Biopsychology	Group Project (Topic Selection: Discussion) APA Quiz: Academic Writing and Citing Sources	Initial Post – 09/20/25 Peer Responses 09/23/25 09/23/25
4		Chapter 4: States of Consciousness	Unit 2 Quiz Unit 2 Reflection	09/16/25
5	Unit 2: Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception	Unit 2 Discussion: Perception	Initial Post – 09/20/25 Peer Responses 09/23/25
6		Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence	Critical Thinking Activity I: Emotional Intelligence	09/30/25

Week	Unit	Topic/Read	Assignment	Due Date
7		Chapter 8: Memory	PSYC 1101 Midterm Unit 2 Reflection	Peer Responses 10/07/25
8	Unit 3: Learning and Development	Chapter 6: Learning	Unit 3 Discussion: Cognitive Maps & Latent Learning	Initial Post – 10/04/25 Peer Responses 10/07/25
9		Chapter 10: Personality	Individual Research Paper (Connected to the Group Project)	10/14/25
10		Chapter 9: Human Development	Unit 3 Quiz Unit 3 Reflection	10/21/25 (**Two separate activities)
11	Unit 4: Personality and Social Psychology	Chapter 11: Personality	Unit 4 Discussion: Personality and Career Choices	10/28/25
12		Chapter 12: Social Psychology	Group Project (Final Submission) Unit 4 Reflection Unit4 Quiz	11/04/25 (**Two separate activities)
13	Unit 5: Health and Psychological Adjustment	Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Unit 5 Discussion: Stress Management	11/11/25

Week	Unit	Topic/Read	Assignment	Due Date
14		Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders	Critical Thinking Activity III: Identifying Psychological Disorders	11/18/25
Thanksgiving Week – No Assignments Due (November 24-28, 2025)				
15		Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment	Unit 5 Reflection Unit 5 Quiz	12/02/25
	Final Assessment (Earn an Exemption with a score of 93% or higher) 🍀			12/09/25