



JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY

COURSE CODE: "PS 101-1"
 COURSE NAME: "General Psychology"
 SEMESTER & YEAR: Spring 2022

SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Paola Castelli
EMAIL: pcastelli@johncabot.edu
HOURS: TTH 10:00 AM 11:15 AM
TOTAL NO. OF CONTACT HOURS: 45
CREDITS: 3
PREREQUISITES:
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduces the study of psychology, the study of the human mind, in some of its many facets: epistemological issues, the brain, perception, learning, language, intelligence, motivation, development, personality, emotion, social influences, pathology and therapy, and prevention. These will be seen from the scientific and scholarly point of view, but with emphasis on their relevance to everyday life. An important focus of the course will be the significance of theories and how they influence the gathering of data, as well as the difficulty of objectivity when the object of study is also its primary tool: the human mind. One of the goals of the course will also be to prepare the student to read psychological literature with a critical eye, keeping in mind the difficulties involved in attempting to study human subjectivity in an objective way.

Minimum passing grade for students enrolled for the BA in Psychological science: C-

SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT:

Lectures and discussions will address the basic concepts, principles, theories, methods, and empirical research findings in the main domains of psychological inquiry. The focus will also be on the applications of psychological research to everyday issues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Identify key characteristics of major domains in Psychology, the methods used, and the questions addressed in such domains.
- Understand key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in Psychology. Begin using basic psychological terminology to explain mental processes.
- Describe examples of relevant and practical applications of psychological principles to everyday life.
- Understand common fallacies in thinking (e.g., confirmation bias, limited data problem, implying causation from correlation).
- Demonstrate information literacy in Psychology.

TEXTBOOK:

Book Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN number	Library Call Number	Comments
Discover Psychology	Various Authors	Noba Publisher	None		This is an Open Access resource. Links will be available on the course LMS

REQUIRED RESERVED READING:

NONE

RECOMMENDED RESERVED READING:

NONE

GRADING POLICY**-ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Assignment	Guidelines	Weight
Exams	There will be 3 midterms administered at approximately equal intervals across the semester and a final. The exams will cover the assigned textbook readings, lectures, and the films occasionally shown in class.	
Review Quizzes	Review quizzes normally consisting of 10 multiple-choice questions that review the material/concepts covered in class	
Homework	Brief written reflection where you will apply the concepts discussed in class/readings	

-ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

AWork of this quality directly addresses the question or problem raised and provides a coherent argument displaying an extensive knowledge of relevant information or content. This type of work demonstrates the ability to critically evaluate concepts and theory and has an element of novelty and originality. There is clear evidence of a significant amount of reading beyond that required for the course

BThis is highly competent level of performance and directly addresses the question or problem raised. There is a demonstration of some ability to critically evaluate theory and concepts and relate them to practice. Discussions reflect the student's own arguments and are not simply a repetition of standard lecture and reference material. The work does not suffer from any major errors or omissions and provides evidence of reading beyond the required assignments.

CThis is an acceptable level of performance and provides answers that are clear but limited, reflecting the information offered in the lectures and reference readings.

DThis level of performance demonstrates that the student lacks a coherent grasp of the material. Important information is omitted and irrelevant points included. In effect, the student has barely done enough to persuade the instructor that s/he should not fail.

FThis work fails to show any knowledge or understanding of the issues raised in the question. Most of the material in the answer is irrelevant.

-ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation, although not mandatory, are essential to earn a good grade for this course. Thus, you should do your absolute best to attend every class meeting, and to come to class prepared. Given the amount of material addressed in introductory psychology, it is unlikely that you will do well in this course if you don't keep up with the readings.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As stated in the university catalog, any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade on the work in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty, irrespective of the weight of the assignment, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A student who is reported twice for academic dishonesty is subject to summary dismissal from the University. In such a case, the Academic Council will then make a recommendation to the President, who will make the final decision.

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING OR OTHER DISABILITIES

John Cabot University does not discriminate on the basis of disability or handicap. Students with approved accommodations must inform their professors at the beginning of the term. Please see the website for the complete policy.

 SCHEDULE

	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING FROM TEXTBOOK
	Intro	
	Psychology as a Science	Thinking like a psychological scientist
week 1-5	Research Methods	Research Designs / Replication crisis in Psychology
	Biological Bases of behavior	Neurons / The Brain and Nervous System
	Sensation / Perception	Sensation and Perception
	EXAM 1	
	Developmental Psychology	Cognitive Development in Childhood / Social & Personality Development in Childhood
week 6-9	Learning Theories	Conditioning & Learning
	Memory	Memory (encoding, storage, retrieval) / Forgetting and Amnesia
	Thinking and decision making	Judgment and Decision Making
	EXAM 2	
	Emotions	Functions of Emotions / Culture and Emotion/ Knowledge Emotions

week10-13	Personality Psychology	Psychodynamic Perspective / Personality Traits / Personality Assessment
	Social Psychology	Conformity and Obedience / Persuasion: so easily fooled / Prejudice, Discrimination, Stereotype
	Stress and Health	Healthy Life / Positive Psychology
	EXAM 3	
week 14	Course Wrap Up and Review	redos of work
	FINALS	