

PSY 210: Introduction to Psychology

Mon/Wed 10-11:20am, Tiernan Hall 106

SYLLABUS DRAFT 1/17/24 – SUBJECT TO REVISION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Hyland Bruno

Contact: julia.hylandbruno@njit.edu

Office hour: Wed 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment, Cullimore 313

PREREQUISITES

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Topics covered include methodology in psychological research, the biological basis of behavior, consciousness, perception, learning, cognition, communication, memory, development, emotion, motivation, personality, individual and cultural differences, social and environmental influences, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches.

COURSE GOALS

Through an active-learning approach with an emphasis on collaborative small-group work and independent reading, self-study and reflection, this course aims to:

- provide training in thinking like a psychologist and understanding the scientific method and research design,
- equip students with knowledge of the major concepts, theories, approaches, historical developments, sub-disciplines, and applications in the field of psychology, and
- foster an appreciation for and desire to understand the complexity of human behavior.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- take an active approach to their own learning;
- demonstrate familiarity with the major theoretical perspectives and core empirical findings in psychology;
- compare different approaches to psychological investigation with respect to measurement, use of statistics, conceptual orientation and implications, and ethical considerations;
- subject psychological claims to critical evaluation.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook: The required text for this course is a digital-only book:

- Gross, J. J., Schmader, T., Hard, B. M., & Anderson, A. K. (2023). *Interactive Psychology: People in Perspective* (2nd Ed.). W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-89376-2

It is available for purchase here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/interactivepsych2>. We will be making use of the digital resources that accompany the ebook; please purchase and use your UCID to register *all* of the following (\$66.95 total):

- **Norton Illumine Ebook**
- **InQuizitive**
- **ZAPS**

The Student Set ID for this course is 794554. You will need to enter it to access the various activities the first time you use them. Complete registration instructions are posted on Canvas.

Internet, technology, online resources and communication: You will need internet access and access to a computer or mobile device to read the textbook and complete the class preparation assignments. Please also bring a laptop or tablet with you to class, both to enable you to access the textbook in class and to use for in-class writing assignments. Please speak with me individually if this is or becomes an issue for you. Please also bring a notebook/paper and writing utensil to every class meeting.

We will be using the following *separate* online resources throughout the course for homework and in-class activities:

- **Canvas** (<https://njit.instructure.com/>). We will use Canvas as the course repository. Please always check Canvas for the most up-to-date version of the syllabus (this document), as well as the overall course gradebook.

- <https://digital.wwnorton.com/interactivepsych2> - digital landing page for the textbook and graded class preparation exercises (InQuizitive, ZAPS). You must register and log in to receive credit for any textbook-related activities. Bookmark this page!
- **Google Drive.** We will be using Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms throughout the semester. Please use the account associated with your NJIT email.

Email is the primary mode of communication in this course. Please check your email regularly and make sure that your Canvas notifications are set to receive broadcast announcements via email. If I do not respond to your email within 24 hours, please follow up with me.

COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

This course is not a typical lecture course. Instead, students will be responsible for encountering and digesting the assigned material prior to coming to class. Class meetings will be used to reinforce and delve deeper into material that you have already begun to learn.

Class preparation: Class preparation is essential to your success in this course. We will be covering all 15 chapters of the textbook over the course of the semester (see the SCHEDULE below). Prior to starting a new chapter, you are responsible for 1) reading the entire chapter, 2) submitting a reading response survey, and 3) completing the corresponding InQuizitive assignment. **These three assignments are due 24 hours prior to the start of class.** Each chapter is comprised of approximately 20 short study units which facilitate studying frequently and for short periods of time. InQuizitive is an adaptive self-testing system designed to help you internalize the textbook material. It is informed by empirical research on the psychology of learning. Reading response surveys (I will email these to you) and InQuizitive assignments will be used to gauge student understanding and tailor lecture content to the needs of the class. Collectively, these class preparation assignments are worth 14% of your course grade. In order to receive credit (one percentage point) for preparing for a given chapter, you must complete all three assignments. Class preparation assignments submitted anytime later than the 24-hour pre-class deadline will automatically receive half-credit. Class preparation assignments will not be accepted after the relevant exam has passed. Your lowest class preparation grade will be dropped. In addition to InQuizitive assignments, ZAPS labs provide an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of key psychological concepts and the scientific process. These will be assigned to help you integrate material prior to the exams. Completing a ZAPS lab is worth 0.5% of your course grade. You are encouraged to complete as many ZAPS labs as you wish, however only 12 (three per unit) will count toward your final grade.

Class participation. Attendance is required. Participation, including in-class writing assignments is worth 15% of your course grade.

NMOA Assignment: Artmaking is one of the most distinctively human activities, and art objects provide a fascinating record of human psychology. Here at NJIT we are lucky that many works of art are on view a short walk away from campus, at the excellent Newark Museum of Art. The museum is open Thursday-Sunday and admission is free for NJIT students. At some point in the semester, each of you will be responsible for visiting the museum, locating an artwork that relates to a specific course topic, and presenting your findings to the class (5% of your final course grade).

Exams: There will be four in-class exams, each counting for 15% of your final course grade. Exams will each cover 3-4 chapters of textbook material as well as content focused on in class

and will be closed-book/closed-notes. The primary aim of the exams is to assess the course Learning Outcomes (see above). There is no cumulative final exam.

Course activities are worth the following percentages of your final grade:

- **Class preparation: 20%**
 - Reading response surveys & InQuizitive assignments: 14%
 - ZAPS labs: 6%
- **Class participation: 15%**
- **NMOA Assignment: 5%**
- **Exams: 60%**

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter (description)
90 and above	A (superior)
85 – 89.5	B+ (excellent)
80 – 84.5	B (very good)
75 – 79.5	C+ (good)
70 – 74.5	C (acceptable)
60 – 69.5	D (minimum)
59.5 and below	F (inadequate)

Any extenuating circumstances that could interfere with your ability to complete the requirements for this course must be taken to the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will discuss your situation with you, assess any relevant documentation, and make the determination of whether any special accommodations will be granted (e.g., late withdrawal from the course, request for a make-up exam, request for an Incomplete, etc.).

PLAGIARISM

NJIT requires me to include this language:

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 academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

*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.*

ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMODATIONS/COUNSELING SERVICES

If you anticipate any issues related to the format or materials of this course, or if you would like to discuss any accommodations that might be helpful, please contact me at the start of the semester. If you have a documented disability, or if you think you might have a disability, you should also be in touch with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), either to request an official accommodation or to discuss requesting one. More information about OARS is available here: <https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>.

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (C-CAPS) provides a number of confidential resources for any student interested in seeking help with personal issues, emotional concerns, or stress. Visit <https://www.njit.edu/counseling/> to learn more.

SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture topic	Textbook chapter	Assignments (all due at 10am)
1/17	Introduction	1 & 2	
1/21			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase/register: Norton Illumine Ebook + InQuizitive + ZAPS for <i>Interactive Psychology: People in Perspective</i> • Read: Chs. 1 & 2 • InQuizitive: Chs. 1 & 2 • Reading survey: Chs. 1 & 2
1/22	Psychological Science		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for NMOA presentation date
1/23		3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 3 • InQuizitive: Ch. 3 • Reading survey: Ch. 3
1/24	Neuroscience		

1/28			
1/29	Neuroscience		
1/30		4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 4• InQuizitive: Ch. 4• Reading survey: Ch. 4
1/31	Sensation and Perception		
2/5	Sensation and Perception		
2/7	Review for Exam 1	1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ZAPS: Chs. 1-4 (choose three)
2/12	EXAM 1		
2/13		5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 5• InQuizitive: Ch. 5• Reading survey: Ch. 5
2/14	Consciousness		
2/18		6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 6• InQuizitive: Ch. 6• Reading survey: Ch. 6
2/19	Learning		
2/20		7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 7• InQuizitive: Ch. 7• Reading survey: Ch. 7
2/21	Memory		
2/25		8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 8• InQuizitive: Ch. 8• Reading survey: Ch. 8
2/26	Thinking and Intelligence		
2/28	Thinking and Intelligence		
3/4	Review for Exam 2	5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ZAPS: Chs. 5-8 (choose three)
3/6	EXAM 2		
3/11	[no class – Spring Break]		
3/13	[no class – Spring Break]		
3/17		9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 9• InQuizitive: Ch. 9• Reading survey: Ch. 9
3/18	Motivation and Emotion		
3/19		10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: Ch. 10• InQuizitive: Ch. 10• Reading survey: Ch. 10
3/20	Stress and Health		

3/24		11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 11 • InQuizitive: Ch. 11 • Reading survey: Ch. 11
3/25	Development		
3/27	Development		
3/31		12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 12 • InQuizitive: Ch. 12 • Reading survey: Ch. 12
4/1	Personality		
4/3	Review for Exam 3	9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAPS: Chs. 9-12 (choose three)
4/8	EXAM 3		
4/9		13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 13 • InQuizitive: Ch. 13 • Reading survey: Ch. 13
4/10	Psychological Disorders		
4/14		14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 14 • InQuizitive: Ch. 14 • Reading survey: Ch. 14
4/15	Therapies		
4/17	Therapies		
4/21		15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Ch. 15 • InQuizitive: Ch. 15 • Reading survey: Ch. 15
4/22	Social Psychology		
4/24	Social Psychology		
4/29	Review for Exam 4	13-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZAPS: Chs. 13-15 (choose three)
TBA	EXAM 4		