

Spring 2021

STS 210-456: Introduction to Psychology

Michelle Chen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Chen, Michelle, "STS 210-456: Introduction to Psychology" (2021). *Humanities Syllabi*. 383.
<https://digitalcommons.njit.edu/hum-syllabi/383>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the NJIT Syllabi at Digital Commons @ NJIT. It has been accepted for inclusion in Humanities Syllabi by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ NJIT. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@njit.edu.

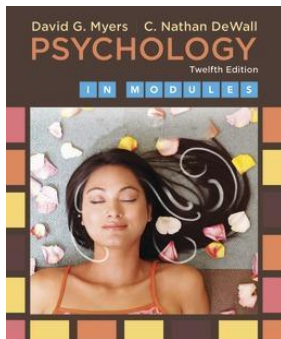
STS 210-456: Introduction to Psychology Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Chen
Delivery Mode: Online asynchronous
Email: hyc2@njit.edu
Prerequisites: None

Semester: Spring 2021
Time: N/A
Office hours will be virtual and by appointment only

Textbook Required

Psychology in Modules – Twelfth Edition by David F Myers & C Nathan Dewall
ISBN: 9781319207151 (Read & Practice)
ISBN: 9781319068035 (E-Book)
ISBN: 9781319050610 (Hardcover)



Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the scientific study of mental processes and behavior, such as research methods, neurological bases of behavior, consciousness, sensation and perception, learning, memory, thinking and intelligence, personality, motivation and emotion, development, psychological disorders, and social psychology.

Objective 1: Students will gain an understanding of the scientific method and be able to apply this knowledge to evaluate psychological research studies.

Objective 2: Students will become familiar with the basic concepts and theories of several major areas of psychology and apply them to real life situations.

Objective 3: Students will develop basic knowledge regarding neurological bases of mental processes and behavior.

Course Requirements

1. **Extra credit project (worth extra 1% of final grade):** To get to know you (and your names!), please submit the following information along with a headshot: year in school, major, career goals (e.g., ideal job, graduate school, don't know), and what you hope to get out of this class.
2. Reading assignments should be completed prior to watching the lectures. For reading assignments with selected sections next to the module numbers, the section numbers correspond to the Learning Objective Questions (LOQ) in your textbook.

3. Class lecture recordings will be posted on Monday of each week (except for week 1 which is posted on Tuesday).
4. Participation questions: There will be several participation questions per lecture to be submitted by **Sunday at 11:59 pm** each week. The participation questions will be posed throughout the lecture recording but not written down anywhere else, so you must watch the lectures in full to get all the questions.
5. Discussion board: There will be a discussion board (under “Discussion” on Canvas) for each week. Please pose your questions for the instructor or your fellow classmates there. You must participate in the discussion board (posing a question or responding to another student’s question) each week.
6. Quizzes: There will be a brief quiz (about 5 multiple choice or short answer questions) after each lecture to test your understanding of the class materials. The quizzes are to help you learn and remember the materials, so you will not be graded on accuracy. The only way you will lose points if you do not complete them. Try answering the questions without the slides and textbook first. Each quiz is due by **Sunday at 11:59 pm**. Quiz grade is calculated as followed: $(\text{number of completed quizzes}) / (\text{total number of quizzes}) \times 10$. Late submissions will not be accepted.
7. Research article project: You will find and read a journal article which reports a study on a psychological topic. You will prepare a brief written summary and critique of the journal article. You may not write about a study that we discussed in class.
8. To prepare for your research article project, we will practice evaluating experimental designs throughout the semester. There will be a brief handout for each of the exercises (saved under module “In-Class Exercises”). On weeks where there are these in-class exercises (refer to “Class Schedule” of the syllabus), there will be participation questions pertaining to the exercises.
9. Media myth-debunking project: You will watch a movie or TV show episode(s) and debunk its psychological myths. You will submit a brief write-up. You may not use examples that we discussed in class.
10. Participation questions and projects must be submitted by **11:59 pm** on the due dates via Canvas (in “Assignments” section). You can submit them early if you want!
11. There will be two exams (midterm and final). Each exam will have a one-hour time limit. For the midterm, you will have 48 hours to complete the exam on the week of 3/8/21 (exam will be available from 3/8/21 7 am to 3/10/21 6:59 am). The final exam will not be cumulative. Final exam time will be updated once scheduled by the registrar’s office. Exams will be administered online through Canvas (“Quizzes”), with **Respondus Lockdown Browser & Monitor** (webcam and microphone required) as the proctoring software. Note that the exams are NOT open-book or open-notes. Looking at your textbook/notes or searching for the information online constitute cheating, which will result in a failing grade for the exam and academic discipline.

Grading

| Component | % of Final Course Grade |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Participation questions | 5% |
| Discussion board participation | 5% |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Quizzes | 10% |
| Research article project | 15% |
| Movie myth-debunking project | 5% |
| Midterm exam | 30% |
| Final exam | 30% |
| Extra Credit Project | 1% (extra) |

| Letter Grade | Score Range |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 80-86 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 70-76 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | <60 |

Class Schedule

| Week of | Content | Assignment |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1/19/21 | Syllabus; Introduction | Syllabus; Module 1: Story of Psychology (1.3-1.5) |
| 1/25/21 | Thinking Critically With Psychological Science | Module 2: Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask and Answer; Module 3: Statistical Reasoning in Everyday Life |
| 2/1/21 | The Biology of Mind; Extra credit project due on 2/7/21 | Module 4: Neural and Hormonal Systems (4.3-4.5); Module 5: Tools of Discovery, Older Brain Structures, and the Limbic System; Module 6: The Cerebral Cortex, Plasticity, and Our Divided Brain |
| 2/8/21 | Consciousness; Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity | Module 8: Sleep and Dreams (8.1-8.6); Module 9: Drugs and Consciousness; <u>Just vocabularies for following modules</u> : Module 10: Behavior Genetics: Predicting Individual Differences; Module 12: Culture, Gender, and Other Environmental Influences; “School Start Time and Teen Sleep” handout |
| 2/15/21 | Developing Through the Life Span | Module 13: Developmental Issues, Prenatal Development, and the |

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| | | Newborn (13.2-13.3); Module 14: Infancy and Childhood; Module 15: Adolescence; Module 16: Adulthood; “Teenage Driving” |
| 2/22/21 | Sensation and Perception; Learning | Module 17: Basic Concepts of Sensation and Perception (17.1); Module 18: Vision: Sensory and Perceptual Processing; Module 19: The Nonvisual Senses; Module 20: Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning (20.2-20.6); Module 21: Operant Conditioning; Module 22: Biology, Cognition, and Learning (22.3-22.4) |
| 3/1/21 | Memory; Midterm Review; Media Myth-Debunking Project due on 3/7/20 | Module 23: Studying and Encoding Memories; Module 24: Storing and Retrieving Memories; Module 25: Forgetting, Memory Construction, and Improving Memory; “Eyewitness Testimony” handout |
| 3/8/21 | Midterm Exam (Online) – complete between 3/8/21 7 am to 3/10/21 6:59 am | |
| 3/15/21 | Cancelled – Spring Recess | |
| 3/22/21 | Thinking and Language; Intelligence | Module 26: Thinking (26.2-26.6); Module 27: Language and Thought (27.1-27.4, 27.6); Module 28: What Is Intelligence?; Module 29: Assessing Intelligence; Module 30: The Dynamics of Intelligence (30.2-30.3); Module 31: Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence (31.3-31.5) |
| 3/29/21 | What Drives Us; Personality | Module 33: Hunger; Module 34: Sexual Motivation (skip 34.1, 34.3, & 34.5); Module 45: Introduction to Personality and Psychodynamic Theories (skip 45.4 & 45.6); Module 46: Humanistic Theories and Trait Theories (46.1, 46.4-46.8); Module 47: Social-Cognitive Theories and |

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| | | the Self; “Extraversion” handout (submit extraversion & social competence scores according to handout) |
| 4/5/21 | Emotions, Stress, and Health | Module 36: Introduction to Emotion; Module 37: Expressing Emotion; Module 39: Stress and Illness; Module 40, Health and Coping (skip 40.8); “Social Ties and Cold Susceptibility” handout |
| 4/12/21 | Social Psychology; Research Article Project due on 4/18/21 | Module 41: Social Thinking; Module 42: Social Influence; Module 43, Antisocial Relations; Module 44, Prosocial Relations |
| 4/19/21 | Psychological Disorders | Module 49: Anxiety Disorders, OCD, and PTSD; Module 50: Depressive Disorders and Bipolar Disorder; Module 51: Schizophrenia; Module 52: Dissociative, Personality, and Eating Disorders |
| 4/26/21 | Treatment for Psychological Disorders; Final Review | Module 53: Introduction to Therapy and the Psychological Therapies; Module 55: Biomedical Therapies and Preventing Psychological Disorders |
| 5/3/21 | No new lecture – start studying for the final exam! | |
| TBD | Final Exam (Online) | |

Note: This is a tentative schedule. Changes might be made as the course progresses.

Policies

University Policy on Academic Integrity

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.

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.

Late Assignment/Missed Exam

Except for documented health or family emergencies, all exams must be taken and all work must be turned in on the dates listed here (unless explicitly changed by the instructor). Make-up tests will not be given and late assignments will be subject to significant grade penalties except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies. When invoking extenuating circumstances for any reason (e.g., request for a make-up exam, request for an Incomplete grade), the Dean of Students Office will make the determination of whether extenuating circumstances exist or not and notify the instructor accordingly.