

# New Jersey Institute of Technology

## Introduction to Psychology

### PSY 210

Fall 2025

**Prerequisites:** This course does not have any prerequisites or corequisites.

**Instructor:** Dr. L. Devorah Dickerman

**Office:** Cullimore 423

**Contact:** laura.dickerman@njit.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00am- 9:50am and 11:30am-12:30pm

#### **Course Meeting Time and Location:**

Tuesday and Thursday

#### **Texts**

Textbook- Psychology 2e from OpenStax, ISBN 978-1-975076-45-0

This is a FREE textbook that can be accessed online. The chapters we will be using from this text are uploaded to Canvas. If you would like to access the textbook in a web browser, you can do so at the following link: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

#### **Course Description**

PSY 210 is an introduction to the study of behavior and mental processes. Course content focuses on foundational and major psychological theories, concepts, methods, and research findings within the field. Topics include the history of psychology, psychology as a science, the biological bases of behavior, perception, cognition and consciousness, learning, memory, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the history of psychology, major psychological concepts, and key theoretical perspectives
- Exhibit an understanding of psychology as a science and identify scientific methods used to study behavior and mental processes
- Distinguish between and discuss major domains in psychology
- Apply psychological principles to everyday life
- Proficiently find, read, and summarize a peer reviewed psychology publication

#### **Policies**

##### **University Policy on Academic Integrity**

Professor and Course will adhere to the university's guidelines:

"Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating (which includes plagiarism) 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 the instructor’s 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

This class is intended to be fully available to students regardless of health or disability status (whether mental or physical). If you need reasonable accommodations to complete the course because of a disability, you can reach out to the course instructor or to the office of accessibility resources and services.

## Course Environment

This course should be a safe space: in the classroom, in one-on-one discussions with the instructor, and in the Canvas spaces for this course. This means no hate speech (slurs or derogatory or demeaning comments) and no bullying. You are expected to treat your classmates respectfully and with kindness, generosity, and empathy.

## Technology

You are required to bring a device with you to class that will allow you to access Canvas. This likely means a tablet, laptop or smartphone. There is no makeup credit if you do not bring such a device and are unable as a result to complete course activities that day.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism, presenting someone else’s words, thoughts, or ideas (in whole or in part) as your own, is cheating and will not be tolerated. The NJIT Honor Code will be upheld, and any violations will be brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students. NJIT enforces strict academic integrity policies, and any plagiarized material will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Academic probation and possible suspension or expulsion from the university may also be pursued by NJIT administration in cases of plagiarism. Three very important things to remember:

- 1) Various plagiarism-detection tools are employed in this course.
- 2) There have been numerous cases of students attempting to submit papers written by students enrolled in earlier versions of this class. These students have received failing grades and academic probation – and the students supplying the papers have also been punished.
- 3) If you’re struggling with the final project or concerned about these policies, I’m happy to work with you! Plagiarism is not worth the risk to your future.

**Self-plagiarism is also not permitted.** Self-Plagiarism: Unauthorized reuse of previously published or submitted work for a class.

## Attendance

If you miss a class, you are responsible for catching up (contact me to inquire about missed material). These are uniquely challenging times; please communicate with me if you encounter an issue that obstructs or limits your capacity to participate fully in our class with respect to technology, presence, or any other matter.

**Students will be counted present only if they are in the classroom at the time roll is called.**

**Excessive unexcused lateness of 15 minutes or more throughout the course will be considered as one absence.**

*According to university policy, students who expect to miss classes or exams because of religious observance must submit to their instructors, by the end of the second week of classes and no later than two weeks before the anticipated absence, a written list of dates that will be missed. Similarly, athletes should submit a list of events. If you can’t make a class—due to illness, an academic commitment, an interview, or a major extracurricular event—and you wish to have the absence excused, ask the Dean of Students to review the request.*

## Course Schedule

Time	Tuesday	Thursday	Assignments Due
Week 1 9/2 and 9/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course Orientation, Syllabus Review</li> <li>Chapter 1: Introduction to Psychology</li> </ul> <p><b>Class will meet via Zoom, this day only</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 1- Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Syllabus</li> <li>Read Chapter 1</li> <li>Complete Ch. 1 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 2 9/9 and 9/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2: Psychological Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2 – Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 2</li> <li>Complete Ch. 2 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 3 9/16 and 9/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3: Biopsychology</li> <li>Chapter 3: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 4: States of Consciousness</li> <li>Chapter 4: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 3 and 4</li> <li>Complete Ch. 3 and 4 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 4 9/23 and 9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception</li> <li>Chapter 5: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 4 and 5</li> <li>Complete Ch. 5 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 5 9/30 and 10/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam Prep</b></li> </ul>	<b>No Class: Wellness Day</b>	
Week 6 10/7 and 10/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-5</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 6: Learning</li> <li>Chapter 6: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 6</li> <li>Complete Ch. 6 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 7 10/14 and 10/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence</li> <li>Chapter 7: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8: Memory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 7 and 8</li> <li>Complete Ch. 7 and 8 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 8 10/21 and 10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 8: Memory</li> <li>Chapter 8: Critical Thinking Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9: Lifespan Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 8 and 9</li> <li>Complete Ch. 8 and 9 MCQ</li> </ul>

Week 9 10/28 and 10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9: Lifespan Development</li> <li>Chapter 9: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 9</li> <li>Complete Ch. 8 and 9 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 10 11/4 and 11/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 10: Emotion and Motivation</li> <li>Chapter 10: Critical Thinking Activity</li> </ul>	EXAM PREP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 10</li> <li>Complete Ch. 10 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 11 11/11 and 11/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam 2: Chapters 6-10</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 11: Personality</li> <li>Chapter 11: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 11</li> <li>Complete Ch. 11 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 12 11/18 and 11/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 12: Social Psychology</li> <li>Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cont Ch 12</li> <li>Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 12 and 14</li> <li>Complete Ch. 12 and 14 MCQ</li> </ul>
Week 13 11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle, and Health</li> <li>Chapter 14: Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Start Ch 15</li> </ul>	<p><b>No Class Thursday 11/27</b></p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Recess</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 15</li> <li>Completed MCQ 15</li> </ul>
Week 14 12/2 and 12/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders</li> <li>Start Ch 16</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment</li> <li>Critical Thinking Activity</li> <li>Topic Activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Chapter 16</li> </ul>
Week 15 12/9 and 12/11	EXAM PREP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exam 3: Chapters 11-16</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Ch. 16 MCQ</li> </ul>
Finals Week	<b>Final Assignment Due: Date TBD</b>		

## Course Assignments, Due Dates & Grading

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
<b>Three In-Class Exams</b>	<b>45% Total</b> <i>Each exam worth 15%</i>
<b>15 MCQ Quizzes</b>	<b>30% Total</b> <i>Each MCQ worth 2%</i>
<b>Final Assignment</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Class Attendance &amp; Participation</b>	<b>15%</b>

### Coursework Assignment Overview

#### **In-Class Exams: (45 Points Total)**

There is no cumulative final exam for this course. There will be three in-class exams each covering the same amount of material and weighted equally; each worth 15 points of your final grade. Exams will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. All exams will be proctored. Note: Make-up Exams are allowed only if appropriate documentation is provided to and verified by the Dean of Students (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, bereavement, etc.). Make-up Exams will **not** be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

**Dates: 10/7, 11/11, 12/11**

#### **Final Assignment: Reflective Survey (10 Points)**

Responses will be inputted in the provided boxes in canvas. 1. Choose one of the topics/chapters discussed throughout the semester: summarize the topic/chapter selected. 2. Integrate your own impressions and beliefs about this topic/chapter, and identify and share how this content may benefit you in your future.

Each question is to be at minimum of 100 words; no maximum. Points will be reduced if below 100 words, and grammatical errors present.

*Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in this course for certain assignments and activities. Refer to the last page of this syllabus.*

*All papers must be completed by the individual student who 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. Departmental policy to date has been to refer students suspected of deploying ChatGPT, Grammarly, and other similar tools to the Dean of Students for further investigation.*

**Due: TBD**

**Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) Quiz (30 Points)**

Students will receive 2 points for attempting Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) Quiz on Canvas weekly to test their learning.

You will have approximately 5 days following the relevant lecture to complete these. No exceptions.

**Class Attendance & Participation (15 Points)**

This class meets face-to-face Tuesdays and Fridays. Some of these classes will include lectures; all classes include discussion and/or classwork that you are expected to actively participate in. Classwork and discussion credit cannot be made up if you miss class or arrive late.

0.5 Point for attendance and participation in each in-person class.

**Last day of class is worth 1 point.**

***Due: Ongoing***

**Grading Scale**

<b>Grade</b>		<b>Grade</b>	
<b>A</b>	90-100	<b>C</b>	70-76
<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>D</b>	59-69
<b>B</b>	80-86	<b>F</b>	58.9 or below
<b>C+</b>	77-79		

## Assignment Submissions

All submitted writing must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, MLA Format, 12 point font with standard formatting with regards to margins, paragraphs, etc.

I do not accept emailed assignments or shared Google Drive files. You will receive no credit at all for assignments submitted in either of these manners. You must submit a .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .txt file on Canvas to receive credit for an assignment.

Should you encounter technical problems, contact the NJIT helpdesk at 973-596-2900 (or simply extension 2900 from campus locations). In the event that it is impossible to submit through Canvas, you must submit a paper version of the assignment that includes an explanation of why online submission was not possible. If you cannot attend class, you may deliver paper submissions to the Humanities Department office in Cullimore Hall. Emailed work is not an acceptable substitute.

## Late Submissions

All assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the assigned date unless otherwise indicated.

This rule is not flexible. I encourage you to complete and submit the assignment earlier in the day to avoid encountering any problems with this deadline.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

Receipt of final papers is verified through Canvas or instructor email. If you do not receive a return receipt within four hours of sending the final paper, it is your responsibility to follow up and ensure your paper has been received.

## Miscellaneous

All assignments should be completed individually unless permission is granted by the instructor ahead of time.

No grade changes will be made without a scheduled, in-person meeting. You can ask questions about your grade in any context you would like, but you need to also schedule an in-person meeting with me if you believe a grade deserves re-evaluation.

*This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.*

If you have follow-up comments after reviewing your grade, please contact me through the regular channels.

Please ask questions as frequently as possible, both in the classroom, outside of it, and online. Attend office hours or make an appointment. There is no reason for you not to understand assignments or expectations, so please take an active role in obtaining the knowledge you want or need.

## AI Usage

Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in this course for certain assignments and activities. Additionally, if and when students use AI in this course, the AI must be cited as is shown within the [NJIT Library AI citation page](#) for AI. If you have any questions or concerns about AI technology use in this class, please reach out to your instructor prior to submitting any assignments.