

Fall 2023

PSY-210 (001): Introduction to Psychology

Yelda Semizer-Kaplan

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Introduction to Psychology
Fall 2023 – PSY 210:001
TF, 1:00 PM – 2:20 PM, CKB 223
Course delivery mode: Face-to-Face

Instructor: Yelda Semizer

E-mail: yelda.semizer@njit.edu (Please contact me by email only from your NJIT email address and allow for least 24-48 hours for a response.)

Office Hours: T, 11:30 PM – 12:30 PM or by appointment.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

This course does not have any prerequisites or co-requisites.

Course Description

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The content focuses on the exploration of major psychological theories and concepts, methods, and research findings in psychology. Topics include the biological bases of behavior, perception, cognition and consciousness, learning, memory, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to:

- Provide major theories, concepts, methods, and research findings in psychology.
- Introduce research methods, including the scientific approach, research design, the use of statistics, and ethics.
- Explain major sub-disciplines in psychology including but not limited to: the biological bases of brain-behavior relationships, perception, cognition, learning, memory, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders, and therapeutic approaches, and applied psychology.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods, core empirical findings, and historic trends in psychology.
- Explain and compare major theoretical perspectives of psychology;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major domains in psychology;
- Describe and demonstrate an understanding of applied areas of psychology;
- Draw the distinction between scientific and non-scientific methods of understanding and analysis;
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and information competence as applied to psychological topics.

Course Materials

Textbook: Your textbook for this class is available for free online!

[*Psychology 2e* from OpenStax](#), ISBN 978-1-975076-45-0

You have several options to obtain this book:

- [View online](#) (Links to an external site.)
- [Download a PDF](#) (Links to an external site.)

The Modules tab will include links to relevant chapters each week.

Research articles: We will read and discuss research articles published in scientific journals. These articles will be available on Canvas.

Access to a PC: You will need Internet access to view course content on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Exams:

There will be three exams. Midterm Exam I and II will be administered within the semester while Final Exam will be administered during the final period. All exams are time limited, closed book and closed notes. Midterm Exam I and II (non-cumulative) will each make up 20% of your course grade while Final Exam (cumulative) will make up 30% of your course grade. All exams will be proctored.

Note: Make-up exams are allowed only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.) at least one-week prior to the scheduled exam date, except in case of an unforeseeable emergency. Make-up exam will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

Quizzes:

There will be several quizzes throughout the semester. The aim of these quizzes is to give you a chance to test your knowledge about the class material. All quizzes will be available on Canvas at the beginning of the semester. Please see the course schedule below and Canvas course site for the due dates. You will have three chances to take each quiz and only the highest score will count towards your course grade.

Project:

For your project, you have two options to choose from:

Option 1: You will select a topic in psychology and write a paper which clearly defines the topic and discusses how the topic is depicted in media. You need to discuss at least one scientific resource to introduce your topic. Your paper should have three parts (introduction, main body, and conclusion).

Option 2: You will identify a peer-reviewed article published in journal and write a reflection paper to discuss the article. Your paper should have three parts (introduction, main body, and conclusion). It should include a summary of the article as well as your discussion of the article including its strengths and weaknesses.

Regardless of the option you choose, you will need to find scientific resources (e.g., research articles) on the topic. We will go over what constitutes a research article and how to find a research article in class. You will give a brief (3-5 min) presentation of your project in class. If you have concerns about the presentation, please let me know.

All papers must be completed by the individual student must show original work. Please see Academic Integrity Policy below. Papers will be checked using Turnitin, a software that checks originality of your work by comparing it to content on the Web, articles, books, and assignments of previous students of this class.

Attendance and Participation:

The delivery mode of this course is face-to-face, which means we will meet in person, during the designated class days/times. You are expected to attend all classes. To receive credit, you must be in class on time, stay for the entire time, and contribute in-class activities and discussions. Throughout the semester, we will have several in-class activities. You must be in class that day to complete these activities. In addition, you will be asked to present a research article and lead the discussion as a group. There will be no make-up for these in-class activities. Absences are excused only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.).

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

Assessment type	Percentage
Midterm Exam I	20%
Midterm Exam II	20%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	10%
Project	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
TOTAL:	100%

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter grade
90% and above	A
85 – 89%	B+
80 – 84%	B
75 – 79%	C+
66 – 74%	C
55 – 65%	D
below 55%	F

Course Policies

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.

Academic Accommodations: If you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services for Students (<https://www.njit.edu/studentssuccess/accessibility>). You should file your request as soon as possible. Retroactive accommodations are not allowed.

Procedures and policies defined in this syllabus are subject to change upon mutual agreement. If you decide to stay enrolled in this course after receiving this syllabus, I will assume that you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Quiz	Paper Presentation
9/5	Introduction to course, Introduction to Psychology	Syllabus, Ch. 1		
9/8	Psychological Research: Part 1	Ch. 2		
9/12	Psychological Research: Part 2	Ch. 2 <i>cont.</i>		
9/15	Biopsychology: Part 1	Ch. 3; paper #1		Group 1
9/19	Biopsychology: Part 2	Ch. 3 <i>cont.</i>	Q1 (Ch. 1,2,3)	
9/22	States of Consciousness	Ch. 4; paper #2		Group 2
9/26	Sensation and Perception: Part 1	Ch. 5		
9/29	Sensation and Perception: Part 2	Ch. 5 <i>cont.</i> ; paper #3		Group 3
10/3	Catch-up and Review for Exam I		Q2 (Ch. 4,5)	
10/6	Midterm Exam I			
10/10	Learning	Ch. 6		
10/13	Thinking and Intelligence	Ch. 7; paper #4		Group 4
10/17	Memory: Part 1	Ch. 8		
10/20	Memory: Part 2	Ch. 8 <i>cont.</i> ; paper #5	Q3 (Ch. 6,7,8)	Group 5
10/24	Lifespan Development	Ch. 9		
10/27	Personality: Part 1	Ch. 11; paper #6		Group 6
10/31	Personality: Part 2	Ch. 11 <i>cont.</i>		
11/3	Catch-up and Review for Exam II		Q4 (Ch. 9,11)	
11/7	Midterm Exam II			
11/10	Social Psychology: Part 1	Ch. 12; paper #7		Group 7
11/14	Social Psychology: Part 2	Ch. 12 <i>cont.</i>	Project description due	
11/17	No Class (Conference Travel)			

11/22	Psychological Disorders: Part 1 (Note: change of class day)	Ch. 15; paper #8	Group 8
11/24	No Class: Thanksgiving Recess		
11/28	Psychological Disorders: Part 2	Ch. 15 <i>cont.</i>	
12/1	Therapy and Treatment	Ch. 16; paper #9	Group 9
12/5	Catch-up and Review for Exam III		Q5 (Ch. 12,15,16)
12/8	Project Presentations		Project presentation submissions due Sunday
12/12	Project Presentations		Project paper due
TBD	Final Exam		

Note: The content of this schedule might be adjusted/changed by the instructor depending on students' needs.