

THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY
Columbia University

PSYC S1001
Summer Session I (2020)

Location: online
Time: 1:00pm - 3:05pm
Days: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs

Instructor Information

Tina Kao, PhD
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TA Information

Ana DiGiovanni
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Required Textbook

Gazzaniga, Michael S. (2018) *Psychological Science* W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-64034-2

Description

Why do we as humans think and behave the way we do? What are the biological mechanisms associated with these processes of cognitions and behaviors? This course will seek answers to these questions. The Science of Psychology refers to the many different academic areas of study within the field of Psychology. Topics ranging from biological perspectives, to cognitive and social perspectives, will be emphasized and discussed. Past, and recent advances of research within areas such as neuroscience, learning, memory, motivation, sensation and perception, development, social psychology, personality, health, abnormal and clinical psychology will be discussed. Throughout the course, we will emphasize Psychology as an intellectual process to uncovering new ideas.

Objectives

The objectives for each student taking this course may be a bit different. Whether you are taking this course because you are interested in the many fields of Psychology and Neuroscience, this course will provide you with fundamental understandings of the brain, mind and behavior. Other students may be taking this course to fulfill a requirement for science. For those of you that are part of this cohort, you may find that quite a bit of the Science of Psychology applies to other academic fields, including those that you are interested in, and/or pursuing. Finally, many of you may be on a pre-health track towards a future in medicine. As you may well know, questions pertaining to academic Psychology are now incorporated as part of the MCAT. Though I will do my best to address MCAT related questions, it is my hope that you will find the course in its entirety to be an engaging and enriching experience.

Grading and Requirements

Exam #1:	25%
Non-Cumulative Exam #2:	25%
Non-Cumulative Exam #3:	30%
Paper:	15%
Attendance:	5%

The letter grade equivalent for your final grade for the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

97 – 100:	A+	89.9 – 87.0:	B+	79.9 – 77.0:	C+	69.9 – 60.0:	D	59.9 & below:	F
96.9 – 93.0:	A	86.9 – 83.0:	B	76.9 – 73.0:	C				
92.9 – 90.0:	A-	82.9 – 80.0:	B-	72.9 – 70.0:	C-				

Exams

The exams will be your opportunity to demonstrate how well you have learned the material covered in the course. There will be three exams administered during this course. As part of the exams, you will be responsible for both the material covered in lectures, **and** the material covered in the assigned readings of the textbook.

If you are unable to take an exam during the day/time it is scheduled, contact the instructor or TA **as soon as possible**. For the most part, the only acceptable reason for missing an exam is due to serious illness/emergency. If such a situation should arise, a make-up exam may be administered after receiving permission from your advisor or dean, and from your instructor. Having multiple exams on a single day, or having conflicts due to vacation plans, are NOT acceptable reasons for scheduling a make-up exam.

Paper

There will be one paper required for this course. This paper will provide you an opportunity for you to convey your own scientific research within the field of Psychology! A guideline, along with a rubric, will help you develop your paper, and these documents will be posted onto Canvas.

Grades for late submissions will be reduced by 10% per 24 hour cycle. If you contact the instructor or TA *prior* to the deadline, we *may* be willing to discuss the possibility of an extension. There are very few reasons your paper may be submitted late, examples being unanticipated illness or family emergencies. If any of this is your case, please provide an email from your advising advisor or dean.

Attendance

The faculty guidelines of Columbia University state that “*Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Also, the six-week terms are so short that a student with three absences has missed one-quarter of the course*”. Therefore, your rate of attendance will be reflected in your final grade (see above, under “Grading and Requirements”). Also be aware that much of the material covered in lectures will NOT be contained in the textbook, and this lecture material will constitute the greater portion of the exams.

Etiquette during Class

Since this class is held on an online platform, please make sure to respect the entire class. We will continue with etiquette procedures as the session progresses.

Academic Integrity

Information on what constitutes violations of academic integrity can be found here, (<http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/integrity>). Broadly speaking, academic integrity means presenting only your own work for your tests/quizzes/assignment(s). Taking credit for the work of others is a serious violation of the academic community, resulting in cheating or plagiarism. If either is the case, the student will receive a zero for the test/quiz/assignment, and the instructor will report the student to the University. That said, if you have any questions about how to appropriately cite another’s work, please contact the instructor or TA.

Schedule, Lecture Topics and Assigned Readings

You are required to complete the assigned readings *before* each lecture. Please note that the lecture topics, the assigned readings, as well as the time allocated for each topic are subject to revision.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topics</i>	<i>Assigned Readings</i>
1	5/26	Introduction to the course and to Psychology	
2	5/27	Introduction to Psychology cont'd and Research in Psychology	Chapters 1 & 2
3	5/28	Introduction to the nervous system	Chapter 3
4	5/29	Nervous system: neuroanatomy	
5	6/01	Nervous system: mechanisms of action	
6	6/02	Consciousness: circadian rhythm, modulations associated with neuropharmacology	Chapter 4
7	6/03	Sensation: psychophysics	Chapter 5
8	6/04	Exam #1 Sensation: sensory transduction	
9	6/08	Perception Learning: conditioning, observational learning	Chapter 6
10	6/09	Memory	Chapter 7
11	6/10	Memory cont'd	
12	6/11	Understanding and assessing intelligence	Chapter 8
13	6/15	Understanding and assessing intelligence cont'd	
14	6/16	Human lifespan development	Chapter 9
15	6/17	Human lifespan development (cont'd)	
16	6/18	Non-Cumulative Exam #2 Motivation	
17	6/22	Motivation (cont'd) and Emotions	Chapter 10
18	6/23	Health Psychology	Chapter 11
19	6/24	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
20	6/25	Social Psychology (cont'd)	
21	6/29	Personality and Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13
22	6/30	Psychological Disorders cont'd	Chapter 14
23	7/01	Treatments of symptoms of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
24	7/02	Paper due Non-Cumulative Exam #3	

This current syllabus is subject to revision. If necessary, updates to the syllabus will be posted on Canvas.