



**Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2025, PSY 210-017
TF, 1:00 PM – 2:20 PM
CKB 106**

Instructor: Kate Cohen, PhD

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Office Location & Hours: CKB; F: 11:30am-12:30pm, E-mail for an appointment.

B. Course Prerequisites or Co-requisites (N/A)

C. 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.

D. 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.

D. Required Texts, Readings, and/or other Resources

Textbook: Your textbook for this class is available for free online. Psychology 2e from OpenStax, ISBN 978-1-975076-45-0

<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e> Download PDF file under 'Get the book' option.

The Modules tab on Canvas will include attachments to relevant chapters each week.

E. Topical Course Outline (See the Tentative Course Schedule)

F. Course Requirements

This course consists of lectures, in-class small group discussions, discussion board postings, a group presentation, three exams, and an independent analysis and critique paper. Lectures will integrate assigned textbook chapters with other relevant content. Attendance is required.

Note: Due to the iterative nature of the assignments, in general late submissions will not be accepted.

G. Grading/Evaluation

Student evaluation will be based upon:

Quality of class presentations and creative and critical elaboration

Knowledge and understanding of course materials.

Quality of comprehensive review of literature

Quality of group discussion questions

Extent of active participation in class.

The final grade will be weighted on the following criteria:

Group Presentation	10%
Comprehensive review of one topic of choice dealt with in the course	20%
Exams: Exam 1 (15%) Exam 2 (15%) Exam 3 (15%)	45%
Discussion Questions (DQ) (10 x 1%)	10%
Class Participation	15%
Total	100%

GRADE SCALE

A	90-100%
B+	87-89.5%
B	80-86.5%
C+	77-79.5%
C	70-76.5%
D	60-69.5%
F	<60%

H. Descriptions of Graded Assignments:

Group Presentation (10%)

Throughout the semester, students will get into group of 3- 4 people and present for 10-12 minutes on one article that is related to the topic of that class. **See Appendix 1 for more details.**

*All presentations should incorporate the use of PowerPoint computer software.

*All presentations must be completed on the day in which the group is assigned. If a group member is absent, they will receive a 0 for the presentation portion of the assignment unless cleared with the instructor on an individual basis. Each member of the group will receive a grade based on his/her presentation and participation in group work. Group members will be graded by their peers on the day

of presentation. Submission of peer grading will occur via Canvas. Note: Peer grades will be kept confidential.

*The article chosen for presentation purposes must be e-mailed to the instructor at least **ONE WEEK PRIOR BY THE END OF CLASS TIME** to class presentation! This will ensure timely feedback from the instructor. Example: If a group presentation is assigned for a Friday, the article will be shared with the instructor on the previous Friday by one group member.

*PowerPoint presentation must be e-mailed to the instructor at least **ONE CLASS PERIOD** prior to class presentation! This will ensure timely feedback from the instructor. Example: If a group presentation is assigned for a Friday, the presentation will be shared with the instructor on the previous Tuesday by one group member.

Your final presentation score will be
(Group evaluation + Individual evaluation + Average Peer evaluation) / 3.

Term Paper (20%)

A term paper on the topic(s) of your choice from the course, will be submitted using APA guidelines and formatting criteria; double-spaced, Times New Roman font, in-text citations, where necessary. The paper should be 4-5 pages in total, and will include a reference list to be considered eligible for a complete score. **See Appendix 2 for further details.**

Exams (45% total)

There will be three in-class exams, including a final exam, each covering the same amount of material and weighted equally. Exams will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. All exams will be proctored. Students are expected to complete the exam on the dates listed in the Tentative Course Schedule. *Make-up quizzes are considered only for extreme circumstances and will be given to students on a case-by-case basis.*

Note. Exceptions may be considered and include documentation of a valid medical excuse from a physician, conflict with religious observances, and/or travel for intercollegiate athletic competition. Students participating in University (academic or intercollegiate) sponsored events must provide documentation for travel at least one-week prior to the scheduled exam date, except in case of an unforeseeable emergency. Make-up exams will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

Discussion Questions (DQ; 10%)

Ten times throughout the semester, each student will submit on Canvas a group discussion question related to the topic(s) to be covered in class. Questions should demonstrate a solid understanding of the material and critical thinking; occasionally, if the chapter is very difficult, a question can be about what was not understood. **Never** should a question be one that can be answered yes/no but should be one that incentivizes discussion and critical thinking.

Questions must be submitted the **day before the class by 11:59pm EST**. Each student should also have a copy of their own discussion question during the class call.

Class Participation (15%)

Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. Participation involves engagement in all class activities and discussions. Students are also expected to arrive to class on time and remain until class is dismissed. When absent or late, it is the student's responsibility to obtain lecture notes, materials, and assignments from a classmate or the course Canvas page.

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 to in-class activities and discussions. You must be in class that day to complete these activities. There will be no make-up for in-class activity. Absences are excused only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.), or DOS excuses the absence.

University Policy on 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:

<https://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/NJIT-University-Policy-on-Academic-Integrity.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

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.

ChatGPT and Other Language-Based Models

There is a zero-tolerance policy for *any* artificial intelligence usage in this course. The expectation of this course is for students to work through the course without assistance from AI-generated software programs (this includes, but is not limited to, ChatGPT, Grammarly, GPTZero, etc.) to better develop their individual skills in the content area. As such, artificial intelligence usage is not permitted throughout this course.

Please note, Turnitin evaluates all sorts of academic integrity violations. This tool detects unauthorized use of quotes and repurposed text (including borrowing and purchasing of papers). Turnitin flags AI-generated text and use of "grammar" assistants that rewrites sentences. None of these tools are acceptable in this course. Your plagiarism percentage appears on the submission page for each assignment. The AI percentage is available only to instructors. Students in violation to these course policies of academic integrity will be reported to the Dean of Students, without exception.

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Day	Readings	Topic	Assignments Due (by class)
1	9/2	Tuesday	Course Introduction; Chapter 1	Introduction to Psychology	Review syllabus and read Chapter 1
	9/5	Friday	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 (continued)	a. Discussion Question due @ 11:59PM on 9/4: Respond on Canvas to the following question: Which discipline (i.e., functionalism, humanism, behaviorism) would you be involved in? Explain your reasoning. b. Fill out Google Doc for group presentation selection.
2	9/9	Tuesday	Chapter 2	Psychological Research	Read Chapter 2
	9/12	Friday	Chapter 3	Biopsychology	Read Chapter 3
3	9/16	Tuesday	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 (continued)	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 9/15)
	9/19	Friday	Chapter 4	States of Consciousness	Read Chapter 4 Group Presentation
4	9/23	Tuesday	Chapter 5	Sensation and Perception	Read Chapter 5 Group Presentation Exam 1 Review (Ch 1-5)
	9/26	Friday	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 (continued)	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 9/25)
5	9/30	Tuesday	Exam 1 (Ch 1-5)		
	10/3	Friday	Chapter 6	Learning	Read Chapter 6; Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 10/2)
6	10/7	Tuesday	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 (continued)	Group Presentation
	10/10	Friday	Chapter 7	Thinking and Intelligence	Read Chapter 7; (Question due @ 11:59PM on 10/09) Group Presentation
7	10/14	Tuesday	Chapter 8	Memory	Read Chapter 8 Group Presentation
	10/17	Friday	Chapter 9	Lifespan Development	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 10/16) Read chapter 9
8	10/21	Tuesday	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 (continued)	Group Presentation
	10/24	Friday	Chapter 10 Group Presentation	Emotion and Motivation	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 10/23) Read chapter 10

9	10/28	Tuesday	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 (continued)	Group Presentation
	10/31	Friday	Chapter 11	Personality	Read chapter 11 Group Presentation Exam 2 Review (6-11)
10	11/4	Tuesday	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 (continued)	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 11/3)
	11/7	Friday	Exam 2 (Ch 6 – 11)		
11	11/11	Tuesday	Chapter 12	Social Psychology	Read chapter 12
	11/14	Friday	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 (continued)	Group Presentation
12	11/18	Tuesday	Chapter 13	Industrial-Organizational Psychology	Group Presentation Read chapter 13
	11/21	Friday	Chapter 14	Stress, Lifestyle, and Health	Term Paper Due Read chapter 14
13	11/26	Wednesday	Chapter 14	Chapter 14 (continued)	Group Presentation
	11/28	Friday	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
14	12/2	Tuesday	Chapter 15	Psychological Disorders	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 12/1) Read chapter 15
	12/5	Friday	Chapter 15	Chapter 15 (continued)	Group Presentation Exam 3 Prep (12-16)
15	12/9	Tuesday	Chapter 16	Chapter 16 Therapy and Treatment	Group Discussion (Question due @ 11:59PM on 12/8) Group Presentation Read chapter 16

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

Appendix 1 Group Presentation

DIRECTIONS:

Each group will choose one peer-reviewed research article that is related to the chosen topic of the class to present on. Once the instructor has approved the chosen article, group members will create their presentation. **You will only present for 15 minutes max.** PowerPoint presentations are the best; however, other sources (ex. Prezio) are acceptable. See presentation outline below for presentation requirements.

DEADLINES:

- The article chosen for presentation purposes must be e-mailed to the instructor at least **ONE WEEK prior** to class presentation by 11:59pm EST for approval. This will ensure timely feedback from the instructor.
- The PowerPoint presentation (including video and other materials) must be e-mailed to the instructor **ONE CLASS PERIOD prior** to class presentation by 8:30 AM EST (i.e. If you present Friday, your presentation must be in my inbox by 8:30am EST on the previous Tuesday). This will ensure timely feedback from the instructor. Feedback is expected to be implemented.
- Peer review grades must be submitted on Canvas no later than 11:59pm EST on your group's assigned presentation day.

Note: Points will be deducted from your grade for presentation components not turned in on time

SELECTING ARTICLE:

- Article selection stipulations:
 - Needs to be a published, peer review article
 - Needs to be from **2020** to present
 - Needs to be from a psychology Journal (in some cases articles from other journals may be approved)
 - *See tips for a list of approved journals*
 - Cannot be a literature review/meta-analysis, research note, or book chapter
- To figure out a specific study in such a broad topic (ex. Motivation)
 - Look in the book to find specific areas of interest (ex. Intrinsic Motivation vs. Extrinsic Motivation)
 - The book may discuss an article that you are interested in
 - Start broad in your search and narrow it down (motivation → motivation in practice settings)
 - Choose a specific population of interest (ex. college students)
 - *Remember the broader your search, the more articles will pop up. Try to get it specific so it is easier to find an article

- Where to look
 - Google Scholar
 - NJIT library
 - *Sometimes articles are tough to find because you have to pay for them, but here are some approved journals that NJIT may have access to:
 - *Society for Personality Research*
 - *American Psychological Association*
 - *Frontiers in Psychology*
 - *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*
 - *Psychological Bulletin*
 - *Psychological Review and Psychological Methods*
 - **When looking for an article make sure you click “Peer Review” and have the time range from 2020-present (This will help narrow your search to match the criteria needed for this presentation).

Presentation Requirements:

- In creating slides, keep in mind that font sizes should be no smaller than 24pt font. The class needs to be able to visibly read your slides. Keep wording on slides brief. The group presenters will be responsible for using their personal device to present slides to the class. Please make sure you have practiced your transitions from one section to the next. I would suggest multiple run-throughs with your group members (even better if in front of others) before your presentation day, so you are entirely prepared.
- Introduction
 - Brief review of the previous literature (the idea here is to tie in what has already done in the research and why this study is important)
 - Purpose(s) and Hypothesis (if any)
- Methods
 - Participants
 - What was the method? (e.g. Intervention, experimental design, interviews)
 - Measurements/Tools
 - Procedure
 - Data Analysis
- Results
 - What was found in the study
 - What are the conclusions
 - **Don’t just report the statistics...what do the stats mean?**

**Note: sometimes, results could be a little confusing to understand. Reading the discussion can help fully understand what they found.
- Discussion
 - Limitations of the study
 - Implications (how does this study help the real world; how to apply it)
 - Future research
- Discussion Question(s)
 - Come up with a question (or more) on the article that can promote class discussion.

- This can be your own critique of the study (maybe a limitation you noticed and want to talk about or how you think this can be applied to sport-setting that wasn't discussed in the article) be creative with your discussion.
- You will see plenty of examples of how to facilitate a discussion through lectures, so I expect you to pull from those experiences and try them out for yourselves.
- **You, and the class, will only get out what you put in! You will be graded on how well you can engage in and facilitate discussion.**

Presentation skills:

- Are you just reading off the slides or do you know the information?
- Are you further explaining the information on the slides, including any and all tables and visuals included?
- How much are you providing non-verbal cues (e.g., eye contact with peers) during your presentation?
- Presentation is no more than 15 minutes
- Information is presented in an organized way (overall presentation quality)

Grading:

- Grade (out of 15 points total):
 - Individual grade (out of 15 points)
 - Group grade (out of 15 points)
 - Peer-review grade (out of 15 points)

 - Absenteeism on the day of your presentation will result in an individual grade of zero.

Your goal: Show the rest of the class, and me, that you have done your research and are adequately prepared to present. Be confident OR embrace it until you make it 😊

Appendix 1 (continued)

Chapter:

Group:

Individual:

Psy 210 Group Presentations

Group Presentation	Your points	Possible Points	Comments
All group members participated equally - Fits the time limit		5	
Able to Generate Class Discussion - Ability to handle questions as well (speaking to the audience)		5	
Information is presented in an organized way. - Overall presentation quality		5	

Total: _____/15

Individual Grade- This score is calculated individually. My expectation from each presenter:

Individual Presentation	Your points	Possible Points	Comments
Individual ability as a presenter -Not just reading off the PowerPoint - speaking clear	5	5	
Able to Generate Class Discussion --ability to handle questions as well (speaking to the audience)	5	5	
Presents the appropriate amount of time.	5	5	

Total: ____/15

Appendix 2 Term Paper

Part 1: BACKGROUND OF PAPER

On Canvas, submit a 4-5-page (DOES NOT include the title page but DOES include a separate reference page) scientifically written (no use of “I” or “Me”) paper that relates select course concepts to your specific population and topic of interest. For example, you may be interested in the art of cooking (e.g., topic of interest) by top chefs (e.g., population of interest). You may find that the various components of motivation, lifespan development, or sensation and perception (all topics and details we will discuss in our course), for example, are involved in the psychological aspects of cooking. You will then delve into the literature (peer-reviewed articles and studies ONLY; no blogs, no .com websites; Google Scholar and NJIT library database will have plenty of sources for you to reference) to back up any points, claims, study results, etc. that you have made describing how concepts from our course relate to your area of interest. This will be noted by in-text citations throughout the paper wherever applicable.

Part 2: WRITING YOUR PAPER

Begin to form the outline for your paper. My recommendation is to organize your paper by an introduction where you will describe the background of your population and topic of interest, followed by 1-2 paragraphs for *each* course concept of your choice that best relates to your topic; there should be a few topics (e.g., motivation AND sensation and perception AND cognitive elements) discussed since you will likely not want to write 3+ pages on solely motivation and cooking, *OR* sensations and cooking. Choose a few concepts to discuss within your paper! From there, you should summarize your efforts into a cohesive conclusion paragraph. Lastly, a separate reference page with all your sources listed will follow (APA only – see formatting link below for guidance).

Follow APA **7th edition student format** (NEWEST EDITION!) guidelines

- Your paper should be typed, double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11") with **1" margins on all sides, and 12 pt. Times New Roman font.**
- Include a title page and reference list (see APA 7th edition for formatting)
 - Should include a title of the topic your paper is centered around, the textbook (if referenced), and any other supporting materials used.
 - A minimum of *at least* 6-7 peer-reviewed sources should be referenced.
 - *You do not need to put a reference for lecture slides, but it is strongly suggested to find a publication that may also outline this exact or similar information you are discussing.
 - Limit use of direct quotes, and instead paraphrase points while still providing credit to the author(s).

- **Formatting**

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html

NOTE:

- **Late work – No late work will be accepted. Term papers must be submitted by the specified deadlines on Canvas. I will not accept any emailed term papers following the due date listed.**