



**Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2024, PSY 210-001
TR, 2:30 PM – 3:50 PM
CKB 317**

Instructor: Kate Cohen, PhD

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Office Location & Hours: CKB, TR: 1:00-2:15pm; E-mail for an appointment.

B. Course Prerequisites or Co-requisites (N/A)

C. 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.

D. 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.

D. Required Texts, Readings, and/or other Resources

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

The Modules tab on Canvas will include attachments to relevant chapters each week.

E. Topical Course Outline (See the Tentative Course Schedule)

F. Course Requirements

This course consists of lectures, in-class small group discussions, discussion board postings, a group presentation, three exams, and an independent term paper. Lectures will integrate assigned textbook chapters with other relevant content. Attendance is required.

Note: Due to the iterative nature of the assignments, in general late submissions will not be accepted.

G. Grading/Evaluation

Student evaluation will be based upon:

Quality of class presentations and creative and critical elaboration

Knowledge and understanding of course materials.

Quality of comprehensive review of literature

Quality of group discussion questions

Extent of active participation in class.

The final grade will be weighted on the following criteria:

Group Presentation	10%
Comprehensive review of one topic of choice dealt with in the course	20%
Exams: Exam 1 (15%) Exam 2 (15%) Exam 3 (15%)	45%
Discussion Questions (10 x 1%)	10%
Class Participation/Vocabulary Cards	15%
Total	100%

GRADE SCALE

A	90-100%
B+	87-89.5%
B	80-86.5%
C+	77-79.5%
C	70-76.5%
D	60-69.5%
F	<60%

H. Descriptions of Graded Assignments:

Group Presentation (10%)

Throughout the semester, students will get into group of 3- 4 people and present for 10-12 minutes on one article that is related to the topic of that class.

*All presentations should incorporate the use of PowerPoint computer software.

*All presentations must be completed on the day in which the group is assigned. If a group member is absent, they will receive a 0 for the presentation portion of the assignment unless cleared with the instructor on an individual basis. Each member of the group will receive a grade based on his/her presentation and participation in group work. Group members will be graded by their peers on the day of presentation. Submission of peer grading will occur via Canvas. Note: Peer grades will be kept confidential.

*The article chosen for presentation purposes must be e-mailed to the instructor at least **ONE WEEK BY THE END OF CLASS TIME** prior to class presentation! This will ensure timely feedback from the instructor. Example: If a group presentation is assigned for a Thursday, the article will be shared with the instructor on the previous Thursday by one group member.

*PowerPoint presentation must be e-mailed to the instructor at least **ONE CLASS PERIOD** prior to class presentation! This will ensure timely feedback from the instructor. Example: If a group presentation is assigned for a Tuesday, the presentation will be shared with the instructor on the previous Thursday by one group member.

Your final presentation score will be
(Group evaluation + Individual evaluation + Average Peer evaluation) / 3.

Term Paper (20%)

A term paper on the topic(s) of your choice from the course, will be submitted using APA guidelines and formatting criteria; double-spaced, Times New Roman font, in-text citations, where necessary. The paper should be no less than 5 pages and should not exceed 10 pages. A reference list is to be included to be considered eligible for a complete score.

Exams (45% total)

There will be three in-class exams, including a final exam, each covering the same amount of material and weighted equally. Exams will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. All exams will be proctored. Students are expected to complete the exam on the dates listed in the Tentative Course Schedule. *Make-up quizzes are considered only for extreme circumstances and will be given to students on a case-by-case basis.*

Note. Exceptions may be considered and include documentation of a valid medical excuse from a physician, conflict with religious observances, and/or travel for intercollegiate athletic competition. Students participating in University (academic or intercollegiate) sponsored events must provide documentation for travel at least one-week prior to the scheduled exam date, except in case of an unforeseeable emergency. Make-up exams will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

Discussion Questions (10%)

Ten times throughout the semester, each student will submit on Canvas a group discussion question related to the topic(s) to be covered in class. Questions should demonstrate a solid understanding of the material and critical thinking; occasionally, if the chapter is very difficult, a question can be about what was not understood. **Never** should a question be one that can be answered yes/no but should be one that incentivizes discussion and critical thinking.

Questions must be submitted the **day before the class by 11:59pm EST**. Each student should also have a copy of their own discussion question during the class call.

Class Participation/Vocabulary Index Cards (15%)

Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. Participation involves engagement in all class activities and discussions. Students are also expected to arrive to class on time and remain until

class is dismissed. When absent or late, it is the student's responsibility to obtain lecture notes, materials, and assignments from a classmate or the course Canvas page.

Throughout the semester, students will be expected to turn in vocabulary cards for each chapter as they correspond with the deadlines on the course schedule. Please write term on one side and definition on the other.

Attendance and Participation:

The delivery mode of this course is face-to-face, which means we will meet in person, during the designated class days/times. You are expected to attend all classes. To receive credit, you must be in class on time, stay for the entire time, and contribute to in-class activities and discussions. You must be in class that day to complete these activities. There will be no make-up for in-class activity. Absences are excused only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.), or DOS excuses the absence.

University Policy on 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 academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/NJIT-University-Policy-on-Academic-Integrity.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

If you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services for Students (<https://www.njit.edu/studentsuccess/accessibility>). You should file your request as soon as possible. Retroactive accommodations are not allowed.

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due (by class)
1	9/3	Tuesday	Course Introduction; Chapter 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4	Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology	
	9/5	Thursday	TBA	Chapter 1 (continued)	a. Respond on Canvas to the following question: Which discipline (i.e., functionalism, humanism, behaviorism) would you be involved in? Explain your reasoning. b. Fill out Google Doc for group presentation selection and agree upon article with group members.
2	9/10	Tuesday	Chapter 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	Chapter 2 Psychological Research	Ch1 & Ch2 vocab cards due
	9/12	Thursday	Chapter 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5	Chapter 3 Biopsychology	Ch3 vocab cards due
3	9/17	Tuesday	Chapter 4.1, 4.2, 4.3	Chapter 4 States of Consciousness	DQ 1
	9/19	Thursday	Chapter 4.4, 4.5, 4.6; Group Presentation	Chapter 4 (continued)	Ch4 vocab cards due
4	9/24	Tuesday	Chapter 5.1, 5.2, 5.3; Group Presentation	Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception	Ch5 vocab cards due
	9/26	Thursday	Chapter 5.4, 5.5, 5.6; Exam 1 Review (Ch 1-5)	Chapter 5 (continued)	DQ 2
5	10/1	Tuesday	Chapter 6.1, 6.2 Exam 1 (Ch 1-5)	Chapter 6 Learning	
	10/3	Thursday	Chapter 6.3, 6.4	Chapter 6 (continued)	Ch6 vocab cards due
6	10/8	Tuesday	Chapter 7.1, 7.2, 7.3	Chapter 7 Thinking and Intelligence	DQ 3
	10/10	Thursday	Chapter 7.4, 7.5, 7.6; Group Presentation	Chapter 7 (cont.)	Ch7 vocab cards due DQ 4
7	10/15	Tuesday	Chapter 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4; Group Presentation	Chapter 8 Memory	Ch8 vocab cards due DQ 5
	10/17	Thursday	Chapter 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4; Group Presentation	Chapter 9 Lifespan Development	Ch9 vocab cards due
8	10/22	Tuesday	Chapter 10.1, 10.2, 10.4 Group Presentation	Chapter 10 Emotion and Motivation	Ch10 vocab cards due DQ 6
	10/24	Thursday	Chapter 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, Group Presentation	Chapter 11 Personality	
9	10/29	Tuesday	Chapter 11.4, 11.5, 11.6	Chapter 11	Ch11 vocab cards due DQ 7
	10/31	Thursday	Chapter 11.7, 11.8, 11.9; Exam 2 Prep (6-11)		

10	11/5	Tuesday	Exam 2 (Ch 6 – 11)		
	11/7	Thursday	Chapter 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4	Chapter 12 Social Psychology	DQ 8
11	11/12	Tuesday	Chapter 12.5, 12.6, 12.7; Group Presentation	Chapter 12 (continued)	Ch12 vocab cards due
	11/14	Thursday	Chapter 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4; Group Presentation	Chapter 13 Industrial-Organizational Psychology	Ch13 vocab cards due
12	11/19	Tuesday	Chapter 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5; Group Presentation	Chapter 14 Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Ch14 vocab cards due
	11/21	Thursday	Chapter 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4	Chapter 15 Psychological Disorders	Term Paper Due
13	11/26	Tuesday	Chapter 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8	Chapter 15 (continued)	Ch15 vocab cards due
	11/28	Thursday	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK		
14	12/3	Tuesday	Chapter 15.9, 15.10, 15.11; Group Presentation	Chapter 15 (continued)	DQ 9
	12/5	Thursday	Chapter 16.1, 16.2 Group Presentation	Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment	Ch16 vocab cards due
15	12/10	Tuesday	Chapter 16.3, 16.4, 16.5	Chapter 16 (continued)	DQ 10

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