

Fall 2021

## **PSY 201-001: Orientation to Psychology as a Behavioral Science**

John Wolf

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# ORIENTATION TO PSYCHOLOGY AS A BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

PSY 201-001  
MR 11:30AM CKB 114  
3 credits, Fall 2021

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## I. Course Description

This course will serve as an orientation to psychology in general and cyberpsychology in particular. Students will examine theories and research related to career and professional development. Topics include the utility of career development theory, the nature of the world of work, evaluation of career information, and the role of empirical research in career development theory and practice. Students will also use self-assessments of interests, goals, and strengths as they relate to career and vocational opportunities.

## II. Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for this course are derived from the program-based student learning outcomes of the Bachelor of Science in Cyberpsychology program.

1. Develop a working knowledge of psychology's content domains.
2. Describe applications of psychology.
3. Demonstrate psychology information literacy.
4. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
5. Build and enhance interpersonal relationships.
6. Adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels.
7. Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.

## III. Textbook & Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. All assigned readings will be distributed and made available through the course Canvas site ([canvas.njit.edu](https://canvas.njit.edu)).

## IV. Attendance

The information presented in class is important and unique to each course session. Attendance and final grade are highly correlated; thus, students who attend class and are active in the class tend to do very well, while students who miss class tend to do worse (especially as the total number of classes missed increases). Hence, students must be present at all classes. All excused absences must be cleared with the Office of the Dean of Students. After three unexcused absences, a student may receive a failing grade in the course.

## V. Assessment

You will be assessed regularly throughout the semester using assignments (20%), guest speaker reaction papers (25%), in-class participation (25%), and a final reflection paper (30%).

The submission deadlines for assignments are listed on the Canvas course site and should be observed strictly. It is important that you stay on top of the assigned work and that you plan ahead.

### **Assignments**

Throughout the semester, we will explore potential career paths and use results from self-assessments (e.g., Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) in order to explore possible career paths. There will be four (4) such assignments throughout the semester. The assignment criteria will be provided in advance via the Canvas course page. *In total, assignments will comprise 20% of your final grade in the course.*

### **Guest Speaker Reflection Papers**

Throughout the semester, we will hear from ten (10) guest speakers. You are required to write about five (5) of these guest speakers. Criteria for the reflection papers will be provided via the Canvas course site. Please be sure to adhere to all reflection paper criteria, including addressing the prompt completely and satisfying any word count minima. *In total, reflection papers will comprise 25% of your final grade in the course.*

### **In-Class Participation**

This is a seminar-style course, meaning that it is driven by discussion and other forms of active learning in which students guide and cultivate the learning process. A seminar requires student participation in order to operate properly, thus, active participation through contribution to in-class discussions is a critical component of assessing your performance in the course. *In total, in-class participation will comprise 25% of your final grade in the course.*

### **Final Reflection Paper**

Synthesis is the composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole. The purpose of the final reflection paper is for you to reflect on what you have learned in this course, which will help you better understand and remember it. Detailed criteria as well as a rubric will be provided for this assignment. *In total, the final reflection paper will comprise 30% of your final grade in the course.*

## **VI. Assignment Deadlines**

Regarding assignment deadlines: it will be common for me to indicate that a given assignment or quiz is “due by the end of the day” and/or “due by the end of the week.” For the purposes of this class, “end of the day” is 11:59 PM on the day being referenced (thus, “end of the day on Friday” means “by 11:59 PM on Friday”) and “end of the week” refers to Sunday for the week being referenced (for example, “end of Week #2” means “by Sunday, September 12”).

All deadlines are given in Eastern Time (five hours behind Coordinated Universal Time when in standard time, and four hours behind when observing daylight saving time). Thus, if you are traveling, it is up to you to ensure that you submit assignments on time (this may be especially germane for those of you who have out-of-town engagements, athletics, etc. planned throughout the semester).

## VII. Grading Scale

The grade you receive in this course will be based on a tally of your scores on all assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. throughout the term. Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| > 89.5      | A  |
| 89.4 – 86.5 | B+ |
| 86.4 – 79.5 | B  |
| 79.4 – 75.5 | C+ |
| 75.4 – 65.5 | C  |
| 65.4 – 55.5 | D  |
| < 55.4      | F  |

*NOTE: As a general rule, I do not give extra credit. Nor do I respond to emails or questions that ask, “Is there anything I can do to get an A or to bump up my grade a few extra points?” Please do not send me emails of this nature, as I will not respond to them.*

## VIII. Email Policy & Communication With Instructor

I will respond to emails as quickly as possible (usually no later than the next business day), but it’s important that you understand my email policy so that you know when you can reasonably anticipate a reply. During non-holiday weekdays (Monday-Friday), it is my policy to check email at least twice daily: once in the morning/early afternoon (usually by or before 1:00 PM) and once in the late afternoon or early evening (usually by or before 6:00 PM). Thus, it may take several hours for me to reply to your email, depending on when you send it. *Please allow 24 hours before sending a second email regarding the same topic.*

If sending emails in the evening or during the late night: I *CANNOT* guarantee you a response before the next business day. Furthermore, you should *NOT* expect a response to emails sent over the weekend (from Friday evening through Sunday) until the following business day (usually Monday, unless Monday is a holiday). Thus, it will be unequivocally to your benefit to plan ahead and work accordingly!

## IX. Office Hours

I will hold office hours weekly on Wednesdays from 2:00 until 3:00 PM or by appointment. My office is located 207 Cullimore Hall (i.e., inside the Office of the Dean of the College of Science & Liberal Arts).

## X. Fall 2021 Semester Schedule

| WEEK | DATE               | DAY                             | SPEAKER/TOPIC                                |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1    | September 2, 2021  | Thursday                        | Course introduction                          |
| 2    | September 8, 2021  | Wednesday (Monday classes meet) | Self-assessment for professional development |
|      | September 9, 2021  | Thursday                        |  |
| 3    | September 13, 2021 | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #1                             |
|      | September 16, 2021 | Thursday                        |  |
| 4    | September 20, 2021 | Monday                          | Chairs meeting (no class)                    |
|      | September 23, 2021 | Thursday                        | Guest Speaker #2                             |
| 5    | September 27, 2021 | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #3                             |
|      | September 30, 2021 | Thursday                        |  |
| 6    | October 4, 2021    | Monday                          | Self-assessment for professional development |
|      | October 7, 2021    | Thursday                        | Instructor conflict (no class)               |
| 7    | October 11, 2021   | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #4                             |
|      | October 14, 2021   | Thursday                        |  |
| 8    | October 18, 2021   | Monday                          | Chairs meeting (no class)                    |
|      | October 21, 2021   | Thursday                        |  |
| 9    | October 25, 2021   | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #5                             |
|      | October 28, 2021   | Thursday                        |  |
| 10   | November 1, 2021   | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #6                             |
|      | November 4, 2021   | Thursday                        |  |
| 11   | November 8, 2021   | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #7                             |
|      | November 11, 2021  | Thursday                        |  |
| 12   | November 15, 2021  | Monday                          | Chairs meeting (no class)                    |
|      | November 18, 2021  | Thursday                        | Guest Speaker #8                             |
| 13   | November 22, 2021  | Monday                          |  |
|      | November 25, 2021  | Thursday                        | Thanksgiving recess (no class)               |
| 14   | November 29, 2021  | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #9                             |
|      | December 2, 2021   | Thursday                        |  |
| 15   | December 6, 2021   | Monday                          | Guest Speaker #10                            |
|      | December 9, 2021   | Thursday                        |  |
|      | December 10, 2021  | Friday                          | Classes end                                  |
|      | December 15, 2021  | Wednesday                       | Final exams begin                            |
|      | December 21, 2021  | Tuesday                         | Final exams end                              |
|      | December 23, 2021  | Thursday                        | Final grades due                             |

## **XI. Boilerplate Provisions**

### [University Code on Academic Integrity](#)

The essential quality of this Policy is that each student shall demonstrate honesty and integrity in the completion of all assignments and in the participation of the learning process. Adherence to the University policy on Academic Integrity promotes the level of integrity required within the university and professional communities and assures students that their work is being judged fairly with the work of others. This Policy defines those behaviors which violate the principles of academic integrity, describes a range of appropriate sanctions for offenses, and identifies a method for promoting the principle of academic integrity on campus.

### [Accessibility Resources & Service Accommodations](#)

The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services works in partnership with administrators, faculty and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and support services for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and visiting students with disabilities who have provided our office with medical documentation to receive services. We strive to promote an inclusive environment that encompasses advocacy and access to all campus resources.

### *Flexible Syllabus*

This course syllabus is an orderly arranged procedure for structuring the learning process. However, it is open for alteration or change by mutual understanding and agreement, so long as the change is consistent with the stated course goals or objectives.

## **XII. Helpful Links**

### [Office of Academic Advising \(OAA\)](#)

The Office of Academic Advising (OAA) was established in order to assist in the advisement of students who are undecided in their major, transitioning into another major at NJIT, and those students who need additional support to graduate successfully and in a timely manner. OAA is a place where students will get intentional and intrusive advising, by a supportive academic advisor that will enable them to grow developmentally and give them the motivation they need to complete their degree.

### [The Writing Center](#)

The Writing Center, located on the ground floor of CKB, is a free resource which offers on-site tutoring. We provide one-on-one and group tutoring sessions to students from all disciplines, during the fall and spring semesters. During Center hours, tutors are available to work with students on any aspect of their writing, from generating ideas and developing arguments, to working through drafts to their completion and revising effectively.