Humanities Syllabi	NJIT Syllabi

Fall 2023

PSY-210 (003): Introduction to Psychology

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PSY 210 – Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2023 - Face to Face
Mon-Wed 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM
Central King Building CKB 120

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Office: CULM 310

Office Hours: Wed 11:30 AM - 12:30 AM

Generic Course Description
Psychology is the study of human behavior, thoughts, emotions, and mental processes. In this course, we will gain a bird's eye view of the field, from cognitive psychology, which examines mental processes such as memory and problem-solving, to developmental psychology, which explores how individuals grow and change throughout their lives. We'll also dive into areas like social psychology, which investigates how people interact and influence each other, and clinical psychology, which focuses on understanding and treating mental health issues. Throughout the course, you'll gain insights into the research methods and principles that underpin psychological inquiry, enabling you to critically analyze and apply psychological concepts to real-world situations. Ultimately, psychology offers a fascinating journey into the human psyche, providing valuable insights into both individual and collective behavior.

Textbook
James W. Kalat. Introduction to Psychology. 12th Edition │ Copyright 2022 (Cengage).

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic subject area of psychology and its relationship to the brain, our environment, and society. You will be able to grasp fundamental psychological concepts, theories, and terminology related to areas such as cognition, behavior, development, and social interactions. You will be able to identify and understand the major theories, principles, and research findings in the field of psychology.
2. Understand how psychology can be used to study human behavior, the brain, and its various processes. You will understand research methodologies used in psychology, including experimental design, data collection, and statistical analysis. You will be able to comprehend and critique research studies.
3. Analyze and critically evaluate psychological information and claims they encounter in media, advertising, and everyday life, helping them distinguish

between credible and unreliable sources. You will think critically, evaluate evidence, and analyze psychological research and theories. Students should learn to question assumptions and develop reasoned arguments.

4. Understand ethical principles in psychological research and practice, emphasizing the importance of confidentiality, informed consent, and the well-being of participants.
5. Understand how to apply psychological concepts to real-world scenarios, demonstrating an understanding of how psychological principles can be used in various contexts, such as education, healthcare, and business.
6. Be aware of cultural and individual diversity and its impact on psychological processes, behaviors, and perceptions.
7. Use an interdisciplinary approach and understand how psychology intersects with other fields like biology, sociology, and neuroscience.
8. Self-reflect and show self-awareness, as well as an appreciation for the personal relevance of psychological concepts to their own lives and experiences.
9. Understand information about potential career paths in psychology and opportunities for further education or training, helping students set educational and career goals.
10. Develop problem-solving skills by addressing psychological issues and challenges that require to apply knowledge and critical thinking.

Classes

Classes will revolve around book chapters, discussion of the readings, or homework assignments. The course is interactive, so I <u>expect</u> questions and contributions from students. I also <u>expect</u> you to have done the assigned readings *before* class. I <u>encourage</u> you to go back and re-read assignments after class.

There will be a reading, typically a peer-reviewed paper, associated with each chapter. You will be asked to present a paper to the rest of the class at least once. While classes will cover the textbook program of a psychology undergraduate course, the readings will tend to be more thought-provoking and in-depth analyses of a topic covered during the week.

Many of the readings are challenging, and you will have to work to understand them. Often, this will require *hard work*. If you have skim-read the paper half an hour before class, it will show.

The readings will help you write your final group report. Reading other people's work is key to understanding how scientific papers are structured, as well as getting familiar with academic language, terminology, tone of voice, and storytelling. If you read regularly, writing your final research report will feel natural. Please, do come see me during my office hours when you experience difficulty.

A good way to begin to understand the readings is to discuss them, both inside and outside of class. I have chosen readings that are likely to provoke thought and discussion. For this reason, I <u>expect</u> regular attendance in class. I also <u>expect</u> everyone to show respect for the opinions of others. I <u>encourage</u> you, however, to

find respectful ways to disagree. The point of the class is not to reach a consensus but rather to provoke thinking.

I encourage you to participate actively in the discussion. Class participation will contribute to your class participation grade described below. It is in your own interest if I know your name. There will also be opportunities for discussion (as well as writing) on the class Canvas site. The class will have its own discussion forum to which students will be expected to contribute.

Although the classes will cover all textbook chapters, I strongly encourage you to read the textbook as well, as it provides a much deeper analysis of the content.

Rules of behavior
1. *Respect*
   You must respect everyone. You should expect there to be disagreement. If you disagree with something that you read, see, or hear, please be considerate and constructive in how you critique someone else's ideas.
2. *Criticize ideas, not people.*
   We are here to train critical thinking. It is important that you respect people holding different beliefs, even if you think they are wrong. Instead, try to criticize the idea.
3. *Speak from your "I" voice - your own experience*
   Share experiences and feelings. Don't generalize.
4. *Embrace global perspectives*
   Be open to other perspectives; possibilities open up when we don't all agree. Each of us has our own biased beliefs. Openly discussing ideas with others allows us to embrace a more global perspective.

Attendance Policy and Participation
I expect you to attend all classes and to have legitimate excuses for any classes missed. I also expect you to catch up on whatever you miss if you are absent for any reason.

You will receive a **class participation grade**, described in greater detail below. Failure to attend class or participate actively in course activities, including in-class debates, will negatively affect your grade for the course.

Makeup Policy
In the event of an unexcused absence, you will *not* have the opportunity to make up any graded assignments. If you show up late for an exam, you will *not* be given more time to complete the exam. All excused absences must be emailed to the Dean of Students office (doc@njit.edu). When contacting the Dean of Students office, you can keep me in the loop by putting my email in CC.

Other Course Policies
Classes will be held under the Chatham House Rule. Under the Chatham House Rule, anyone who comes to class is free to use information from the discussion but

is not allowed to reveal who made any particular comment outside of the class. It is designed to increase the openness of discussion.

I <u>expect</u> you to arrive on time to class and keep disruptions during class to a minimum. Do *not* use phones, tablets, and other similar devices to chat/text/or talk with family and friends during class. Recording of audio and video is not permitted as it invalidates the Chatham House Rule. However, please do bring a smartphone to class because there will be some interactive content.

Phone/tablet/laptop use is permitted in class only for class purposes (taking notes, Googling something I said, interacting with the live content, etc.). If you choose to use your device for purposes other than those related to the class, it is your loss. If you distract other students in doing so, it is their loss, as well. I <u>expect</u> you to respect your fellow classmates and your instructor enough not to distract yourselves and others. With this policy, I am attempting to treat you as an adult. As with all other policies, I reserve the right to change my mind or make exceptions for specific individuals.

The best way to contact me is via email. You can expect a reply within 48 hours. Notice that I do not check emails on the weekends. You are, of course, encouraged to ask questions before, during, or after class or schedule a time to meet.

NJIT Code 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](#).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found violating 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"

You are expected to abide by the NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity at all times (for details, see: http://integrity.njit.edu/index.html). You must write and sign the following pledge on your exams:

> On my honor, I pledge that I have not violated the provisions of the NJIT University Code on Academic Integrity.

In the context of this course, unless I specifically authorize group work, all work should be completed on your own without any unauthorized aids. *All* writing and

quizzes, including on your Canvas entries, are expected to represent your own work, completed on your own specifically for this course. This means that you cannot copy text from other papers, websites, encyclopedias, or any other source without quoting any copied material and fully and accurately citing your sources. In addition, if you refer to, use, or build upon ideas from other work, even if you don't quote that work exactly, you should fully acknowledge your sources. When citing an online article, a link to the relevant webpage will suffice as a full citation on Canvas.

Artificial intelligence can be a great learning aid if used correctly. If you use ChatGPT and other generative language models (including Grammarly or similar spell checks) to aid your writing, you must disclose it. Failing to do so is equivalent to plagiarism.

I take plagiarism and citations very seriously and do not enjoy having to question whether a document constitutes plagiarism. For all our sakes, please take care to cite all referenced material. For any questions involving these or any other Academic Integrity issues, please consult me.

Students with Disabilities
NJIT offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you need some sort of academic accommodation, please contact Scott Janz, Associate Director of the [Office of Accessibility Resources and Services](#), Kupfrian Hall 201, to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the office authorizing student accommodations is required.

Basic Needs Security
Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

Requirements and Grading
This course is graded according to the requirements specified and weighted below.

Class participation	25%
Quizzes (4 quizzes of 10% each)	40%
Paper presentation	5%
Group project presentation	10%
Group project report	20%

Class participation (25%): participation includes discussion in class, occasional in-class quizzes, in-class assignments, attendance, and Canvas Discussion Forum/blog postings.

You may have noticed that class participation is 25% of your final grade. Actively participating in class has a number of advantages:
- You will get a higher grade
- You are making classes more interesting for yourself and your fellow classmates
- You are memorizing content so that exams and quizzes will be a breeze
- You develop critical thinking, and learn how to be a good scientist, which means being able to criticize existing theories and propose new hypotheses

Quizzes (40%)

Monthly exams will consist of quizzes on Canvas. You have a limited amount of time to answer them, typically from Friday 00:01 to Monday 23:59. No retakes are allowed. If you miss the deadline, you will receive 0% for that quiz assignment. You have only one shot at it, so please be sure you have studied the material before starting the exam. Each quiz covers 4 chapters of your book. There are a total of 4 quizzes. Each quiz is worth 10% of your final grade for a total of 40%. Canvas will give you immediate feedback. If you have questions about the feedback, we can discuss it in class or during office hours.

Paper presentations and Pre-class readings (5%)

As part of your final grade (5%), I will ask you to read a paper of your choice in small groups, share it with your classmates, and present it back to the class (10-minute presentation + 10-minute discussion). I assume you are mature enough to choose the paper based on its interesting subject rather than its length.

Even if you are not the person presenting, you must still read the papers presented in class. Please read the papers **before** class. Come to class prepared to discuss it. If the discussion does not emerge naturally, I will actively ask questions to specific people. There are no right or wrong answers when discussing a paper. However, if you do not engage with the discussion or give the impression that you have not read the paper, this will negatively affect your grade.

When reading the paper at home, think of things that you like about the paper, things that you disagree with, how you would have done the study better, or how it relates to your personal experience.

Class may be a scary place for some students to take risks, but it is also a safe place for you to explore your own thinking. As long as what you are saying relates to what we are discussing in class, and as long as you respect your classmates and instructor, feel free to say what you want. No single relevant statement you make in class will negatively affect your grade. So, it doesn't matter if, during class discussion, you make a mistake. It's better to make a mistake publicly in class and understand how to correct it rather than make a mistake privately during an assignment.

Group project (30%)

Psychology is all about research studies. The best way to learn the subject is to run a study yourself. With this group project, you will team up in groups of 3-4 people and produce an original piece of research. You will be asked to:

1. Submit a one-page research plan where you explain what question you plan to answer and how. I will provide feedback on how to improve the design. The one-page research plan is not graded, but it is a prerequisite to get a grade in the group project and must be handed in **on time**.
2. Run the study. Collect data and analyze it. What does it mean? What conclusions does the evidence support?
3. Present your findings in class during the last week of the course (10%). This is a great opportunity to gain feedback from me and your classmates before submitting your final report.
4. Write a final report (20%). I will provide a template with the most important sections that your report must include.

The group project written report counts for 20% of your final grade. The group project presentation counts for 10% of your final grade. Late submission of the research plan and/or of the report will discount your group project grade by 50%. Submitting *something* on time is always better than submitting something slightly better too late or not submitting anything at all. I will provide feedback via Canvas; If you have questions about the feedback, we can discuss it in class or during office hours.

N.B. – Plagiarism will be severely punished. Copying someone else's work is cheating. Allowing someone to copy your work is cheating. Googling and copying from a website without acknowledging your source is cheating. Copying from anywhere (including ChatGPT and other generative language models) without acknowledging your source is cheating. Using other people's work and not acknowledging them is *cheating* but using their work AND acknowledging them to make your point stronger is *science*.

Deadlines (dates are approximate)
- Quizzes (40%):
    - Quiz 1: **2nd Oct**
    - Quiz 2: **30th Oct**
    - Quiz 3: **1st Dec**
    - Quiz 4: **11th Dec**
- Group project (25%):
    - One-page research plan submitted by **November 3rd**
    - The final report should be submitted by **December 21st**
    - The group presentations will take place during the last week of the course (ending **December 13th**)
- Last Day to Withdraw from Classes: **November 13th**

Grade scale
Letter and numerical grades are translatable on the following scale:

A = 90%+
B+ = 87-89.99%
B = 80-86.99%
C+ = 77-79.99%
C = 70-76.99%
D = 60-69.99%
F = 0-59.99%

Class Schedule
Wk 1
What is Psychology?

Wk 2
Scientific methods in psychology

Wk 3
Biological psychology

Wk 4
Sensation and Perception

Wk 5
Development

Wk 6
Learning

Wk 7
Memory

Wk 8
Cognition and Language

Wk 9
Intelligence

Wk 10
Consciousness

Wk 11
Motivated Behavior

Wk 12
Emotion, stress and health

Wk 13
Social behavior

Wk 14
Personality

Wk 15
Abnormal psychology & Group Project Presentations

Wk 16
Group project open work week

N.B. – Everything on the syllabus is subject to change. When changes are made, a new version or corresponding changes will be posted on the course Canvas site.

Learning Management System - Canvas
We will use Canvas as our main LMS. The statement from Canvas can be found [here](#).

Refer to [this link](#) from the Office of Digital Learning for further materials.