

Course Syllabus:
 Fall 2021 General Psychology (830:101:11)
 Rutgers University, New Brunswick

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General Information

Course: General Psychology, Fall 2021

- **Schedule:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 PM – 6:20 PM
- **Location:** 123 Scott Hall (College Ave Campus – see [here](#) for directions)
- **Website:** <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/135227>

Instructor: Rachel Cultice, M.S. (she/her)

- **Email:** rachel.cultice@rutgers.edu
- **Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- **Office Location:** 615 Tillett Hall (Livingston Campus)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Course Description

Course description: This course surveys the major areas of psychology: the nature of psychology as a science, principles of learning, the brain and behavior, sensation and perception, cognitive processes, motivation and emotion, personality and development, stress and health, adjustment and behavior disorders, and social behavior.

Course objectives: The objectives of this course are to develop a basic understanding of the significant theories, concepts, and issues in the field of psychology; apply theoretical concepts in psychology to everyday situations in order to help you better understand yourself and the world around you, and develop an understanding of the scientific method in psychological research. Upon completion of this course, students should be prepared for more advanced courses in Psychology.

Learning goals: This course has been certified as satisfying the Social Analysis (SCL) Learning Outcome Goal of the SAS Core Curriculum. Specifically, students will be able to:

- Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis (subgoal i)
- Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations (subgoal n).

This course also satisfies the following Psychology Department Learning Goals:

- Students will know the leading terms, concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Students will apply psychological concepts and content to become engaged citizens.
- Students will use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to ask, answer and understand questions related to behavior and mental processes.

Course Materials

- **Textbook:** Introduction to Psychology
 - Available for free online: <https://open.lib.umn.edu/intropsyc/>
- **Canvas Page:** <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/135227>
- **Computer with Internet Access**
 - There are many computer labs available to students: <https://it.rutgers.edu/new-brunswick/new-brunswick-computer-labs/>

Course Assessments & Grading

Grade Breakdown: Course grades will consist of the following components.

Exams:	
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam/Exam 3	20%
Homework:	20%
In-Class Activities:	20%
<u>Research Participation</u>	<u>~ 5-7% deduction if not completed</u>
Total	100%

Exams: There will be three exams during this course: two midterms and a non-cumulative final exam. Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The midterm exams will occur in class during a designated class day (see schedule

below). The final exam time and date is TBA. Please attend class and read the textbook to do your best on the exams. I will not be providing my lecture notes.

Homework: There are 9 homework assignments due at 11:59 PM (via Canvas) on specified days throughout the semester (see schedule below). Homework assignments will include questions from the textbook, responses to online articles/video clips, or reflections on current events. Homework assignments will be graded for completion, accuracy, and effort. Your average homework score will be worth 20% of your final grade.

In-Class Activities: During many class sessions, I will assign in-class activities. These activities will be graded for completion and effort. Your average class activities score will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Research participation: Since experimentation is a prime source of information for the field of psychology, contact with experimental procedures is required for all General Psychology students and may be fulfilled through one of the following two options. Non-fulfillment of this requirement will result in a deduction from your final course grade total equal to one-half standard deviation of the class distribution of total points. This could lower your final grade a full letter grade (i.e., A to B, B to C, etc.).

- **Option 1:** This option requires you to participate in several online experiments for a total of 2-1/2 hours, equaling five Research Participation Units (RPUs). Each experiment will provide a specific number of RPUs, allocated in half-hour units, which will be indicated in the experiment's description. You may choose to participate in any number of experiments, provided that you obtain a total of five RPUs. The last day for participation is one week prior to the last day of classes (**December 6th**; there may be some exceptions). Note that 1 RPU will be given in exchange for each ½ hour of participation.
 - You will need to register yourself by going to the main Human Subject Pool System page (<https://rutgers-researchpool.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>) and clicking on "Request an Account". Make sure that you carefully enter your correct email address and select the correct course, instructor, and days/period for which you are registered. If you don't specify this information correctly, there may be subsequent problems with getting your RPUs assigned to you.
- **Option 2:** Students who are unwilling or unable to participate as subjects in experiments (Option 1) may fulfill this requirement by submitting summaries of two published research articles. The first summary must be submitted (via Canvas) by **October 15th**. Students who miss that deadline must fulfill the requirement via Option 1. The second summary is due on or before **December 3rd**.
 - Details can be found here: <https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/major/237-uncategorised/1091-general-psychology-research-requirement#option-2-two-summaries-of-two-published-research-articles>. Please follow the instructions carefully. Please be sure that your papers contain no plagiarism; all papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com

More information about both options is located here:

<https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/general-psych-requirement/189-human-research-student-requirements>. Please read these rules carefully before beginning either your research participation or your papers. Note that although the description here indicates that 3-1/2 hours (7 RPU) of participation are required, only 2-1/2 hours (5 RPU) are required this semester.

Standard Rutgers Undergraduate Grading Scale: Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale. No exceptions will be made for any reason. Note: A grade of C or better is required as a prerequisite to either the major or minor in psychology.

- A: 90.00-100.00%
- B+: 85.00-89.99%
- B: 80.00-84.99%
- C+: 75.00- 79.99%
- C: 70.00-74.99%
- D: 60.00-69.99%
- F: 0.00 – 59.99%

Course Policies

COVID-19 Protocol: As stated by Rutgers University policy, masks are required in my classroom and in my office. I'll be wearing one, too! We're all in this together. See the Rutgers policy here (pg 9):

<https://ipo.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/Guide%20To%20Returning%20To%20Rutgers.pdf>

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Full disability policies and procedures can be found at <https://ods.rutgers.edu>.

Academic Integrity Policy: Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. All work turned in must be the student's own work. Do not collaborate with others unless I've explicitly stated to work in groups. Any and all sources must be appropriately cited in all written work. If you plagiarize or cheat, which includes failing to properly cite sources or turning someone else's work in as your own, at the very least you will receive a failing grade in the course. More severe consequences are also possible. Rutgers' policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Makeup Exams: If you are unable to complete an exam during the designated time periods due to an unavoidable circumstance (illness, etc.), religious observance, university event, or another stressful situation (e.g., I take my students' mental health concerns very seriously), please reach out to me before the originally scheduled exam time to reschedule the exam.

Late Policy for Homework: Late assignments are not accepted.

Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. If you report your absence on a class day where we are doing an in-class activity, you can make up the activity (email me for details).

Civility and Etiquette: Psychology is a fascinating subject because it is very relevant to our everyday lives; course material will often remind us of our own experiences. Please keep in mind that while we can (and should) critique and comment on scientific findings, methods, theories, etc., we will not critique and/or question our classmates' choices, experiences, or identities. I will not tolerate racist, sexist, homophobic, or other offensive and disruptive behavior; you will be removed from the classroom.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic*	Due Today
9/2/2021	Welcome!	Read the Syllabus Before Class
9/7/2021	Intro to Psychology	Read Textbook Chapter 1 Before Class
9/9/2021	Scientific Method	Read Textbook Chapter 2 Before Class
9/14/2021		Homework 1 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
9/16/2021	Brains, Bodies, & Behavior	Read Textbook Chapter 3 Before Class
9/21/2021		Homework 2 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
9/23/2021	Sensation & Perception	Read Textbook Chapter 4 Before Class
9/28/2021		Homework 3 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
9/30/2021	States of Consciousness	Read Textbook Chapter 5 Before Class
10/5/2021	Exam 1 Today (Chapters 1 – 5)	
10/7/2021	Growing & Developing	Read Textbook Chapter 6 Before Class
10/12/2021		Homework 4 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
10/14/2021	Learning	Read Textbook Chapter 7 Before Class
Research Participation Option 2: Paper 1 Due 11:59 PM 10/15/2021 on Canvas. Students who miss this deadline must fulfill the requirement via Option 1.		
10/19/2021	Learning	Homework 5 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas

10/21/2021	Remembering & Judging	Read Textbook Chapter 8 Before Class
10/26/2021		Homework 6 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
10/28/2021	Intelligence & Language	Read Textbook Chapter 9 Before Class
11/2/2021	Emotions & Motivations Info from this lecture will not be on Exam 2.	Read Textbook Chapter 10 Before Class
11/4/2021	Exam 2 Today (Chapters 6-9)	
11/9/2021	Emotions & Motivations	Homework 7 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
11/11/2021	Social Psychology	Read Textbook Chapter 14 Before Class Ⓞ careful, the chapter order skips around here!
11/16/2021	Psych Research at Rutgers: Graduate Student Presentation	
11/18/2021	Social Psychology	Homework 8 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
11/23/2021	Psychological Disorders	Read Textbook Chapter 12 Before Class
11/25/2021	No class-- Thanksgiving Break	
11/30/2021	Psychological Disorders	Read Textbook Chapter 13 Before Class
12/2/2021	Personality	Read Textbook Chapter 11 Before Class
Research Participation Option 2: Paper 2 Due 11:59 PM 12/3/2021 on Canvas.		
Research Participation Option 1: Last Day to Participate in Research 12/6/2021		
12/7/2021	Personality	Homework 9 Due 11:59 PM on Canvas
12/9/2021	Wrap Up	
Date TBD	Non-Cumulative Final (Exam 3; Chapters 10-14)	

* Subject to change

Student Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App

- <http://codu.co/cee05e>
- Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

- (848) 932-7884 | 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu
- CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

- (848) 932-1181 | 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | www.vpva.rutgers.edu
- The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

- (848) 445-6800 | Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 | <https://ods.rutgers.edu>
- Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

- (732) 247-5555 | <http://www.scarletlisteners.com>
- Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.