

Science of Psychology

Department of Psychology – Columbia University

PSYC1001 - Course Syllabus – Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Sarah DeMoya
Course Time: MW 1:10 PM – 2:25 PM
Office Hours: by appointment
(Friday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

E-mail: sed2182@columbia.edu
Course Location: Schermerhorn 501
Office: Schermerhorn Extension 355D

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, hold exam reviews, and grade your work. For office hours, please go to whichever office hours work best in your schedule. Tentative office hours are listed here. Please check EdStem before you attend office hours for any updates to time and/or location.

TA Office Hours:

Courtney Jimenez
Daniela Cordovez
Gina Yang
Jessica Lee
Jessica Li
Joshua Park
Kaitlyn Mundy
Naomi Yamaguchi

Office Hours:

TBD
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Location:

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Student Last Name:

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Your Assigned TA:

Courtney
Daniela
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Jessica Li
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About Courtney:

I'm a PhD student researching social learning and memory processes with behavioral, neuroimaging, and computational methods. I grew up in Northern California and completed my undergraduate studies in Neurobiology & Psychology at UC Davis. In my free time, you can find me attending an NWSL, WNBA, or PWHL game! Looking forward to the semester ahead, don't hesitate to email or attend office hours with any questions.

About Daniela:

Hi everyone! I'm a senior in Columbia College from Monterrey, Mexico majoring in Psychology with special concentrations in Business Management and Women's & Gender Studies. I'm very interested in the intersection between evidence-based, trauma informed therapies and how they can be used to aid historically vulnerable populations. I look forward to meeting you, please reach out with any questions!

About Gina:

I am a sophomore in Columbia College studying Economics and Psychology. My interests lie in cognitive psychology, especially in understanding the mental processes that affect decision-making. I look forward to working with you all, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

About Jessica Lee:

I am a sophomore at Columbia College majoring in neuroscience, originally from New York City. I currently work in the Chio Lab at the Columbia Irving Cancer Research Center where I primarily focus on culturing cells such as adipocytes. In addition, I serve as the Vice Director of the Peer Support Group at Columbia Synapse, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about brain injury and supporting affected individuals. Looking forward to meeting you all!

About Jessica Li:

I'm a junior in Columbia College studying Cognitive Science and Music. I assist with research at the Zuckerman Institute, focusing on how the brain processes sound by studying the auditory circuits of songbirds. Outside of academics, I'm active in the professional music world as a singer, songwriter, and producer. Feel free to reach out if you'd like to connect or have any questions!

About Joshua:

Hi everyone! I'm a senior in Columbia College studying Neuroscience and History. I am from Brookings, South Dakota, and worked in accounting at a law firm over the summer. Previously, I assisted in the Ho Lab researching host-pathogen interactions in malaria parasites using CryoEM. Please feel free to reach out with any questions about class or anything else I can help with!

About Kaitlyn:

Hi all! I'm a first-year PhD student in the Meyer Lab studying social connection, learning, and memory. One of my current projects focuses on how feelings of loneliness relate to differences in representation of characters from a fictional narrative. I'm from Maryland, have a BSc in Cognitive Neuroscience, and am an avid sci-fi/fantasy reader. Excited to meet you and please reach out if you have any questions!

About Naomi:

Hi everyone! I'm a senior in Columbia College studying Neuroscience and Music Performance. I'm originally from Boston and enjoy playing the piano, running, and exploring new cuisines around the city. I'm currently working on my senior thesis in the

Cai Lab at Mount Sinai investigating spatial memory recall in aged mice models. I'm always happy to help with any questions, so feel free to email or drop by my office hours :)

Course Description:

The Science of Psychology is a 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. It discusses relations between the brain, behavior, and experience. The course emphasizes science as a process of discovering both new ideas and new empirical results. PSYC1001 serves as a prerequisite for further psychology courses and should be completed by the sophomore year.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Course Role in the Department:

PSYC1001 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 8E. Henry Gleitman, James J. Gross, Daniel Reisberg. W. W. Norton & Company, Eight Edition, 2010: ISBN 978-0393932508

If you are awaiting the arrival of your textbook or are waiting to buy the book until after the add/drop deadline, the first two chapters are available via the class Courseworks site.

Copies of this book are on reserve at the Science & Engineering Library in the Northwest Corner building. Call number: BF121.G393.2022

Supplemental Materials:

Various supplemental materials will be provided by the instructor on the course website on each chapter's module page.

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). Be sure you are familiar with it, that you are easily able to login to the website, and that you always have the lecture slides with you (whether

printer or digital). If you have problems accessing the course website at any point during the semester, please let me know.

Course Learning Objectives:

Specific learning objectives for each chapter are provided for you on the Module pages for each chapter. Some weeks have more than others. It is highly to your advantage to fill them out each week as you read because the questions for the weekly quizzes and for the exams will be taken directly from the learning objectives. I may not have time to cover all learning objectives in class.

Grades:

Your overall course grade will be determined by your effort in the following areas:

- Three midterm exams 45% (15% each)
- Final Exam 25%
- Semester Project 15%
- Post-Class Quizzes 5%
- In-Class Participation 5%
- Out of Class Study Participation 5%

Letter Grade Assignment:

99-100%: A+	87-89.9%: B+	77-79.9%: C+	67-69.9%: D+	<60%: F
94-98.9%: 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-	

Note about A+ grades: A+ grades are earned by portion of students who have achieved high mastery of the material. If extra credit opportunities are provided, they cannot be used to move a student from an A to an A+ grade.

Exams:

There will be four midterms given in this course. Your lowest midterm score will be dropped, and each of the three remaining midterms is worth 15% of your overall grade for a total of 45% of your grade being determined by your midterm performance. There is a comprehensive final that is worth 25% of your final grade.

The midterms will each be 1 hour and 15 minutes long. The final exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes long and will have comprehensive questions covering the entire semester. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. These questions will test your mastery of the learning objectives for each lecture. You are permitted to bring one 8.5 x 11 or A4-sized sheet of notes to the exam. It may be double-sided, typed or handwritten, and may include images or diagrams.

- While studying, try to emphasize *understanding* and *critical thinking*. Knowing key concepts and definitions is highly valued, of course, but successful students use that knowledge to scaffold a more comprehensive understanding of the material. This is highly advisable for these exams and in general for your career. Rather than simply “memorizing,” try to “understand” the material and use your Instructor and the TAs

for clarification. Test questions will include more basic definitional / conceptual knowledge as well as application of that knowledge to new scenarios.

- Slides on the course website should be considered as a study aid, but they may not be “good enough” on their own unless you come to class and take notes. Sometimes I may have to skip slides in the posted lectures if we run out of time in class. If that happens, you should still read the relevant sections in the textbook and answer the learning objectives, as the exam questions will be taken directly from the learning objectives.

Make-up Exams:

Make up exams be allowed only with written justification (e.g., by your doctor or advising dean) and must be taken within one week *after* the exam. (Make-up exams will not be offered before the scheduled exam date.) Exams taken after that time or that do not have written justification will have the same late penalty as all other assignments.

Semester Project:

If you could study anything in psychology, what would you study? Over the course of the semester, you will work through a series of written assignments to design your hypothetical dream project. (Note: you will not actually be conducting this experiment.) You will first choose a method. You will read the assigned article for your chosen method and do a lit review of the article. Then you will design your hypothetical experiment. Lastly, you will bring all of this together in a 600-word grant mini proposal. You can find more details about each assignment on Courseworks. Late assignments will have a lateness penalty applied and must be submitted by the last day of classes to receive any credit (Monday, December 8th at 11:59 PM). All assignments must be submitted through the Assignments tab on CourseWorks. You can complete the assignments at any time during the semester before the deadline so please plan appropriately as there are no extensions for these assignments.

Post-Class Quizzes:

Each Friday a quiz will be available on Courseworks. You will have until Sunday evening to complete it. Your scores count for these quizzes but you may retake the quiz after your first attempt for a total of 3 attempts to improve your score. If you are happy with your first attempt you do not need to retake it. Think of these quizzes as learning check-ins.

In-class Participation (Poll Everywhere):

Each class period we will having polling questions to check our understanding of the material. These questions will not be graded for accuracy, but your participation in the poll is required. We will use Poll Everywhere for our polling questions. Your 4 lowest scores will be dropped. If there are extenuating circumstances (hospitalization, etc.) that cause you to miss more than 4 consecutive class periods we will discuss this on a one-on-one basis in conjunction with your academic advisor.

Study Participation:

This semester you will participate in 6 credits (3 hours) of psychology research. More details on how to participate and how to get credit for participation will be provided in the

Psychology Participant Pool Info Packet. Participation must be completed by the last day of the semester, (Monday, December 8th), so schedule your participation ASAP. If you are unable to participate (because you are not yet 18, have religious exemption, or other reason that you cannot participate) please reach out to me about an alternate assignment.

Course Policies: please read the following policies carefully!

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, with a 10% deduction in points for each day after the deadline that it is turned in. Assignments turned in late by 5 or more days will receive a max score of 50%. Assignments are not accepted after the last day of class (Monday, December 8th at 11:59 PM). 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:

Academic honesty is taken very seriously. Columbia students commit to the Honor Code as follows: “I affirm that I will not plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or give or receive illegitimate help on assignments, papers, or examinations. I will also uphold equity and honesty in the evaluation of my work and the work of others. I do so to sustain a community built around this Code of Honor.” All suspected cases of dishonest behavior will be reported to Student Conduct and Community Standards. All submissions will be run through TurnItIn.

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 will all University-mandated COVID-19 policies.

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
September 3 rd (Wed.)	Course Intro	Syllabus
September 8 th (Mon.)		Chapter 2
September 10 th (Wed.)		Chapter 3
September 15 th (Mon.)		Chapter 3
September 17 th (Wed.)		Chapter 4
September 22 nd (Mon.)		Chapter 4
September 24 th (Wed.)	Exam 1	Chapters 2-4
September 29 th (Mon.)		Chapter 5
October 1 st (Wed.)		Chapter 6
October 6 th (Mon.)		Chapter 7
October 8 th (Wed.)		Chapter 7
October 13 th (Mon.)		Chapter 8
October 15 th (Wed.)	Exam 2	Chapters 5-8
October 20 th (Mon.)		Chapter 9
October 22 nd (Wed.)		Chapter 10
October 27 th (Mon.)		Chapter 11
October 29 th (Wed.)		Chapter 12
November 3 rd (Mon.)	NO CLASS – University Holiday	

