

Science of Psychology

Department of Psychology – Columbia University

PSYC1001 - Course Syllabus – Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Nora M. Isacoff

Email: ni2237@columbia.edu

Course Location: Schermerhorn 501

Course Time: MW 10:10 AM – 11:25 AM

Office: Uris Hall 204C

Office Hours: Tuesday 2p – 4p

The TAs are here to help you this semester and are a fantastic resource. Please take advantage of their help! TAs will hold weekly office hours, answer emails, and grade your work. You may attend whoever's office hours work best in your schedule. Drop-in office hours with me are at the time and location listed in above. Please check Canvas before you attend office hours for any updates to time and/or location.

Graduate TAs:

Amisha Vyas
Wangjing Yu

TA Office Hours:

Email:

av3241@columbia.edu
wy2345@columbia.edu

Undergraduate TAs:

Chris Abt
Jackie Garcia Rojas
Suki Gupta
Joyce Li

cga2139@columbia.edu
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Office hours/location for each TA will be updated early in the semester.

Course Description:

Broad survey of psychological science including: sensation and perception; learning, memory, intelligence, language, and cognition; emotions and motivation; development, personality, health and illness, and social behavior. Discusses relations between the brain, behavior, and experience. Emphasizes science as a process of discovering both new ideas and new empirical results. Note: Enrollment may be limited. Attendance at the first two class periods is mandatory.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Course Role in the Department:

PSYC 1001 The Science of Psychology is a beginning-level lecture course, open to undergraduates and students in the Post-baccalaureate Psychology program. It fulfills the following degree requirements:

- For the Neuroscience & Behavior major, this course can be used to fulfill the P1 Science of Psychology requirement.

- For the Psychology major and Psychology concentration, this course can be used to fulfill Science of Psychology requirement.
- For the Post-baccalaureate Psychology program, this course fulfills the Introductory Psychology Course requirement.

Required Textbook:

Psychology 6E by Schacter, Gilbert, & Nock.

Ebook: ISBN:9781319468934

Paperback: ISBN:9781319340483

Course Website:

The most up-to-date information, including changes to the syllabus or to the class schedule, announcements, lecture slides and additional materials are contained on the course website on CourseWorks (Canvas).

Grades:

Your grades will be based on the following components. See below for further information about each component.

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3:	20%
Final:	10%
Paper 1:	10%
Paper 2:	10%
Participation:	10%

Letter Grade Assignment:

98-100%: A+	87-89.9%: B+	77-79.9%: C+	67-69.9%: D+	<60%: F
94-97.9%: A	84-86.9%: B	74-76.9%: C	64-66.9%: D	
90-93.9%: A-	80-83.9%: B-	70-73.9%: C-	60-63.9%: D-	

Exams:

Exams (non-cumulative) are given in-class on the dates provided on the schedule. All exams are open notes. You may bring whatever notes you like with you to the exams, but they must be handwritten or printed out (not on a device). Exams will be based on the concepts covered in the lectures, and you will be expected to be able to apply concepts to new scenarios. To prepare for exams, you should read and take notes on the assigned reading before each class, stay attentive and engaged during class, and review the slides after each class. If you have questions about what “taking notes” or “staying engaged” or “reviewing” looks like, you are NOT alone, and the TAs can help you develop these skills.

Final:

The final is a chance to reflect on the primary themes you will have explored throughout the semester. Like the exams, the final will be open-notes. More information about the final will be given later in the semester.

Make-up Exams/Final:

Make up exams/final will be allowed only with written justification (e.g., by your doctor or advising dean) and must be taken within one week *after* the exam. Exams taken after that time or that do not have written justification will have the same late penalty as all other assignments. Make-up exams will not be offered before the scheduled exam date. Please note that personal travel is not an excused absence from an exam. Please check your travel schedule ahead of time to ensure you are able to take this class

Paper 1:

A great way to learn about psychology is to participate in psychology experiments. In paper 1, you will reflect on your experience as a participant, drawing on class concepts. You can sign up to be a participant at [Sona Systems](#). See the Experiment Participation Handout on Canvas for further information about participation. If you can't find the answers there, contact the subject pool team at psych-subjectpool@columbia.edu. Requirements for this paper will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. If you are under 18, or object to completing this assignment for any reason, contact Professor Isacoff for an alternate assignment.

Paper 2:

Another great way to learn about psychology is to attend a talk in which a scholar in the field presents on their current research. In paper 2, you will reflect on a talk you attend. One of my favorite things about being at Columbia, and in New York City more generally, is access to so many great talks. Since there are so many students taking this class, you will need to sign up ahead of time for one of these talks for logistical reasons (although of course you are encouraged to attend as many talks as interest you). A list of suggested talks and a sign-up form will be provided early in the semester. If you would like to attend a talk not listed here, please contact Professor Isacoff ahead of time for permission. You are strongly encouraged to take notes at the talk you attend. Requirements for this paper will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class.

Participation:

TL;DR: You can miss 4 non-exam classes throughout the semester. You do not need to inform anyone that you will be missing class or do anything to make this up, although of course you will still be responsible for the material. There is not an option to Zoom into class, but you can watch the recording on Canvas afterward. If you do not miss more than 4 classes, your participation grade will be 100%. 10 points will be deducted from your participation grade for every additional absence. We will try using the Attendance Radar app to track participation.

Participation Rationale: I have gone up and back, up and back about the attendance policy. I genuinely believe that so much more is gained from coming to class than simply from watching an online lecture and reading a book on your own. It's why you're here in this extraordinary learning community. I don't feel it is my place to evaluate the seriousness of your personal situations to decide on a case-by-case basis who is worthy of an excused absence. There are so many valid reasons for missing assignments: death of a close family member, a true illness or medical emergency, being the victim of a crime, a serious accident, a natural disaster, presenting undergraduate research at a prestigious conference. In the past academic year alone, I had at least one student come to me with each of these circumstances. My assumption is that most people will need to miss some classes over the course of the semester, and I don't feel anyone owes me an excuse for that, and it is your responsibility to have absences available in case you need to use them late in the semester. With 200 students in the class, each with your own rich and complex lives, we cannot make exceptions to this policy.

Disability Services:

Students must register with their school's Disability Services office in order to receive disability-related accommodations and must complete the testing accommodation request form. More information is available at:

Columbia: <https://health.columbia.edu/content/disability-services>

Barnard: <https://barnard.edu/disabilityservices/register-cards>

Religious Observance:

If you are going to miss class(es) due to religious observance, you must notify me during the first week of class so that accommodations can be made.

Class Attendance and Electronics Policy:

It is strongly encouraged that you take hand-written notes. If you need to use a device, please be respectful of your classmates and your instructor by only accessing the document for class and not using the device to message or access the internet. Coming to class is of no value if you are not paying attention to the lecture. Messaging friends, watching videos online, and browsing social media are not appropriate for the classroom. Remember to silence your phones before class.

Unreadable File Submission:

Any assignments that have unreadable files will automatically receive a 0% score. It is a student's responsibility to make sure that submissions are done in a proper manner and double check that files are readable and accessible to the teaching team. To avoid the penalty for unreadable file submission, try to work on the assignments ahead of time and give yourself enough time to check that the files submitted are accessible/readable.

Late Assignments:

Any assignment that is turned in late will have a late penalty applied. Assignments that are turned in within 24 hours of the deadline will have a 25% deduction in points. Assignment turned in more than 48 hours after the deadline will have a 50% deduction in points. Assignments are not accepted after the last day of class. Courseworks will automatically apply this deduction in points. If there are extenuating circumstances (death in the family, etc.) please notify me immediately. I cannot make accommodations if I don't know what's going on or if something occurs after the due date. Note: to avoid the penalty for late submissions, do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment. Courseworks is sometimes slow to upload. Submitting in advance of the deadline is your best bet.

Academic Honesty:

Please see www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity. Note that turning in work that is not your own, whether written in part or fully by another human or by AI, can result in very serious consequences such as failing the class.

Sexual Respect:

Any form of gender-based misconduct will not be tolerated. "Columbia University is committed to fostering an environment that is free from gender-based discrimination and harassment, including sexual assault and all other forms of gender-based misconduct." Visit this website for more information: <http://sexualrespect.columbia.edu/>

COVID-19:

We will comply with all University-mandated COVID-19 policies. If you are ill with any communicable diseases (even a cold), please stay home and use one of your allowed absences.

Course Schedule:

The calendar below details topics, readings, and assignments for each class period. Students should complete the assigned reading before coming to class.

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Wednesday, September 4	Introductions	
Monday, September 9	Core concepts	
Wednesday, September 11	History of Psychological Science	Chapter 1
Monday, September 16	Methods	Chapter 2
Wednesday, September 18	Methods	Chapter 2
Monday, September 23	Neuroscience	Chapter 3
Wednesday, September 25	Neuroscience	Chapter 3
Monday, September 30	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4
Wednesday, October 2	EXAM 1	
Monday, October 7	Attention	Chapter 5
Wednesday October 9	Consciousness	Chapter 5
Monday, October 14	Memory	Chapter 6

Wednesday, October 16	Memory	Chapter 6
Monday, October 21	Learning	Chapter 7
Wednesday, October 23	Learning	Chapter 7
Monday, October 28	Emotion & Motivation	Chapter 8
Wednesday, October 30	Language	Chapter 9
Monday, November 4	NO CLASSES	
Monday, November 6	Decision Making	Chapter 9
Monday, November 11	EXAM 2	
Wednesday, November 13	Intelligence	Chapter 10
Monday, November 18	Development	Chapter 11
Wednesday, November 20	Personality	Chapter 12
Monday, November 25	Social	Chapter 13
Wednesday, November 27	NO CLASSES	
Monday, December 2	Clinical	Chapter 15
Wednesday, December 4	Clinical	Chapter 16
Monday, December 9	EXAM 3	
Wednesday, December 18	FINAL	

Paper deadlines*:

Paper 1: December 4

Paper 2: December 10

*You are **strongly** encouraged to write and turn in your papers soon after your participation in the experiment/talk so that your memory of the experience is clear, to stagger your own workload throughout the semester, to get feedback on one paper before submitting the other, and to help stagger grading for the TAs. The deadlines here are the absolute outer limit.