

NJIT
Introduction to Psychology -Syllabus
Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Brian Oland

Class: PSYC 210-Introduction to Psychology

E-mail: (please e-mail through Canvas)

Phone: Cell 732-261-1060 (Please email me)

Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will demonstrate an understanding of psychology as an applied science. They will complete exercises covering relevant areas of the discipline: social and interpersonal behavior, motivation and emotion, health and stress, psychological disorders, personality theories and psychotherapy. Students will gain the ability to examine these subjects from a critical as well as a diverse point of view while applying them to problems of daily living.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain theories as well as scientific evidence regarding the human experience of motivation, emotion, personality, mental disorders, and social relations, with emphasis on scientific reasoning and historical/societal analysis.
2. Examine current events and/or research to investigate psychological concepts such as motivation, emotions, psychological disorders, and social relations, as they occur in everyday life, with emphasis on critical thinking.
3. Analyze issues inherent in professional strategies used to treat various psychopathologies, with emphasis on critical thinking.
4. Relate modern scientific data to personal everyday social perceptions and cognitions, such as interpersonal attraction and attitude formation/change, with emphasis on critical thinking, personal development, scientific reasoning, and historical/societal analysis.

TEXTBOOK

OpenStax Psychology 2E- Free Introduction to Psychology Text. Link to the text is in Canvas.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Students in **PSYC 210** are graded out of a **1000–point total**, in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Attendance and Participation (150 pts). 15%

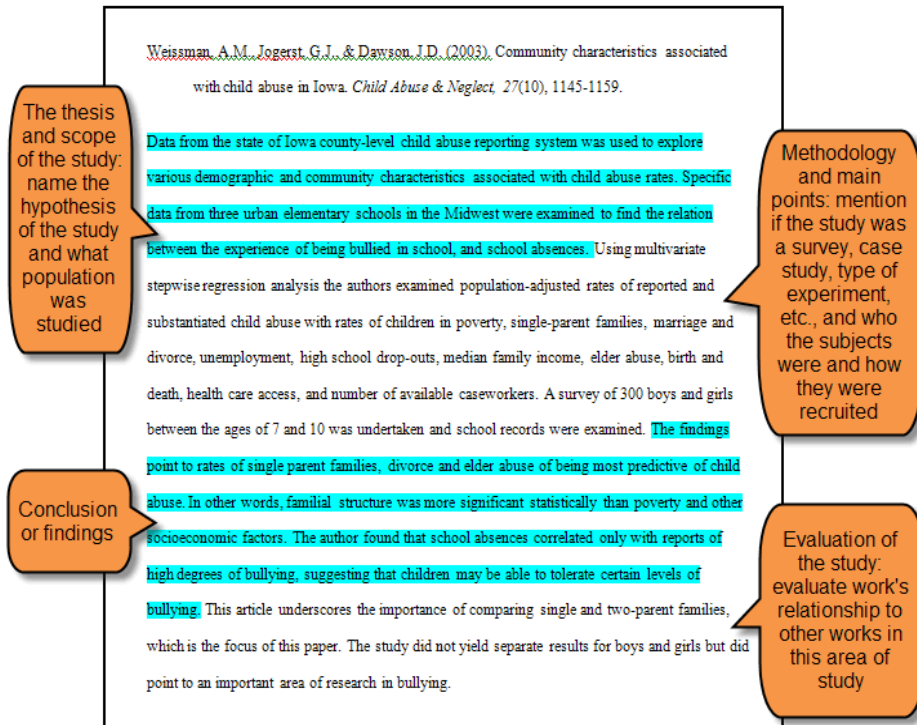
Attendance each week is mandatory. Students will receive full weekly points for attendance and participation if they come to class on time, participate, and stay for the duration.

2. Annotated Bibliography (150 points) 15%%

You will create an Annotated Bibliography with 5 **academic references** based on a psychological disorder that we cover in class. **Three** references must be **empirical academic journal articles from the library databases** no older than 8 years (2018-2025). Additionally, **one (1) source must be an academic magazine article** (ie: Time, Psychology Today, Scientific American), and **one (1) source must be a Newspaper article** (ie: NY Times, Wall Street Journal etc.) no older than 2018. **No websites are to be used for this assignment.** This allows you to become familiar with how to critically analyze social science literature and reputable periodicals/websites.

Please note that the same APA rules for citations apply, such as proper paraphrasing and the use of quotation marks where necessary. **It is unacceptable to cut and paste from the abstract or the body of an article.** Rather, you are expected to read the article completely and appropriately paraphrase the necessary material. Refer to the following illustration to determine which material is needed for the annotation in each entry. The two empirical journal articles will have a methodology section. A sample annotated bibliography is located in the first CANVAS module. In addition, here is a sample of what content to include in your annotations: **Your Turnitin report should be 20% or less (Green). Please verify. If it is higher, you will need to edit and resubmit. Your assignment will automatically submit to Turnitin when you upload your document to Canvas.**

*****It is highly recommended that you schedule an appointment with a research librarian or the writing center to review APA format, paraphrasing, and how to search the library databases for academic journal articles. NO AI sources are to be used for this assignment, including Grammarly!**



Grading Rubric: Total = 150 pts

- Three empirical academic journal articles, one newspaper article, and one academic magazine article; including the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How of your source. See the sample for empirical studies above (100 pts).
- Proper APA formatting inclusive of proper reference formatting, title page, running head, page numbers, and 25% or less Turnitin report (50 pts).

Assignments with over 20% similarity will not be accepted and may result in an academic integrity report!

Late penalties for resubmissions may apply!

3. Case Study Discussion: (100 pts) 10%

There will be a case study discussion. Discussion forums are meant to be thought-provoking and to create a dialogue between students in the class.

Present a small case study (2-3 pages) of a fictional character who you think is diagnosed with a psychological disorder.. Your fictional character may be a cartoon character or a character from a book, movie, or television.

How would you diagnose your character?

What characteristics does your character exhibit to lead you toward the diagnosis?

How would you treat your character? . You are to use the DSM-5-TR to back up your diagnosis.

Include a short clip of your character exhibiting the behaviors, if possible. Include the diagnostic criteria to justify your diagnosis.

For example, Piglet from Winnie the Pooh demonstrates behaviors of OCD.

You will then be expected to read and comment/interact with your classmates regarding their posts. You must respond to a minimum of TWO of your classmates during the week. This is an opportune time to learn from each other and broaden our understanding of the material.

Your initial post will be due on the DUE DATE, and your replies must be submitted by the AVAILABLE UNTIL DATE.

For full credit, you must post your initial response on time (100pts) and generate a discussion by responding to at least two of your classmates at two different times (50pts). A 10% late penalty will be imposed for each day your initial post is late.

4. Examinations (600 points total; 200 points each exam) 60%

There are three non-cumulative exams, one due in each unit. The exams are 100-question multiple-choice assessments that cover material learned throughout the course. Review outlines accompany these assessments and are found in the modules section of CANVAS. Exams will be in person. Please review the exam makeup/extension policy below.

- 1) **Note: All work is submitted through CANVAS.** No work is accepted via email unless there exists an “excused absence” on the date when an assignment is due. To avoid a late penalty in this instance, the student must email the professor prior to the assignment deadline and provide appropriate documentation that substantiates the reason for failure to meet said deadline.

Make-up Exams – Make-up exams will be given for *extraordinary reasons only* (e.g., severe personal illness or death in the family). In these cases, students should contact the Dean of Students’ Office, and proper documentation will be required.

Situations such as failure to manage time effectively, hectic work schedule, “family issues”, vacation, or “I forgot” are **not** valid reasons for an extension. Success in the class is based on the student’s ability to plan their time effectively. The Professor must treat all students equitably, which is why this extension policy was forced to be put in place. Students always have the option of taking a medical withdrawal.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity: The Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity policy can be found [here](#). Additional guidance on academic integrity can be found in this [Best Practices document](#). Please note that the academic integrity policy includes direct guidance on the [responsible use of AI](#). Furthermore, any actual or alleged violation of the University Policy on Academic Integrity should be formally processed through the Office of the Dean of Students.**

“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 code of Academic Integrity policy that is found at: [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Office of the Dean of Students. 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 Office of the Dean of Students at dos@njit.edu.”

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>.

If you have any questions about the Code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at 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 Services (OAS).

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 have access to a device that will allow you to access Canvas. It is suggested that devices are brought to class. This likely means a tablet, laptop or smartphone. There is no makeup credit if you do not bring such a device and are unable to as a result of completing the 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 held accountable.
- 3) If you're struggling with the final project or are 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.

Unexcused lateness will result in partial credit. Excessive unexcused lateness of 15 Minutes (3 times) 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.

Assignment Submissions

All submitted writing must be double-spaced, Times New Roman, APA 7th Format, 12-point font, with standard formatting with regards to margins, paragraphs, etc. All assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

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).

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.

AI Usage

Student use of artificial intelligence (AI) is only 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 on 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. This includes the use of Grammarly. AI is not permitted for your annotated bibliography. I am assessing whether you can paraphrase what you have read.

Grading Scale – The following grading scale is used to calculate grades in **PSYC 210**:

- 90 – 100% = A
- 87 – 89% = B+
- 80 – 86% = B
- 77 – 79% = C+
- 70 – 76% = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- 59 and Below = F

WEEK	TOPICS	HOMEWORK
	UNIT 1	
Week 1 9/2	Syllabus Review and Chapter 1 Introduction/Icebreaker	Read the syllabus and complete the syllabus acknowledgment for next week! Read Chapters: 1 & 2
Week 2 9/9	Chapter 2: Psychological Research and APA - Library Workshop in class.	Syllabus acknowledgment: Due 9/9 Read Chapter 10: Motivation and Emotion
Week 3 9/16	Chapter 10: Motivation and Emotion	Read Gender and Human Sexuality Material in the Modules.

Week 4 9/23	Gender and Human Sexuality (Materials in Module) (Hockenbury & Nolan, 2024) In-Class STARS Activity	Study for Exam 1
Week 5 9/30	UNIT 1 Exam (Chapters 1, 2, 10 & Sex/Gender Material)	Read Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle & Health
Week 6 10/7	Chapter 14: Stress, Lifestyle & Health: Mindfulness Activities	Read Chapter 11: Personality
Week 7 10/14	Chapter 11: Personality	Read Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders
Week 8 10/21	NAMI Speaker “In Our Own Voices” Begin Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders	Read Chapter 16: Treatment Approaches Complete optional extra credit reflection on NAMI Presentation
Week 9 10/28	Finish Chapter 15; Chapter 16: Therapy and Treatment Approaches	Study for Exam 2 Case Study Assignment Due 10/28
Week 10 11/4	Exam 2 (Chapters 11, 14, 15 & 16) In Class	Read Chapters 6 & 8 Learning and Memory
Week 11 11/11	Chapters 6 & 8: Learning and Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annotated Bibliography due 11/11 Read CH 13 Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Week 12 11/18	Chapter 13: Industrial/Organizational Psychology	Read CH 9 Lifespan Development
11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class- Follow a Thursday Schedule! Happy Thanksgiving! 	

Week 13 12/2	Chapter 9: Lifespan Development	Read CH 12 Social Psychology
Week 14 12/9	Chapter 12: Social Psychology “12 Angry Men”	Study for Exam 3
Week 15 12/16	Exam 3/Final (Chapters 6, 8, 9, 12 & 13) In Class	Happy Holidays!!

RESEARCH WRITING IN PSYCHOLOGY

APA format is the official writing style of the American Psychological Association (7th Edition). Students of the social sciences (e.g., psychology) are required to use this format when writing about research in the field.

I. General Format

- Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- 1-inch margins
- Double spaced
- Page numbers flush right

II. Key Components

- A title page
- A running head and page numbers, atop every page (top left)
- APA 7th Edition formatted citations and references
- A reference page

III. Resources

A. APA Sample Paper:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/documents/20090212013008_560.pdf

B. APA In-Text Citations:

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

- C. APA Reference List:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_basic_rules.html
- D. Library Page: <https://libguides.brookdalecc.edu/PsycOland>