

PSY 210 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2024

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30am-12:50pm
CKB Room 223

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm - 2:00pm by appointment in CULM Room 332

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to human behavior and research via discussion of psychological theories, concepts, and research methods. Topics covered in this course include learning, thinking and intelligence, memory, lifespan development, psychological research, emotion and motivation, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and treatment.

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES: The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of human behavior and psychological research. This course is designed to be a collaborative learning process by which students will engage in class discussions, group work, and assignments. The primary goal of this course is to encourage and support students as they develop an understanding of the material discussed in class and how it can be applied to the real world. At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Have a basic understanding of psychological theories and how the theories relate to human behavior
- Be able to think critically about psychological theories and concepts and how they apply to social and cultural norms
- Demonstrate familiarity with basic research methods that are used to investigate, analyze and explain aspects of human behavior

BOOKS/READINGS:

Psychology 2e from OpenStax (<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>)
(This textbook is free)

Additional readings will be available on Canvas.

EXPECTATIONS:

Readings

It is expected that all students will do the assigned readings **before** the date that they will be discussed in class. Students are encouraged to bring any thoughts or questions about the readings to class and share during class discussions.

Attendance

Attendance is required. Material presented and discussed in class is necessary for completing course assignments and the midterm and final exams. To receive credit for attending class, students must arrive on time, stay for the whole class and participate to the best of their ability.

Participation (20%)

It is expected that all students will make an effort to participate and be present during class. Please avoid using your cellphone, scrolling social media, etc. Completing the assigned readings and bringing questions/thoughts about the readings to class will make participation easier.

Canvas

An electronic version of this syllabus, grades, announcements, and additional required readings will be communicated via Canvas. You are responsible for logging in frequently to check for any updates.

Communication

It is expected that any student who is having difficulty with the course material will communicate this to me during office hours or via email in order to obtain support. If you are concerned about your grade, please do not wait until the end of the semester to talk to me about it. I will check my email at least twice during the weekday before 6pm. I will occasionally check email over the weekend, but anything that you need to communicate with me should be done during the week prior to 6pm. Please allow 24 hours for a response although I do my best to respond within a shorter time frame.

AI Usage

This course expects students to work without artificial intelligence (AI) assistance in order to better develop their skills in this content area. As such, AI usage is not permitted throughout this course under any circumstance.

Academic Dishonesty

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/Accommodations/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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Group Presentation (30%) – See Canvas for more specific instructions

Your group should choose a topic from the syllabus that you want to present on. In the reading for that week, identify a concept (idea/theory) that is of interest to your group and relevant to your major.

Group PowerPoint presentation (15 min):

1. Describe/define the concept
2. Research this concept to expand on the information provided in the chapter reading
3. Create a 15 min presentation and discussion of this concept, including:
 - additional information that you found in your research
 - questions for the class
 - how this concept relates to your major/how it can be useful in your future work

Midterm and Final Exams (25% each)

These exams are not cumulative and only cover what is covered during the first half (midterm) and second half (final) of the course. The exam format will include multiple choice questions as well as short answer questions. The goal of these exams is not for you to memorize concepts that we've discussed in class but to be able to apply them and think about them critically. There will be an exam review in the class prior to each of the exams.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be offered during some classes.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

1. Group Presentation (30%)
2. Midterm Paper (25%)
3. Final Exam (25%)
4. Class Participation/Attendance (20%)

Grading Scale

PERCENT	LETTER GRADE
90-100	A
87-90	B+
80-87	B
77-80	C+
70-77	C
60-70	D
< 60	F

CLASS CALENDAR AND READINGS

WEEK	TOPIC	DATE	READINGS
Week 1	Introduction to the course	September 3	Introduction
		September 5	Chapter 1
Week 2	Psychological Research	September 10	Chapter 2
		September 12	
Week 3	Biopsychology	September 17	Chapter 3 pages 90-98 Steinberg, Chapter 2 (on Canvas)
		September 19	
Week 4	Learning	September 24	Chapter 6
		September 26	
Week 5	Thinking and Intelligence	October 1	Chapter 7
	Memory	October 3	Chapter 8
Week 6	Lifespan Development	October 8	Chapter 9
		October 10	
Week 7	Lifespan Development pt 2	October 15	Tough, Chapter 1 (on Canvas)
	<i>Midterm Review</i>	October 17	
Week 8	MIDTERM	October 22	
	Personality	October 24	Chapter 11 pages 379-405
Week 9	Emotion and Motivation	October 29	Chapter 10 pages 341-347; 348-370
		October 31	
Week 10	Social Psychology	November 5	Chapter 12
		November 7	
Week 11	Industrial Organizational Psychology	November 12	Chapter 13
	Stress, Lifestyle and Health	November 14	Chapter 14

Week 12	Psychological Disorders	November 19 November 21	Chapter 15
Week 13	Therapy and Treatment NO CLASS	November 26 November 28	Chapter 16
Week 14	Therapy and Treatment cont'd Class Discussion/Debate	December 3 December 5	
Week 15	<i>Final Review</i>	December 10	
Week 16	FINAL	TBD	