

PSY 201: Orientation to Psychology as a Behavioral Science

Tues/Fri 1:00-2:20pm, Central King Building 214

SYLLABUS DRAFT 9/8/25 – SUBJECT TO REVISION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Hyland Bruno

Contact: julia.hylandbruno@njit.edu

Office hour: Tues 3-4pm or by appointment, on Zoom

PREREQUISITES

None, although enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in (Cyber)Psychology program is strongly encouraged.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will serve as an orientation to psychology in general and cyberpsychology in particular. Through readings, seminar-style discussions, reflective writing, and independent and group assignments, students will investigate the principles and applications of behavioral science, including career opportunities in the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand what makes psychology a behavioral science
- Appreciate some of the different contexts in which behavioral science is vital at NJIT
- Critically evaluate psychological claims and popular media representations of psychological science
- Envision possible career paths in psychology and behavioral science
- Articulate personal interests in psychology as well as educational and professional goals
- Demonstrate sharpened observation skills
- Identify with a community of other (cyber-)psychology-oriented students.

COURSE MATERIALS

Text: We will be reading selected portions of the following book, which can be purchased new for under \$40 (ebook or paperback):

- Bateson, M., & Martin, P. (2021). *Measuring behaviour: An introductory guide* (4th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

You do not need to purchase this book (I will provide PDFs of all selections), but if you choose to do so please make sure to get Fourth Edition.

Internet, technology, online resources and communication: This course requires internet access and access to a computer. Please bring a laptop or tablet with you to class (please speak with me individually if this is or becomes an issue for you). Please also bring a notebook/paper and writing utensil to every class meeting. **We will be practicing deliberate use of technology throughout the course.** Certain class activities will require you to put electronic devices away (again, please speak with me individually if you have any concerns about this).

We will be using the following resources for homework and in-class activities:

- **Canvas** (<https://njit.instructure.com/>). We will use Canvas as the course repository. Assigned readings and other course materials will be made available through Canvas. Please always check Canvas for the most up-to-date version of the syllabus (this document), as well as the overall course gradebook.
- **Google Drive.** We will be using Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms throughout the semester. Please use the account associated with your NJIT email.

Email is the primary mode of communication in this course. Please check your email regularly and make sure that your Canvas notifications are set to receive broadcast announcements via email. If I do not respond to your email within 24 hours, please follow up with me.

COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements are worth the following percentages of your final grade:

- Psychology/behavioral science in the news (PITN): 20%
 - Weekly submissions: 2% each
- Synthesizing exercises (exams): 20%
 - Midterm: 10%
 - Final: 10%

- Preparation and participation: 35%
 - Reading response questions: 0.5% each
 - Guest speaker respondent duties: 2 x 2.5%
 - Minute papers: 0.5% each
 - Oral participation: 1% per week
- Other assignments: 25%

Detailed information will be provided about all course assignments on Canvas. In general, *late submissions will be graded at half-credit.*

Grading currency: All points earned in this course are cumulative, percentage points of the final grade.

Extra credit: Many assignments will include the opportunity to earn some extra credit points. No additional extra credit will be offered.

Class participation: *Attendance is required.* In-class assignments cannot be made up except under extenuating circumstances.

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter (description)
[90, ∞)	A (superior)
[85, 90)	B+ (excellent)
[80, 85)	B (very good)
[75, 80)	C+ (good)
[70, 75)	C (acceptable)
[60, 70)	D (minimum)
[0, 60)	F (inadequate)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND COURSE POLICIES

Plagiarism and cheating: NJIT requires me to include this language:

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.*

Generative AI: Except where explicitly instructed otherwise, this course expects students to work without artificial intelligence assistance.

Class recording: **This course may not be recorded without permission of the instructor.**

Student absences for religious observance: NJIT is committed to supporting students observing religious holidays. Please notify me in writing of any conflicts between course requirements and religious observances, ideally by the end of the second week of classes and no later than two weeks before the anticipated absence.

Extenuating circumstances: Any extenuating circumstances that could interfere with your ability to complete the requirements for this course must be taken to the Office of the Dean of Students. The Office of the Dean of Students will discuss your situation with you, assess any relevant documentation, and make the determination of whether extenuating circumstances exist. Special accommodations (e.g., late withdrawal from the course, request for a make-up exam, request for an Incomplete, etc.) will be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

ACCESSIBILITY AND 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.

SCHEDULE [under construction]

DATE	TOPIC(S)	READING	ASSIGNMENT(S) [all due 1pm]
9/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article info (personal selection #1) – submit in class
9/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN • Active sensing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bateson & Martin, Ch. 1 • Fortune seminar background readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 1) • Reading question (Fortune readings)
9/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio seminar, speaker Eric Fortune <p>***MEET OUTSIDE CKB 303 at 1pm***</p>		
9/11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (personal selection #2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article info (personal selection #2)
9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science, knowing and truth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bateson & Martin, Ch. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 2)
9/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN • Behavioral research questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (class selection #2) • Bateson & Martin, Ch. 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 3)
9/18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (personal selection #3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article info (personal selection #3)
9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker Laura Dickerman • Behavioral research questions 		
9/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN • Behavioral study design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (class selection #3) • Bateson & Martin, Ch. 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 4)
9/25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (personal selection #4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article info (personal selection #4)
9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics in psychology • AI in education and society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bateson & Martin, Ch. 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 5)
9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN • Guest speaker Dar Desai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (class selection #4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical encounter with AI
10/2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (personal selection #5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article info (personal selection #5)
10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bateson & Martin, Ch. 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 6) • Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) and Human Subject Research (HSR) training certifications
10/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN • Behavioral observation • Guest speaker Abriana Gresham 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (class selection #5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral observation write-up
10/9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article (personal selection #6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITN article info (personal selection #6)
10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing behavior • Language learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lipkind seminar background readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading question (Lipkind readings)

DATE	TOPIC(S)	READING	ASSIGNMENT(S) [all due 1pm]
10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio seminar, speaker Dina Lipkind ***MEET OUTSIDE CKB 303 at 1pm***	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN discussion on Canvas
10/16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (personal selection #7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article info (personal selection #7)
10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm review 		
10/21	MIDTERM EXAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #7) 	
10/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (personal selection #8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article info (personal selection #8)
10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring behavior Guest speaker: Eugene Snyder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bateson & Martin, Ch. 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 7)
10/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN Measuring behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #8) Bateson & Martin, Ch. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 8)
10/30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (personal selection #9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article info (personal selection #9)
10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring behavior Locomotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severi seminar background readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading question (Severi readings)
11/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio seminar, speaker Kris Severi ***MEET OUTSIDE CKB 303 at 1pm***	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN discussion on Canvas
11/6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (personal selection #10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article info (personal selection #10)
11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethogram study 		
11/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN Data analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #10) Bateson & Martin, Ch. 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 11)
11/13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (personal selection #11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article info (personal selection #11)
11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Animal Behaviour Live</i> 		
11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN Data interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #11) 	
11/20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (personal selection #12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article info (personal selection #12)
11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying social behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bateson & Martin, Ch. 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 10)
11/25	NO CLASS [Thursday schedule]		
11/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN Science communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PITN article (class selection #12) Bateson & Martin, Ch. 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading question (Bateson & Martin, Ch. 12)
11/28	NO CLASS [Thanksgiving holiday]		
12/2	Debate prep		
12/5	Debate #1		
12/9	Debate #2		
TBD	FINAL EXAM		