



Introduction to Psychology 210-004 (CRN# 15132)

Spring 2024 Semester

Class meetings: Mon.Thurs.8:30AM-9:50AM (Tiernan Hall 107)

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Derek Levine, PhD	dlevine@njit.edu	Office hours: By appointment only

*I will respond to all emails/Inbox messages within 24 hours. Exams will be graded within one week's time.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

This course does not have any prerequisites or co-requisites.

Course Description

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The content focuses on the exploration of major psychological theories and concepts, methods, and research findings in psychology. Topics include the biological bases of behavior, perception, cognition and consciousness, learning, memory, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to:

- Provide major theories, concepts, methods, and research findings in psychology.
- Introduce research methods, including the scientific approach, research design, the use of statistics, and ethics.
- Explain major sub-disciplines in psychology including but not limited to: the biological bases of brain-behavior relationships, perception, cognition, learning, memory, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods, core empirical findings, and historic trends in psychology.
- Explain and compare major theoretical perspectives of psychology.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major domains in psychology.
- Describe and demonstrate an understanding of applied areas of psychology.
- Draw the distinction between scientific and non-scientific methods of understanding and analysis.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and information competence as applied to psychological topics.

Course Materials

Textbook: Your textbook for this class is available for free online! Psychology
2e from OpenStax, ISBN 978-1-975076-45-0

Letter to Number Grade Conversions

A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D	65-69
F	0-64

Final Grade Calculation

Final grades for all assignments will be based on the following percentages:

Exams (Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade)	45%
Class Participation (Discussion Forums)	10%
Research	10%
Final Exam	20%

Course Work

Class participation: (10% of grade) You are expected to participate in class discussions. When all students participate in a discussion, it creates an active learning environment that will help you better understand the materials and be more successful in the class.

Research Paper (10% of grade) During the 8th week of class, students will be given a list of Research Paper topics and the grading criterion. The paper will be due during the last week of the semester.

Exams: (45% of grade) Each exam will be summative to that point in the semester. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Final Exam (20% of grade). The exam will consist of short answer questions and essays.

Feedback

I will deliver feedback on each assignment and exam assigned for this course. Comments can be found on the inside of the exam booklet and on the Research Paper.

Exam Information and Policies

Exam 1: February 19th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Exam 2: March 18th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Exam: 3 April 8th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Research Paper Due April 22nd

Final Exam: April 29th (8:30AM-9:50AM)

Policy for Make-Up Exams: A student will be issued a make-up exam upon receiving documentation of the excused absence. Excused absences will be decided on a case-

by-case basis (death in the family or feeling ill), which will require documentation explaining the reasons mentioned above for the absence.

Policy for Late Work

For every day an assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from the overall grade of the assignment.

Academic Integrity

“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the [NJIT academic code of integrity policy](#).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”

Weekly Expectations

Students are to compare notes with peers after having read the assigned readings. You should be prepared to engage in class discussions and complete and in-class assignments, which will count toward your participation grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	1/18	Introduction to course; Introduction to Psychology	Syllabus, Ch. 1
2	1/22 & 1/25	Psychological Research	Ch. 2
3	1/29 & 2/1	Biopsychology	Ch. 3
4	2/5 & 2/8	State of Consciousness	Ch. 4
5	2/12 & 2/15	Sensation and Perception; Exam I prep	Ch. 5
6	2/19 & 2/22	Exam I (Mon) ; Learning	Ch. 6
7	2/26 & 2/29	Thinking and Intelligence;	Ch. 7, 8

		Memory	
8	3/4 & 3/7	Lifespan Development	Ch. 9
9	3/10-Spring Break	Emotion and Memory; Exam II prep	Ch. 10
10	3/18 & 3/21	Exam 2 (Mon.); Personality	Ch. 11
11	3/25 & 3/28	Social Psychology	Ch. 12
12	4/1 & 4/4	Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Ch. 14
13	4/8 & 4/11	Exam 3 (Mon); Psychological Disorders	Ch. 15
14	4/15 & 4/18 4/22 & 4/25	Therapy and Treatment; Research Paper Due 4/22 and Final Exam prep	Ch. 16
15	4/29	Final Exam	

Note: The content of this schedule might be adjusted/changed by the instructor depending on students' needs.

Additional Information and Resources

[Canvas Accessibility Statement](#)

Requesting Accommodations:

If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact Scott Janz, Associate Director of the [Office of Accessibility Resources and Services](#), Kupfrian Hall 201 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the office authorizing student accommodations is required.

[General Resources for NJIT Students \(including technical support\)](#)