

Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2024 – PSY 210:107
R, 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM, KUPF 207
Course delivery mode: Face-to-Face

Instructor: Yelda Semizer

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Office Hours: T, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment.

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

You have several options to obtain this book:

- [View online](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Download a PDF](#) (Links to an external site.)

The Modules tab will include links to relevant chapters each week.

Research articles: We will read and discuss research articles published in scientific journals. These articles will be available on Canvas.

Access to a PC: You will need Internet access to view course content on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Exams:

There will be three exams. All exams are time limited, closed book and closed notes. Exams are non-cumulative and will each make up 20% of your course grade. 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.

Quizzes:

There will be several quizzes throughout the semester. The aim of these quizzes is to give you a chance to test your knowledge about the class material. All quizzes will be available on Canvas at the beginning of the semester. Please see the course schedule below and Canvas course site for the due dates. You will have three chances to take each quiz and only the highest score will count towards your course grade.

Active Learning Activities:

One of the best ways to understand the scientific study of psychology is by conducting or participating in psychological experiments. To this end, throughout the semester, you will practice experiments including demonstrations of well-known psychological phenomena. In addition, you will be complete several active learning activates involving posting on group discussion board, collecting data and participating in experiments, plotting the data, and writing a short research report. For this project, you will work in groups, but everyone will write their own paper. See Canvas course site for further details and due dates.

For your project, you will need to find scientific resources (e.g., research articles) on the topic. We will go over what constitutes a research article and how to find a research article in class. You will give a brief presentation of your project in class. If you have concerns about the presentation, please let me know.

All papers must be completed by the individual student must show original work. Please see Academic Integrity Policy below. Papers will be checked using Turnitin, a software that checks originality of your work by comparing it to content on the Web, articles, books, and assignments of previous students of this class.

Class Presentation: You will be assigned to a group to lead the class discussion in one of the class meetings. To prepare for this role, you will read the relevant chapter of the book ahead of time, prepare discussion questions, and come to class as prepared to serve as a discussant following the lecture. In addition, you will be asked present recent research articles relevant to the topic and prepare a brief (~10 min) presentation to discuss the main points of these articles. The presentation should give a comprehensive summary including the research question, the methodologies used to answer the question, main findings, and limitations. You are expected to provide a critical review of the research articles rather than a mere summary of the facts. If you have concerns about the presentation, please let me know.

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 in-class activities and discussions. Throughout the semester, we will have several in-class activities. You must be in class that day to complete these activities. In addition, you will be asked to present a research article and lead the discussion as a group. There will be no make-up for these in-class activities. Absences are excused only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.).

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

Assessment type	Percentage
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	20%
Quizzes	10%
Active Learning Activity	10%
Class Presentation	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
TOTAL:	100%

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter grade
90% and above	A
85 – 89%	B+
80 – 84%	B
75 – 79%	C+
66 – 74%	C
55 – 65%	D
below 55%	F

Course Policies

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: <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.

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

Procedures and policies defined in this syllabus are subject to change upon mutual agreement. If you decide to stay enrolled in this course after receiving this syllabus, I will assume that you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Quiz	Active Learning Activity	Class Presentation
9/5	Introduction to course, Introduction to Psychology, Psychological Research	Ch. 1&2		A1	
9/12	Biopsychology	Ch. 3; paper #1	Q1 (Ch. 1,2,3)		Group 1
9/19	States of Consciousness	Ch. 4; paper #2		A2	Group 2
9/26	Sensation and Perception, Review for Exam I	Ch. 5; paper #3	Q2 (Ch. 4,5)		Group 3
10/3	Exam I , Learning	Ch. 6			
10/10	Learning <i>cont.</i>	Ch. 6; paper #4		A3	Group 4
10/17	Thinking and Intelligence	Ch. 7; paper #5			Group 5
10/24	Memory	Ch. 8; paper #6	Q3 (Ch. 6,7,8)		Group 6
11/31	Lifespan Development, Review for Exam II	Ch. 9; paper #7		A4	Group 7
11/7	Exam II , Personality	Ch. 11	Q4 (Ch. 9,11)		

11/14	Social Psychology	Ch. 12; paper #8	A5	Group 8
11/21	Work on Projects (No in-class meeting due to conference travel)			
11/26	Thursday classes meet on Tuesday Psychological Disorders; Therapy and Treatment	Ch. 15&16; paper #9	Q5 (Ch. 12,15,16)	Group 9
12/5	Exam III		A6	

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