Course Description & Objectives

Psychology is the systematic study of behavior and experience. In this course you will explore some of the various facets of this exciting field. By the end of the semester, you should have gained an understanding of some basic concepts and applications of psychology, including:

- an appreciation of the many things in which psychologists are involved—things which directly and indirectly affect you.
- an understanding of how scientific methods may be applied to the study of human behavior, culture, mental processes, and organizational processes.
- an ability to use social science concepts to analyze real-world problems, including the underlying origins of such problems.
- an ability to critically evaluate psychological-sounding things you hear or read in the news, online, and in other media.

To accomplish this, and thus earn a satisfactory grade in the course, you will need to attend the in-class lectures and complete the reading assignments. You should read the assigned textbook pages before the day of class for which they are assigned (see Schedule at the end of this syllabus).

Note: PSY 200 satisfies a GEP Social Science course requirement. You can find details regarding this requirement (category rationale, category objectives, etc.) at http://oucc.ncsu.edu/gep-socsci
Textbook
The textbook we will be using (required) is entitled *Introduction to Psychology* by James W. Kalat (10th Ed., 2014 only; other editions are not approved). Hardback, paperback, or electronic versions of the 10th Edition are all acceptable (the electronic version is the least expensive, but cannot be resold—use the link on our class web site to purchase the electronic version). An optional study guide is available at the bookstore and online.

Internet Resources

**Course Web Site.** The web site for this course is located at: [http://iopsychology.chass.ncsu.edu/craig/intro](http://iopsychology.chass.ncsu.edu/craig/intro). An electronic version of this syllabus is located on the course web site. Please check the course web site regularly; all announcements relevant to the course will be posted there, such as class cancelations due to adverse weather conditions. The web site also contains links to other useful sites, such as NCSU’s policy on excused absences.

**Internet Message Board & Listserv.** An online message board is available to allow students to ask questions or discuss topics among themselves. For example, if you need to borrow someone’s class notes because you missed a day, or would like to locate other students interested in studying together, you can post a message on the board asking others to contact you. If you have a question for the instructor or TA, the answer to which other students might also like to hear, it is recommended that you post it to the board rather than sending private e-mail. The link to the message board is located on the class web site. Only students in this section of the course can read and post messages. You can also send an e-mail to the entire class at once by emailing psy200-002@wolfware.ncsu.edu.

**Textbook Web Site.** The publisher of the textbook offers many supporting resources online, including practice tests and an option to purchase an electronic version of your textbook. You can use the links on our class web site, under “Textbook Resources,” to get started accessing these features.

**Student Development Moodle.** If you are a psychology major, or considering becoming one, and you have questions about anything regarding personal and career development, there's a Moodle where you might be able to find some answers: the "Psych Student Development Resource." From your "MyWolfware" page, simply click on the “Projects” tab and then the "Psych Student Development Resource" heading to explore your future as a psychology major.

**Other useful web sites for learning about psychology:**
http://www.apa.org/students (the American Psychological Association)
http://www.psychologicalscience.org (the Association for Psychological Science)
Course Requirements & Grading Format

**Evaluation.** Five objectively scored tests will be administered during the semester, with your course grade based on your best four scores. Each test will receive a score on a 0 – 100% scale. Your best four test scores will be averaged to produce your overall course score. Overall course scores will be converted to letter grades using the following table:

- A+ = 99-100
- A = 91-98
- A- = 90
- B+ = 89
- B = 81-88
- B- = 80
- C+ = 79
- C = 71-78
- C- = 70
- D+ = 69
- D = 61-68
- D- = 60
- F = 59 or below

Tests 1 through 4 will each cover the material presented since the preceding test; Test 5 will cover material from the entire semester. The first three tests will be taken during regular class periods. Tests 4 and 5 will be taken during the officially scheduled "final exam" time (see last page for dates).

**ALL DEVICES CAPABLE OF CAPTURING, STORING, OR TRANSMITTING INFORMATION MUST BE OUT OF REACH AND POWERED OFF DURING TESTS.** This includes mobile phones, audio players and recorders (e.g., MP3), language translation devices, and cameras. Headphones and earbuds may not be worn during tests. Use of a prohibited device during a test will be considered a violation of the NCSU Code of Student Conduct.

**Extra Credit.** Two sources of extra credit are available. One is the dropping of your lowest test score; the other involves extra credit questions on tests. Each test will contain 5 extra credit questions, allowing you to miss up to 5 questions and still obtain a perfect score on the test. Specifically, each test will consist of 55 multiple-choice questions but the percent correct will be calculated as if there were only 50 questions (i.e. number correct ÷ 50 = test score).

**About Test 5.** Tests 4 and 5 will both be administered during the University-assigned final exam period, after the end of classes. Test 5 is a cumulative final exam, meaning that it will cover material from the entire semester (but will not duplicate material covered on Test 4). On final exam day, after you have completed Test 4, you will have the option to take Test 5 or not. Because your lowest score will be dropped, you may wish to omit Test 5 if you are satisfied with your performance on Tests 1-4; otherwise you can take Test 5 in an effort to have one of your earlier test scores replaced by your Test 5 score. If you take Test 5 and that turns out to be your lowest score, then Test 5 would be dropped, so taking Test 5 cannot hurt your course grade.

**Research Requirement.** All students must satisfy the Research Requirement in order to receive credit for this course. To satisfy the research requirement, you may either participate as a subject in psychological research studies or submit a satisfactory 3-5 page paper describing an empirical research article from a recent psychological journal. Further details are specified later in this syllabus. Performance on this requirement does not count toward your grade per se, but a status of IN (incomplete) is assigned to anyone who has not fulfilled this requirement by the end of this semester. IN grades must be erased before the end of the next semester (Fall, 2017) or the university computer automatically changes the IN to an F.

**NOTE:** Students who have a failing grade in the course will receive a grade of "F" regardless of whether they complete the Research Requirement.

**Class Attendance**

COME TO CLASS! Because this course covers a large amount of material very rapidly, it is possible to get far behind by missing only a few classes.
Taking Attendance. The Teaching Assistant (TA) will take attendance at least once during each class and at varying times (i.e. not necessarily always at the beginning). If you are absent at any time the TA takes attendance, you will be considered absent for the day. Attendance may be taken more than once on some class days. On such days you must be present each time attendance is taken in order to be considered present for that class period.

NOTE: Students who miss the first two days of class will be dropped from the roll.

Assigned Seating. To facilitate taking attendance, a seating chart will be established on Tuesday, January 17. You may sit where you wish on that date, but you will be required to sit in that same seat for the remainder of the semester. Students with hearing or visual difficulties, or any other special need can request a front-row seat or whatever is best—but the request should be submitted to the TA before the seating chart is established. Students who do not register for a seat location by January 27 are automatically ineligible for the Good Attendance Reward (described below).

Reward for Good Attendance. University-level students should understand the value of attending class regularly and should not require strict policies to enforce attendance. Therefore there is no explicit penalty for missing classes. However, in order to reward students who make the extra effort to attend all, or nearly all, classes, students who miss three or fewer classes during the semester will be eligible for a “+/− bump” to their final course grade. If a student’s final course grade lands in the + or − region around a letter grade and that student has missed three or fewer classes, then the final course grade will automatically be “bumped” to the next higher grade category (e.g., an A- would become an A and a B+ would become an A-). Note also that no distinction is made between excused absences and unexcused absences for purposes of the +/- bump, so there is no need to provide documentation for absences (but see Make-up Test policy below for an exception).

Electronic Device Use During Class: Portable computers, tablets, mobile phones, and other electronic devices create distractions during class—for you and for those seated near you—and you are strongly encouraged to leave your devices stowed during class. However, you are allowed to use your computer during class, but only for activities related directly to the class, such as taking notes or viewing the class web site. Reading and sending email, playing games, accessing other web sites (e.g., social media), during class are strictly prohibited. Students who are observed to be using devices for activities unrelated to the class may be counted absent for that day without warning or notice. If you cannot resist the temptation to “play” on your computer, tablet, or phone, don’t turn it on!

Make-up Tests. If you miss only one test during the semester, your score on Test 5 will be used to replace the missed test. Thus, there will be no make-up tests unless you miss more than one test. If you miss more than one test, you will be allowed to take a make-up test only if your absence on test day can be documented as excused (see Excused Absence policy below). Make-up exams will be different from the regular in-class exams and may be short answer/essay exams rather than multiple-choice exams. Make-up tests must be completed within one week of the original test date.

Excused Absences for Make-up Tests. This class adheres to the official University policy regarding class attendance. The University’s policy regarding what constitutes an excused absence is posted online (http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03 or see class web site for link). Documentation for test-day absences must be provided to the TA immediately upon return to class (or in advance if possible) and will not be accepted later than one week after the day missed. All correspondence regarding absences should be directed to the TA.

PROVIDING FALSE DOCUMENTATION FOR ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A PENALTY TO YOUR GRADE AND PROSECUTION UNDER THE NCSU CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.

Research Requirement
All PSY 200 students are required to develop a familiarity with the procedures of psychological research, either by participating in psychological research studies or by writing a 3-page review of a research article in a psychological journal. Either activity should require about the same time.
**Option 1: Participation in Research Studies.** If you opt to fulfill the research requirement by participating in studies (recommended) you must acquire 6 research credits. One credit is earned for each half hour of participation. Any study that lasts an hour counts as two credits, etc. The full six credits will be earned after three hours of participation in studies.

During the semester, a wide variety of studies will be offered. Examples from past semesters include studies on vision, social reactions to other people, and the relationships between words. You will sign up for studies by accessing the following web site: [http://www.experimetrix.com/ncsu](http://www.experimetrix.com/ncsu). Studies may be posted at any time, so it makes sense to check the web site frequently if you are looking for a study in which to participate. (Note: During the early weeks of a semester, there may be fewer studies available. Don't be discouraged; just continue to check the Experimetrix web site regularly.)

Students will automatically be registered with Experimetrix by January 14, so you should not need to create a new account for yourself. Your user name is your Unity ID and your password is “password” (without the quotes). When you log on for the first time, you can change your password to anything you wish.

**WARNING:** Do not create more than one ID on the Experimetrix web site, as this can prevent you from receiving proper credit for your research participation. If you attempt to create a new account and receive a message saying your Unity ID is already in use as an Experimetrix ID, that means your account has already been created and you should not need to create a new one.

Before you sign up for a study, be sure to check first for any special restrictions on subjects, such as "only subjects with 20/20 vision," or "must be left-handed," etc. Also you **must** put in your proper section number when you sign up in order to receive credit. If you put the wrong section number or no section number the credits will not be assigned to you! When you register for a study, a confirmation e-mail will be sent. In addition, the day before the experiment, a reminder e-mail will be sent to you. **Save these e-mails until you have confirmed that your account has been properly credited.** If you have not received credit within 48 hours after participating, contact the researcher using the information in the saved e-mails.

All studies listed will have been determined to meet the ethical standards of the American Psychological Association and have been approved by the Institutional Review Board of this university. If, in spite of these precautions, you find some experiment objectionable, you are permitted to withdraw from the experiment at any time. If you withdraw for such a reason, you will still receive credit for your participation. Please report any such incident to your instructor by writing a brief e-mail or note to identify the experiment and the problem.

**Rules for Student Participation in Research Studies**

1. Make sure to use a valid e-mail address, and one that you check frequently, when you sign up for studies.

2. Be sure to select the correct PSY 200 section when you sign-up for a study; otherwise your credits will not get assigned to this course. You **MUST** specify your course section for your credit to be recorded properly.

3. Even though you will get a reminder e-mail, write down the time and place of the experiment as well as the researcher's name and contact information in case you need to contact the researcher.

4. If you know more than 24 hours ahead of time that you will not be able to keep your appointment for a study, e-mail the researcher and let him or her know. Save the e-mail and any response you receive from the researcher as proof that you did indeed give notice more than 24 hours in advance.

5. If you decide less than 24 hours ahead of time that you are unable to attend a study you must call the researcher (whose name and number you have already written down). The researcher reserves the right to penalize you for canceling less than 24 hours ahead of time.

6. It is very important to show up for the studies for which you have signed up. If you fail to keep your appointments, you may be banned from signing up for further studies and have to write the paper.
7. If the researcher does not show up or if you object to any procedure in the study, report the problem to your instructor. You will receive one credit if you showed up at the correct time and place and the researcher did not. If you quit the study because of an objection, you will receive credit for the time you participated.

8. At the end of the study, you can expect an explanation of the study and its purposes.

**Option 2: Report on a Research Article.** As an alternative to participating in studies, you may write a paper discussing a recent empirical research article from a psychological journal. This is not intended as "busy work." You are expected to gain and demonstrate some familiarity with the procedures of experimentation. Requirements for this paper are:

1. Select an article from a recent (2016 or later) psychological periodical. **The article must describe an empirical research study (one in which the authors collect and analyze data).** Essays, commentaries, reviews of previous work (e.g., meta-analyses), and purely theoretical articles do not qualify. You may find an appropriate article by visiting the periodical room in the basement of the D.H. Hill Library or by searching an electronic database like PsycINFO. **DO NOT select an article from Psychology Today, Scientific American, or any other "secondary source."** Such sources usually do not provide adequate detail on methods or the analysis of results.

2. The paper must be typed. Length should be about 3 pages (not counting title page or reference list), double-spaced, with margins no more than one inch wide, and font no larger than 12 point.

3. The first page of your paper should be a title page that includes the following information:
   a. Your name, student ID number, and phone number.
   b. Your section number.
   c. The **full** reference for the article that you are summarizing, including the name(s) of the author(s), the title of the article, the title of the journal, year of publication, volume number and page numbers.

4. In your paper you should describe:
   a. The purpose of the research (according to the authors).
   b. The methods and procedures used for carrying out the research.
   c. The major findings.
   d. The conclusions and any implications drawn by the author(s).
   e. Your own comments on the research, if you wish.

   **NOTE:** Any complete sentences copied verbatim from your source article should be placed inside quotation marks and referenced appropriately (i.e. with the page numbers where they appear in the original). Failing to do this constitutes plagiarism, which is a prosecutable violation of NCSU’s Code of Student Conduct.

5. All papers are graded PASS / FAIL. If a paper is unacceptable, you will be given the reasons for its rejection and asked either to make necessary revisions or to write a new paper.

6. Papers are due by the last regular class day (**April 28**) and can be e-mailed to the instructor (preferred) or turned in on paper. Electronic papers must have all pages in a single file (e.g., do not submit your title page in a separate file). Please do not turn in more than one copy of your paper (e.g., both electronic AND paper). Papers turned in after the last day of class may result in your receiving an IN for the course until the paper can be graded.
The following periodicals (all available in D.H. Hill Library) are suggested as potential sources of appropriate articles. Many others are also possible; you can search the library’s PsycINFO database for topics that interest you. If you are not sure whether an article qualifies, the instructor or TA will be happy to look at it for you and let you know.

- American Journal of Psychology
- Animal Behavior
- Animal Learning & Behavior
- Archives of Sex Research
- Behavior Research and Therapy
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Child Development
- Developmental Psychology
- Ergonomics
- Human Factors
- Journal of Abnormal Psychology
- Journal of Applied Psychology
- Journal of Applied Social Psychology
- Journal of Business & Psychology
- Journal of Clinical Psychology
- Journal of Comparative Psychology
- Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology
- Journal of Educational Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Child Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Psychology
- Journal of Experimental Research on Personality
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
- Journal of Personality
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
- Journal of Social Issues
- Journal of The Experimental Analysis of Behavior
- Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior
- Law & Human Behavior
- The Leadership Quarterly
- Learning and Memory
- Memory and Cognition
- Organizational Behavior & Human Decision Processes
- Perception and Psychophysics
- Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin
- Personnel Psychology
- Sex Roles

**NC State Policy on Working with Students with Disabilities:**
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 919-515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see: [http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01](http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01) and [http://dso.dasa.ncsu.edu](http://dso.dasa.ncsu.edu).

**Academic Honesty Policy**
You are to do your own work. If you are caught receiving or giving help on exams or assignments without first having received the instructor’s authorization to do so, you will be prosecuted in accordance with NC State’s Code of Student Conduct. This includes attempts to remove test content from the classroom, either on paper or electronically. For more details on NC State’s Code of Student Conduct, see [http://studentconduct.ncsu.edu/policies-and-procedures](http://studentconduct.ncsu.edu/policies-and-procedures) (or use the link from the class web site).

**End of Semester Course Evaluations**
Online class evaluations will be available for students to complete during the last two weeks of class. You will receive an email message directing you to a website where you can login using your Unity ID and complete evaluations. All evaluations are confidential; instructors will never know how any one student responded to any question. Evaluation website: [http://classeval.ncsu.edu](http://classeval.ncsu.edu)
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<td>May</td>
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*For chapters covered on multiple class days, read the first half before the first day and the second half before the second day. Otherwise read the entire chapter before the class in which it is covered.