

## **PSY 210 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**

Spring 2025  
Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00am-11:20am  
TIER Room 107

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Office hours: Fridays 11:30-12:30pm by appointment in CULM 315

**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 and Participation (20%)**

Attendance is required. Material presented and discussed in class is necessary for completing course assignments and the midterm and final exams.

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.

To receive full credit for attendance/participation, students must 1) not miss more than 3 classes, 2) arrive on time 3) stay for the whole class and (4) participate to the best of their ability.

### **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 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 after 6pm and over the weekend, but anything urgent 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](mailto: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 (outside resources) 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	January 21	
	Introduction to Psychology	January 24	Chapter 1
Week 2	Psychological Research	January 28	Chapter 2
	Biopsychology	January 31	Chapter 3 pages 90-98 Steinberg, Chapter 2 (on Canvas)
Week 3	Learning	February 4	Chapter 6
		February 7	
Week 4	Thinking and Intelligence	February 11	Chapter 7
		February 14	<a href="https://ascd.org/el/articles/the-significance-of-grit-a-conversation-with-angela-lee-duckworth">https://ascd.org/el/articles/the-significance-of-grit-a-conversation-with-angela-lee-duckworth</a>
Week 5	Memory	February 18	Chapter 8
	Stress, Lifestyle and Health	February 21	Chapter 14
Week 6	Lifespan Development	February 25	Chapter 9 Tough, Chapter 1 (on Canvas)
		February 28	
Week 7	Lifespan Development pt 3	March 4	
	<i>Midterm Review</i>	March 7	
Week 8	<b>MIDTERM</b>	March 11	
	Industrial Organizational Psychology	March 14	Chapter 13
Week 9		March 18	NO CLASS
		March 21	NO CLASS
Week 10	Emotion and Motivation	March 25	Chapter 10
		March 28	
Week 11	Personality	April 1	Chapter 11
		April 4	

Week 12	Social Psychology	April 8 April 11	Chapter 12
Week 13	Psychological Disorders	April 15 April 18	Chapter 15 NO CLASS
Week 14	Psychological Disorders pt 2 Therapy and Treatment	April 22 April 25	Chapter 16
Week 15	Therapy and Treatment pt 2 Student chosen topic	April 29 May 2	
Week 16	<i>Final Review</i>	May 7 (Wednesday)	
	<b>FINAL</b>	TBD	