



Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2025 – PSY 210:109

Wednesday, 6:00PM – 8:50PM,

Central King Building, room 317

DELIVERY MODE: Face-to-Face

Instructor: Nicholas Jones, MA

E-mail: njones@njit.edu (Please contact solely from your NJIT email address and allow for at least 24-48 hours for a response.)

Office Hours: By appointment only Monday – Friday, via Google Meet or in-person

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

This is a FREE textbook that can be accessed online. 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 Requirements

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

Discussion Posts:

Reading discussion boards and small group work: small group activities, designed to support learning and provide a space for critical discussion and collaboration, are an important part of this course. At the beginning of the semester, students will be assigned to groups of 4-5 or less depending on class size, and the same groups will interact via online discussion boards throughout the course.

1. In order to receive credit for the discussion, you must answer the question that is asked and then respond to someone else in your group. Your initial response to the question should be at least one thoughtful paragraph. You can include your own personal experiences, experiences of friends or family members that have shared something with you, something you saw on a TV show, Netflix show, YouTube video, something you read in a story, etc... In addition to this, you must add information from the textbook. It is highly suggested that you elaborate enough to receive credit.
 - Please view schedule below for complete deadlines.

*I will not permit discussion posts after the deadline, so please be timely. Students should not be using any AI source for answers to these questions. Any offense can result in either a 0 for the discussion, 0 for all discussion posts, or submission to the Dean of Students office.

Exams:

There is no cumulative final for this course. There will be three in-class exams each covering the same amount of material. Exams will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. All exams will be proctored in class.

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 exams will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

Final Research Paper

This assignment is designed to help you learn how to search for peer reviewed psychology articles, effectively read and summarize an article of interest within the field, and succinctly discuss the article with your peers (via the in-class presentation). You will use the database "APA PsycInfo" to search for a peer-reviewed psychology-related topic of interest to you. Your NJIT email will provide you access to this database.

Read the article of your choosing, and write a 3-page minimum summary, 4-page summary maximum. This paper is more formal than your weekly reflections, and should **NOT** be in bullet point

format. The summary should be double-spaced in Times New Roman size 12 font. The summary should include: the area of psychology the article's subject falls under, the reason you selected this article, the purpose of the article, and any key findings or takeaways. If the article is an empirical study, also include the researcher's hypothesis, the methods used, and if the hypothesis was supported. **Do not include direct quotes from the article. I want this to be summarized and paraphrased in your own words. Review Course schedule for submission deadline.**

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 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.). You are allowed two unexcused absences throughout the semester. **Additionally, two latenesses (15 minutes or later) will equivocate to 1 unexcused absence. Any absences after 2 can result in a failing grade for the class.**

Please note that web surfing, texting, airpods worn in class, side- conversations, gaming, coming in late, leaving the class, and similar activities prevent students from being fully present, distracts the Professor and other students, and interferes with the learning process.

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

Assessment type	Percentage
Exam I	15%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	20%
Discussion Posts	15%
- 1.0% per question/response post	
Project	15%
Attendance & Participation	15%
TOTAL:	100%

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter grade
93% and above	A
90% - 92%	A-
85 – 89%	B+
80 – 84%	B
77 – 79%	C+
70 – 76%	C
60 – 69%	D
Below 60%	F

Final Grades

Your final grade will be based on the aforementioned scale. PLEASE NOTE: To be fair to everyone, we need to use these exact cutoffs. **Under no circumstances** can I change the grade of any one particular student unless an actual error in calculation or recordkeeping can be demonstrated. Additionally, if extra credit is assigned during the course, it will serve as extra credit and not as an attempt to boost your grade tremendously due to missing assignments or not doing well on exams. Canvas should only serve as a guide or representation for how you are doing in the class and not a determiner for your average in the class. Grade changes will not be entertained once everything has been finalized unless as mentioned, an error in calculation transpired. It is important that once you've been assigned a grade for an exam or assignment to review and notify the professor if you have any questions as this will not be reviewed at the end of the semester upon entering final grades.

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 Accessibility Resources and Services (<https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>). You should file your request as soon as possible. Retroactive accommodations are not allowed.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center (G17 Central King) is available for 45-minute individual and group appointments with professional writing tutors both onsite and online. This resource is intended to help you improve your communication and writing skills. Tutors can help with planning assignments, improving your writing, refining an essay or multimedia project, or other communication-based needs. To make an appointment, please visit <https://njit.mywconline.com>

Procedures and policies defined in this syllabus are subject to change. 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.

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due (by class)
1	9/3	Introduction to course; Introduction to Psychology (Ch.1) /Begin Psychological Research (Ch.2)	Syllabus, Ch. 1	
2	9/10	Psychological Research (Ch.2)	Ch. 2	Ch. 1 response to professor – not graded Ch. 2 question/ response
3	9/17	Biopsychology (Ch.3)	Ch. 3	Ch. 2 response to peers
4	9/24	State of Consciousness (Ch.4); Exam 1 prep	Ch. 4	Ch. 4 question/ response
5	10/1	In Person Exam I	Ch. 6	Ch. 4 response to peers
6	10/8	Learning Ch. 6; Memory, Ch. 8	Ch. 6/8	Ch. 6 question/ response
7	10/15	Lifespan Development (Ch.9) Motivation & Emotion (Ch. 10)	Ch. 9/10	Ch. 6 response to peers Ch. 9 questions/response
8	10/22	Continue anything missing; Exam II Prep		Ch. 9 response to peers Ch. 11 question/response
10	10/29	In Person Exam II		
11	11/5	Personality (Ch.11) + Social Psychology (Ch. 12)	Ch. 11/12	Ch. 11 response to peers
12	11/12	Stress, Lifestyle, and Health (Ch. 14)	Ch. 12/14	Ch. 12 question/ response Ch. 14 question/response
13	11/19	Psychological Disorders (Ch. 15)	Ch. 15	Ch. 12 response to peers Ch. 14 response to peers Ch. 15 question/response
14	12/3	Therapy and Treatment (Ch.16); Exam 3 prep	Ch. 16	Ch. 15 response to peers
15	12/10	In Person Exam III/ Final		
16	12/17	Research Paper Due – 5pm – No class		

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