

Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2023 – PSY 210:H01
TF, 10:00 AM – 11:20 PM, CKB 120
Course delivery mode: Face-to-Face

Instructor: Yelda Semizer

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Office Hours: T, 11:30 AM – 12:30 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. Midterm Exam I and II will be administered within the semester while Final Exam will be administered during the final period. All exams are time limited, closed book and closed notes. Midterm Exam I and II (non-cumulative) will each make up 20% of your course grade while Final Exam (cumulative) will make up 30% 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.

Project: One of the best ways to understand the scientific study of psychology is by participating in psychological experiments. To this end, throughout the semester, we will complete several demonstrations of well-known psychological phenomena. In addition, you will be asked to complete a project which involves data collection, analysis, and write-up. For this project, you will work in groups, but everyone will write their own paper.

For your projects, 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 (3-5 min) 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 to 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.

Attendance and Participation: The delivery mode of this course is *in person*, 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. There will be no make-up for in-class activity questions. 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
Midterm Exam I	20%
Midterm Exam II	20%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	10%
Project	10%
Class Presentation	5%
Attendance and Participation	5%
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/studentsuccess/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	Paper Presentation
9/5	Introduction to course, Introduction to Psychology	Syllabus, Ch. 1		
9/8	Psychological Research: Part 1	Ch. 2		
9/12	Psychological Research: Part 2	Ch. 2 <i>cont.</i>		
9/15	Biopsychology: Part 1	Ch. 3; paper #1		Group 1
9/19	Biopsychology: Part 2	Ch. 3 <i>cont.</i>	Q1 (Ch. 1,2,3)	
9/22	States of Consciousness	Ch. 4; paper #2		Group 2
9/26	Sensation and Perception: Part 1	Ch. 5		
9/29	Sensation and Perception: Part 2	Ch. 5 <i>cont.</i> ; paper #3		Group 3
10/3	Catch-up and Review for Exam I		Q2 (Ch. 4,5)	
10/6	Midterm Exam I			
10/10	Learning	Ch. 6		
10/13	Thinking and Intelligence	Ch. 7; paper #4		Group 4
10/17	Memory: Part 1	Ch. 8		
10/20	Memory: Part 2	Ch. 8 <i>cont.</i> ; paper #5	Q3 (Ch. 6,7,8)	Group 5
10/24	Lifespan Development	Ch. 9		
10/27	Personality: Part 1	Ch. 11; paper #6		Group 6
10/31	Personality: Part 2	Ch. 11 <i>cont.</i>		
11/3	Catch-up and Review for Exam II		Q4 (Ch. 9,11)	
11/7	Midterm Exam II			

11/10	Social Psychology: Part 1	Ch. 12; paper #7	Group 7
11/14	Social Psychology: Part 2	Ch. 12 <i>cont.</i>	Project description due
11/17 No Class (Conference Travel)			
11/22	Psychological Disorders: Part 1 (Note: change of class day)	Ch. 15; paper #8	Group 8
11/24 No Class: Thanksgiving Recess			
11/28	Psychological Disorders: Part 2	Ch. 15 <i>cont.</i>	
12/1	Therapy and Treatment	Ch. 16; paper #9	Group 9
12/5	Catch-up and Review for Exam III	Q5 (Ch. 12,15,16)	
12/8	Project Presentations	Project presentation submissions due Sunday	
12/12	Project Presentations	Project paper due	
TBD	Final Exam		

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