

Fall 2020

STS 210-H01: Introduction to Psychology

Christopher Guarino

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New Jersey Institute of Technology
STS 210 – General Psychology – Honors

Professor: Christopher E. Guarino, PhD
Class Times: Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:50pm
Location: FMH 408

christopher.e.guarino@njit.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisite:

Course Description:

STS 210 General Psychology is an introduction to the study of human behavior. Topics include motivation, perception, learning, cognitive development, personality and emotion, individual difference, and biological basis of behavior, as well as methodology in psychological research. This course satisfies the three credit 200 GER in History and Humanities.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

1. Discuss the history of psychology, major fields, theoretical perspectives and key concepts within the field of psychology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific methods used to study behavior and mental processes.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of basic processes such as neuroscience, sensation and perception, consciousness, motivation, learning, memory, language and intelligence, psychological disorders, emotions, group processes, personality, and human development.
4. Apply psychological principals to everyday life.
5. Demonstrate a respect for cultural differences in the human experience.
6. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
7. Evaluate relevant scholarly resources competently through the use of online technologies such as learning management systems and/or the college library database.

Student Resources (required):

Gerrig, R. J. (2013). *Psychology and Life* (20th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. **ISBN-13:** 978-0-205-85913-9

Note: You cannot substitute this text with another.

Grading Policies:

Exams	75%
Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Exam #3	35%
Article Presentation	15%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
	Total 100%

Grading System:

A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
100 – 90	89 – 85	84 – 80	79 – 75	74 – 70	69 – 65	64 – 60	59 and below

Assignments

Format. All written assignments should be proofread for grammar and spelling errors. All assignments must conform to APA style guidelines. For those not familiar with APA style, do not panic! Purdue OWL maintains a website that provides an excellent review of APA style, complete with examples of page formatting, in-text citations, and reference pages. You can access Purdue OWL either by searching “Purdue OWL APA” or by entering the following web address into your web browser: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

In-class work. In-class work may include group assignments and quizzes. Group assignments will be completed in class. At his discretion, the instructor will administer quizzes to assess how well students are keeping up with the reading.

Exams. There will be three exams in this course, all of which will be administered on Canvas at during the scheduled course session. The dates of these exams are included in the *Class Schedule*. On exam dates, you do not attend class on campus. Exam #1 and Exam #2 will each count for 20% of the final grade and cover only the material immediately preceding them. Exam #3 will count for 35% of the final grade and draw from all chapters discussed. Exams may consist of multiple choice questions, fill-in-the-blank items, and short answer questions. Furthermore, students will not be administered the exam if they being the exam after the first student has completed the exam. Please make every attempt to be present for class sessions during which exams are scheduled. If you must miss an exam, please contact me *in advance* to reschedule.

Article Presentation. As practice for graduate-level coursework, students will read a supplementary article and lead a class discussion lasting at least 15 minutes. Class discussions will be led by groups of three (3) students.

Canvas

We will be using the web-based Canvas course software. The syllabus, course documents, and assignments will be posted there. Be sure that you can log in and access the site. ***Students are required to check e-mail and Canvas daily.*** You can access the Canvas site at <https://njit.instructure.com/>.

Late Work Policy

All assignments are due on the date indicated. Any work which is one class period late will be lowered one half letter grade; assignments over one week late will receive a failing grade. There will be ***no*** make-up dates for unexcused absences from exams, quizzes, or other assignments.

Attendance Policy

Students are permitted to miss up to three (3) classes. After that, you will lose half a letter grade with each subsequent absence. You will automatically fail the course if you miss more than five classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session, so please arrive by the scheduled time. Three late arrivals (within 10 minutes of the start of class) are considered an absence. Sleeping in class is considered an absence. Regardless of any absence, you are responsible for making up all missing work and class notes. Absence is not an excuse for a missing/late assignment.

In the even that you are absent, you should find out what you missed from a classmate.

Class Participation and Electronics Policy

Active class participation is an important way of engaging with the material and your classmates. Live discussion encourages an exchange of ideas that is different from individual contemplation and writing. To this end, students will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of their class participation. Students are expected to be respectful toward each other and the professor at all times. Inappropriate use of electronics during class, including but not limited to, texting/messaging, checking and answering e-mails, internet browsing, and completion of work for other courses, will negatively affect students' class participation grade. *I will not always ask you to put away your electronics; however, I will notice that you are using them.*

Masks and Face coverings

Masks/face coverings are required to be worn at all times in the classroom setting and should cover individuals' mouth and nose. Repeated failure to wear masks or face coverings following the instructor's warning will result in dismissal from the classroom.

NJIT University 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 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”

Special Needs

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact Student Disability Services at 973-596-3420. *Please note that accommodation documentation needs to be updated every semester, so speak with Student Disability Services regularly.*

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>

Note: I will not respond to e-mails asking questions that are answered in the syllabus.

Course Content and Class Schedule

Week	Date	Unit	Readings Due	Assignment Due
1	9/01	Chapters 1 & 2: Intro & Research Methods	Ch. 1 & 2	
2	9/08	Monday Schedule		
3	9/15	Chapter 3: Biological & Evolutionary Bases	Ch. 3	
4	9/22	Chapter 5: Consciousness	Ch. 5	
		Also: In-class Review for Exam #1		
5	9/29	Exam #1		
6	10/06	Chapter 10: Development Across the Lifespan	Ch. 10	
7	10/13	Chapter 6: Learning & Behavior	Ch. 6	
8	10/20	Chapter 7: Memory	Ch. 7	
9	10/27	Chapter 8: Cognitive Processes	Ch. 8	
		Also: In-class Review for Exam #2		
10	11/03	Exam #2		
11	11/10	Chapter 9: Intelligence & Assessment	Ch. 9	
12	11/17	Chapter 13: Personality	Ch. 13	
13	11/24	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders	Ch. 14	
14	11/01	Chapter 15: Psychotherapy	Ch. 15	
15	TBD	FINAL EXAM		