

PSYC S100: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2022



1 Course information

Class schedule Section 01: M/Th 4:00 pm–4:50 pm
Section 02: T/F 4:00 pm–4:50 pm
Room J202

Instructor Alan Jern
Office: B103A
Email: jern@rose-hulman.edu

Open meeting time Tuesdays, 2:00–3:00 pm (on Teams)

Textbook Peter Gray, *Psychology*, 8th edition

2 Overview

Psychology is the study of mind and behavior. This course will provide you with a broad overview of the science of psychology. Some of the questions we will consider are:

- How do we interpret sensory information?
- What motivates us?
- How do our brains create emotions?

- How accurate are our memories?
- How do children learn language?
- How much do other people influence our behavior?
- What is the difference between clinical depression and the ordinary feeling of sadness?

You can probably formulate some answers to these questions just by reflecting on your own experience. As you will learn, however, we often have far less insight into the nature of our behavior than it seems. In this course, we will focus on answering questions like these by treating people as scientific subjects. We will consider psychological theories, experiments, and case studies that address these questions and many others. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe some of the basic concepts and broad themes of psychology, with examples.
- Apply psychological principles to everyday life.
- Interpret the results of a psychological or behavioral study.
- Evaluate psychological or behavioral research by identifying some of the strengths and potential flaws in its design.
- Read a psychological or behavioral research paper and summarize its main conclusions.

3 Assessment

| Component | Points |
|---------------|--------|
| Exam 1 | 215 |
| Exam 2 | 215 |
| Paper | 380 |
| Quizzes | 90 |
| Participation | 100 |
| Total | 1000 |

3.1 Exams

Exams will be open-book and open-notes. **However, your answers must be in your own words. Copying answers (plagiarism), and using other people or tools to write your answers is prohibited. If you violate this rule, you will get a 0.** There is no final exam.

3.2 Paper

You will submit a literature review paper at the end of the course. The purpose of this paper is to summarize the research on a psychological topic of your choice. In addition to the paper itself, you will give a presentation summarizing what you learned.

| Assignment | Points |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Paper topics | 10 |
| Paper sources | 20 |
| Paper outline | 20 |
| First draft and peer review | 80 |
| Final draft | 200 |
| Presentation | 50 |
| Total | 380 |

3.3 Quizzes

There will be an online quiz roughly every week. They are open-book and open-notes. Collaboration and copying answers is prohibited. These quizzes will consist mostly of questions related to the video lectures and readings from the preceding week. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the quarter. **No late quiz submissions will be accepted, no exceptions.**

3.4 Participation

Participation refers to both online and in-class participation. Online participation means posting thoughtful responses to reading questions in the forums. In-class participation means good attendance and asking and answering questions in class.

Your participation score will be self-assigned using a rubric I will provide you. At two points in the quarter, you will use the rubric to determine what participation score you have earned for that half of the quarter. I will review these scores and may make adjustments if I feel they are wildly off the mark.

3.5 Final grade

Grades will be assigned as follows.

| Points | Grade |
|------------|-------|
| ≥ 900 | A |
| 870–899 | B+ |
| 800–869 | B |
| 770–799 | C+ |
| 700–769 | C |
| 670–699 | D+ |
| 600–669 | D |
| < 600 | F |

4 Course policies

4.1 Late assignments

For the entire course, you will have **two free late days** that can be used for the **paper assignments ONLY** (not quizzes). Assignments will be considered one day late if they are submitted

any time after the submission deadline up to 24 hours later. Assignments will be considered two days late if they are submitted any time between 24 and 48 hours after the submission deadline. You don't need to notify me in advance if you plan to use one of your late days—I will keep track of your late days.

Any assignments submitted after using your late days will not be accepted. The purpose for this policy is to help me grade and return your work in a timely fashion.

4.2 Blind grading

Do not include your name on anything (including file name) you submit on Moodle, unless I say otherwise. The reason for this is because I use a feature on Moodle called blind grading that lets me grade your assignments without seeing your names. Your names are revealed after I've finished grading the assignment. I do this to keep my grading as impartial as possible. If you put your name on the assignment, it undermines the process for everyone.

4.3 Communication

You can find the most up-to-date information about the course on the Moodle page. When I make changes to the schedule, I will share the most important updates as Announcements on Moodle which will automatically be emailed to you.

I will post more minor updates, like responses to student questions, in a Teams group that you will be automatically added to. If you have a question for me (about course content, requirements, or assignments) that isn't specifically about you, post it on Teams. That way, I can answer it there and everyone can see my answer. If you email it to me, I will just ask you to repost it in Teams. I will also hold my office hours (called "open meeting times" above) on Teams.

Therefore, you should check Moodle and Teams regularly (at least twice per week for Moodle and once per week for Teams).

4.4 Asking for help

I highly encourage you to contact me if you ever need help in this course. That's what I'm here for! But I also want you to encourage you to be self-sufficient. So if you ever ask me a question that can be easily answered on this syllabus or the Moodle page (a due date, a page limit, whether an upcoming exam is open-book), **I will deduct 1 point from your grade total.**

The corollary of this policy is that if you ever find anything on this syllabus or the Moodle page that looks like a genuine mistake (the wrong date, inconsistent information) and you ask me about it, **I will give you 1 point of extra credit.** (Only the first person to tell me gets the extra credit.)

You don't need to be afraid to contact me. The point of this policy is to incentivize you to try to find answers yourselves first. If you look for an answer and genuinely can't find it, I want to know that too.

4.5 Academic integrity

Academic misconduct will be addressed according to the policies described in the Rose-Hulman student handbook. Academic misconduct includes: (1) submitting work that is not your own; (2) copying ideas, words, or graphics from any source without appropriate citation; (3) misrepresenting

your work or yourself (i.e., deliberately submitting the wrong assignment or lying to explain a late assignment); (4) collaborating with other students when this is not permitted; and (5) submitting the same work for credit in two courses without prior consent of both instructors. If you are unsure whether something qualifies as academic misconduct, please check with me before engaging in the behavior.

5 Course schedule

The course schedule, along with reading assignments and a list of tasks for each week will be posted on Moodle.