

# New Jersey Institute of Technology

## Introduction to Psychology

### PSY 210 - 015

Fall 2024

**Prerequisites:** This course does not have any prerequisites or corequisites.

**Instructor:** Dr. Laura 'Devorah' Dickerman

**Office:** Cullimore 423

**Contact:** laura.dickerman@njit.edu

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Thursdays 9:00am-9:45am and 12:30pm-2:15pm; and by appointment.

#### **Course Meeting Time and Location:**

Monday / Thursday 2:30 PM - 3:50 PM

CKB 120

#### **Texts**

Textbook- Psychology 2e from OpenStax, ISBN 978-1-975076-45-0

This is a FREE textbook that can be accessed online. The chapters we will be using from this text are uploaded to Canvas. If you would like to access the textbook in a web browser, you can do so at the following link: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

#### **Course Description**

PSY 210 is an introduction to the study of behavior and mental processes. Course content focuses on foundational and major psychological theories, concepts, methods, and research findings within the field. Topics include the history of psychology, psychology as a science, the biological bases of behavior, perception, cognition and consciousness, learning, memory, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the history of psychology, major psychological concepts, and key theoretical perspectives
- Exhibit an understanding of psychology as a science and identify scientific methods used to study behavior and mental processes
- Distinguish between and discuss major domains in psychology
- Apply psychological principles to everyday life
- Proficiently find, read, and summarize a peer reviewed psychology publication

#### **Policies**

##### **University Policy on Academic Integrity**

Professor and Course will adhere to the university's guidelines:

"Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating (which includes plagiarism) 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 the instructor's 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](mailto:dos@njit.edu)."

## **Accessibility**

This class is intended to be fully available to students regardless of health or disability status (whether mental or physical). If you need reasonable accommodations to complete the course because of a disability, you can reach out to the course instructor or to the office of accessibility resources and services.

## **Course Environment**

This course should be a safe space: in the classroom, in one-on-one discussions with the instructor, and in the Canvas spaces for this course. This means no hate speech (slurs or derogatory or demeaning comments) and no bullying. You are expected to treat your classmates respectfully and with kindness, generosity, and empathy.

## **Technology**

You are required to bring a device with you to class that will allow you to access Canvas. This likely means a tablet, laptop or smartphone. There is no makeup credit if you do not bring such a device and are unable as a result to complete course activities that day.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, presenting someone else's words, thoughts, or ideas (in whole or in part) as your own, is cheating and will not be tolerated. The NJIT Honor Code will be upheld, and any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students. NJIT enforces strict academic integrity policies, and any plagiarized material will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Academic probation and possible suspension or expulsion from the university may also be pursued by NJIT administration in cases of plagiarism. Three very important things to remember:

- 1) Various plagiarism-detection tools are employed in this course.
- 2) There have been numerous cases of students attempting to submit papers written by students enrolled in earlier versions of this class. These students have received failing grades and academic probation – and the students supplying the papers have also been punished.
- 3) If you're struggling with the final project or concerned about these policies, I'm happy to work with you! Plagiarism is not worth the risk to your future.

## **Attendance**

If you miss a class, you are responsible for catching up (contact me to inquire about missed material). These are uniquely challenging times; please communicate with me if you encounter an issue that obstructs or limits your capacity to participate fully in our class with respect to technology, presence, or any other matter.

Each student will be granted two "free absences" during the semester.

Every unexcused absence after the second one will reduce your participation grade. More than four unexcused absences can result in automatic failure of the course; excessive unexcused lateness of 15 minutes or more throughout the course will be considered as one absence.

According to university policy, students who expect to miss classes or exams because of religious observance must submit to their instructors, by the end of the second week of classes, a written list of dates that will be missed. Similarly, athletes should submit a list of events. If you can't make a class—due to illness, an academic commitment, an interview, or a major extracurricular event—and you wish to have the absence excused, ask the Dean of Students to review the request.

## Course Schedule

Time	Monday	Thursday	Assignments Due
Week 1 (Sept 2 & 5)	<b>No Class</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course Orientation, Syllabus Review</li> <li>Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Syllabus</li> <li>Read Chapter 1</li> <li>Complete Ch. 1 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 2 (Sept 9 & 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2: Psychological Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2 – Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 2</li> <li>Complete Ch. 2 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 3 (Sept 16 & 19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3: Biopsychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 3</li> <li>Complete Ch. 3 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 4 (Sept 23 & 26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4: States of Consciousness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 4</li> <li>Complete Ch. 4 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 5 (Sept 30 & 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 5</li> <li>Complete Ch. 5 MCQ.</li> </ul>
Week 6 (Oct 7 & 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-5</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 6: Learning</li> <li>Chapter 6: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 6</li> <li>Complete Ch. 6 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 7 (Oct 14 & 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 7</li> <li>Complete Ch. 7 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 8 (Oct 21 & 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8: Memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> <li><b>Midterm Paper</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 8</li> <li>Complete Ch. 8 MCQ</li> </ul>

Week 9 (Oct 28 & 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 9: Lifespan Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 9: Critical Thinking Activity</li><li>Topic Activity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Chapter 9</li><li>Complete Ch. 9 MCQ</li></ul>	
Week 10 (Nov 4 & 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 10: Critical Thinking Reflection posted to Canvas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Chapter 10</li><li>Complete Ch. 10 MCQ</li></ul>	
Week 11 (Nov 11 & 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Exam 2: Chapters 6-10</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 11: Personality</li><li>Chapter 11: Critical Thinking Activity</li><li>Topic Activity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Chapter 11</li><li>Complete Ch. 11 MCQ</li></ul>	
Week 12 (Nov 18 & 21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 12: Social Psychology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Chapter 12 and 14</li><li>Complete Ch. 12 and 14 MCQ</li></ul>	
Week 13 (Nov 25, 26 & 28)	<b>Monday 25</b>  Chapter 14: Critical Thinking Activity  Topic Activity	<b>Tuesday 26</b>  Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders	<u>No Class</u>  <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Chapter 15</li></ul>
Week 14 (Dec 2 & 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 15: Critical Thinking Activity</li><li>Topic Activity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Chapter 16</li><li>Complete Ch. 15 and 16 MCQ</li></ul>	
Week 15 (Dec 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Exam 3: Chapters 11-16</b></li></ul>	<u>Reading Day- No Class</u>		

## **Course Assignments, Due Dates & Grading**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
<b>Three In-Class Exams</b>	<b>45% Total</b> <i>Each exam worth 15%</i>
<b>Midterm Paper</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>MCQs</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Class Attendance &amp; Participation</b>	<b>15%</b>

### **Coursework Assignment Overview**

#### **In-Class Exams: (45 Points Total)**

There is no cumulative final exam for this course. There will be three in-class exams each covering the same amount of material and weighted equally; each worth 15 points of your final grade. Exams will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. All exams will be proctored. Note: Make-up exams are allowed only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.) at least one-week prior to the scheduled exam date, except in case of an unforeseeable emergency. Make-up exam will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

***Due: October 7, 2024, November 11, 2024, and December 9, 2024***

#### **Midterm Paper (25 Points)**

Do a literature review diving deeper into one of the topics that we've read about and discussed in class. A literature review involves finding a variety of sources on a particular subject, then summarizing and reporting on what these sources have to say about the topic.

Choose a famous psychological experiment and summarize the experiment and evaluate the implications of the study. Possible experiments that you might consider include:

- o [The Milgram Obedience Experiment](#)
- o [The Stanford Prison Experiment](#)
- o [The Little Albert Experiment](#)
- o [Pavlov's Conditioning Experiments](#)
- o [The Asch Conformity Experiment](#)
- o [Harlow's Rhesus Monkey Experiments](#)

#### **Requirements:**

- o 1-2 pages. Cite sources APA or MLA.
- o Sources can include peer reviewed scholarly journals, trade journals, and popular magazines (New Yorker, The Economist, Harvard Business review, etc.).
- o Typed double spaced; 1-inch margins, 12 point font, Times New Roman, MLA or APA Format.

- o Citation page does not count as part of the required page

**Due: October 24, 2024 by 11:59pm**

### **Multiple Choice Questions (15 Points)**

Students will receive 1 Point for attempting Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Quiz on Canvas weekly to test their learning.

You will have approximately 7 days following the relevant lecture to complete these. No exceptions.

**Due: Weekly**

### **Class Attendance & Participation (15 Points)**

This class meets face-to-face Monday/ Thursday 2:30 PM - 3:50 PM in CKB 120. Some of these classes will include lectures; all classes include discussion and/or classwork that you are expected to actively participate in. Classwork and discussion credit cannot be made up if you miss class or arrive late.

0.5 Point for attendance and participation in each in-person class.

**Due: Ongoing**

## **Grading Scale**

<b>Grade</b>			<b>Grade</b>	
<b>A</b>	90% and above		<b>C</b>	66-74%
<b>B+</b>	85-89%		<b>D+</b>	66.5-69.5
<b>B</b>	80-84%		<b>D</b>	55-65%
<b>C+</b>	75-79%		<b>F</b>	Below 55%

## **Assignment Submissions**

All submitted writing must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, MLA or APA Format, 12 point font with standard formatting with regards to margins, paragraphs, etc.

I do not accept emailed assignments or shared Google Drive files. You will receive no credit at all for assignments submitted in either of these manners. You must submit a .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .txt file on Canvas to receive credit for an assignment.

Should you encounter technical problems, contact the NJIT helpdesk at 973-596-2900 (or simply extension 2900 from campus locations). In the event that it is impossible to submit through Canvas, you must submit a paper version of the assignment that includes an explanation of why online submission was not possible. If

you cannot attend class, you may deliver paper submissions to the Humanities Department office in Cullimore Hall. Emailed work is not an acceptable substitute.

### **Late Submissions**

All assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the assigned date unless otherwise indicated.

This rule is not flexible. I encourage you to complete and submit the assignment earlier in the day to avoid encountering any problems with this deadline.

Late assignments will be docked 5% per calendar day. If the assignment is more than 9 days late, it will not be accepted.

No work whatsoever will be accepted after **12/05/2024** at 11:59 PM.

Receipt of final papers is verified through Canvas or instructor email. If you do not receive a return receipt within four hours of sending the final paper, it is your responsibility to follow up and ensure your paper has been received.

### **Miscellaneous**

All assignments should be completed individually unless permission is granted by the instructor ahead of time.

No grade changes will be made without a scheduled, in-person meeting. You can ask questions about your grade in any context you would like, but you need to also schedule an in-person meeting with me if you believe a grade deserves re-evaluation.

*This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.*

If you have follow-up comments after reviewing your grade, please contact me through the regular channels.

Please ask questions as frequently as possible, both in the classroom, outside of it, and online. Attend office hours or make an appointment. There is no reason for you not to understand assignments or expectations, so please take an active role in obtaining the knowledge you want or need.