

Rutgers University  
Psychology 101:13: General Psychology  
Fall 2021

Instructor: Vanessa Vieites, Ph.D.  
Class time: Wednesdays from 9-10:20 am; Fridays from 3-4:20 pm  
Classroom: ARC 103, Busch Campus  
Class format: In person  
Office hours: Available online via zoom, email; by appointment  
Zoom personal room: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/95800210184?pwd=Zmc3QTBGR3RCd2hwSU9pTmNBZGFyZz09>  
(passcode: 773112)  
Email: [vanessa.vieites@psych.rutgers.edu](mailto:vanessa.vieites@psych.rutgers.edu) (Note: Responses to emails will typically be within 48 hours, Mon-Fri during regular daytime hours)  
Course web page: Course Website and Class Materials are Available on Canvas (<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>)  
Grad TA: Mariah Lutchman  
Office hours: By appointment  
Zoom link for OH: TBD  
Email: ml1564@rutgers.edu

### 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:

In this class you will learn about the science of psychology and the study of human behavior. You will be exposed to a broad range of topics in the field of psychology, including research methods, neurophysiology, perception, cognition, development, learning, consciousness, intelligence, and social-personality psychology. This class will highlight how major discoveries in psychology were achieved using the scientific method and we discuss what we can conclude about the mind, the brain and behavior based on these facts.

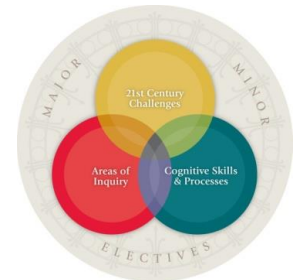
The goal of a liberal arts education is to have a well-balanced spread of coursework to improve students' competencies in the following categories of academic knowledge: critical thinking, effective expression, systematic and scientific inquiry, information literacy, and ethical reflection. Upon completion 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:

- Describe the different types of research methods for observing and evaluating behaviors and psychological processes involved in various perceptual, cognitive, and social phenomena in humans and other non-human animals.
- Differentiate between the various behavioral and neuroscience methods used with humans vs. non-human primates and other animals.
- Develop analytical thinking skills and gain experience reading and evaluating scientific research.
- Identify key regions of the brain and distinguish structure-function relationships (e.g., knowing which parts of the brain serve perceptual, cognitive, linguistic, and motor functions).



This course also satisfies the following Psychology Department Learning Goals:

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- Students will know the leading terms, concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Students will apply psychological concepts and content to everyday situations 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.

### Respect for diversity:

It is of utmost importance that all students in this class enjoy a safe learning environment with equal opportunities to succeed and grow, without being subjected to judgment or disrespect from others, whether based on one's ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or any other reason. We must ensure that we use only civil, appropriate, and respectful communication with each other to facilitate a comfortable class environment.

### Required text and equipment:

#### Textbook and quizzes:

Title: Discovering Psychology: The Science of Mind (4E) (online)  
 Authors: Cacioppo, Freberg, & Cacioppo  
 Publisher: Cengage  
 ISBN (Student edition): 978-0-357-36330-0

The **MindTap** online platform will be used for required textbook readings and homework. Access to MindTap is available through the textbook's publisher, Cengage. Students can register for a Cengage account to access the online textbook and its learning resources, including MindTap, via the Modules tab on Canvas.

Follow this link to learn how to register for MindTap in Canvas: <https://startstrong.cengage.com/mindtap-canvas-ia-no/>

**Other requirements:** regular and reliable access to a computer with Internet. Please visit the Rutgers Student Tech Guide page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students [deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu) or complete the contact form for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>

### General course requirements:

1. **Canvas.** It is expected that all students will regularly access Canvas for course announcements and materials. Please also ensure that you check your Rutgers email regularly and use only your Rutgers (not personal) email to contact me.
2. **Attendance:** Our course lectures will be conducted in building ARC, room 103 on Busch campus on Wednesdays at 9-10:20 am and Fridays at 3-4:20 pm. Attending class is essential to the learning process; regular class attendance is expected. I welcome your questions and comments during class (but will aim to strike an appropriate and efficient balance of lecturing and responding to comments and questions). I will post the lecture slides on Canvas before each class; you may find it helpful to take notes on these while attending or listening to the lecture.
3. **Quizzes/Homework:** There will be one quiz and two homework assignments (all multiple choice) per chapter. You will have 3 attempts to take each. Quizzes and homework will be assigned weekly using the MindTap platform, which you will access via the **Modules or Assignments tab on Canvas**. Quizzes and homework will be due on Tuesdays at 11:59 pm, with the exception of quizzes and/or homework due on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> (the days before exams 1 and 3, respectively) and on Thursday, October 14. On the days before an exam, only homework will be due. The specific due dates are listed in the Course Schedule toward the end of the syllabus. No late submissions will be accepted unless there is a dire emergency (e.g., you get into a bad accident, contract COVID-19, etc.).
4. **Exams:** Will be administered online in Canvas (see exact dates in the schedule below). Three midterm exams and one final exam will be given through Canvas. Each exam will be based on material presented in lecture and/or the assigned readings. The final exam will be cumulative. All exams will be open-book and open-note; all questions

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will be multiple-choice. Exams will be timed and backtracking (going back to previous questions) will not be possible. Exams will be open for 24 hours on the scheduled dates (starting at our class time).

5. **Research participation:** Since experimentation is a prime source of information for the field of psychology, participation in research activities in the psychology department is typically required of students enrolled in introductory psychology courses (PSY 101). Departmental policy recommends that Psych 101 students either participate in experiments (many are offered as online surveys) or write a report summarizing published scholarly research papers, which will result in accumulating Research Participation Units (RPU's). You are required to accumulate at least 5 RPU's. Go to this link for more details: <https://rutgers-researchpool.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

You have two options regarding research participation:

**Option 1:** This method requires you to participate in several online experiments for a total of 2-1/2 hours, equaling **five** Research Participation Units (RPU's). Each experiment will provide a specific number of RPU's, 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 RPU's. The last day for participation is one week prior to the last day of classes (Dec. 13) (there may be some exceptions). Note that 1 RPU will be given in exchange for each 1/2 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 RPU's 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 (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's) of participation are required, only **2-1/2 hours (5 RPU's) are required this semester.**

FAQs – setting up your account: <https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/general-psych-requirement/faq-for-participants>

Video to help you set up your account and navigate the Sona system: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10nT2ZU6QQ>

## Grading:

### Course grades will be based on the following:

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3:	20%
Final exam:	25%
MindTap quizzes/Homework:	10%/5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b> (Non-completion of research participation requirement: ~5-7% deduction)

Optional Extra Credit Writing Assignment (TBD)

### Final grades will be determined by the following (standard Rutgers grading scale):

90.00 % and above	A
85.00-89.99%	B+

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80.00-84.99%	B
75.00-79.99%	C+
70.00-74.99%	C
60.00-69.99%	D
below 60.00%	F

Note: A grade of C or better is required as a prerequisite to either the major or minor in psychology.

### Make-up/late policy:

Make-up exams may be different from the original exams. If exceptional last-minute circumstances prevent you from taking an exam, **it is important that you contact me immediately**. In some circumstances, you may take a make-up exam with a deduction in points (at my discretion). Missed exams and quizzes will otherwise be given a score of zero.

### Academic integrity:

Rutgers University does not tolerate academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, copying and/or distributing any of the course materials, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Any suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be discussed; when deemed necessary, they will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/> for more information on Rutgers University's policies regarding academic dishonesty).

### Disability Services:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. If you have a Letter of Accommodations from the Office of Disability Services (ODS), please share this letter with me and discuss the accommodations with me as early as possible. To begin this process, please complete the registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. ODS can be contacted at: (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus/ <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>.

### Final exam:

Our final exam will be held at the time scheduled by the University (<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>). University regulations set the time and date of all final examinations and specific guidelines that define conflicts (<https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/exam-scheduling/final-exam-schedule/final-exam-policies>). If you have a legitimate medical excuse for missing the exam, you will receive a TF in the course until the make-up exam has been completed.

### Student-wellness services:

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS):** (848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

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/](http://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.

**CONTACT We Care:** (908) 232-2880

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CONTACT We Care provides confidential phone support for callers who need someone to listen.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) - open 24/7

**Just In Case Web App:** <http://www.justincaseforcolleges.com/>

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.

### General policies:

As we discover practices that may work better or worse than others, I will need to be flexible in adjusting some aspects of the class to improve your experience. I will, of course, notify you about any adjustments!

Please be mindful of your fellow students by avoiding behavior that interferes with their ability to focus on the lectures. Please be sure to use only respectful communication and maintain a congenial online environment.

Exam, quiz, and homework scores will be posted on Canvas; it is your responsibility to contact me immediately if you believe you have not received credit for a submitted exam or quiz.

Final grades cannot be changed except in the case of a true clerical error. Although students may sometimes desire a different grade to get into graduate school, avoid academic probation, maintain financial aid, or for other reasons, changing any student's grade would be unfair to the other students. Therefore, *I will not consider any requests for grade changes or opportunities for additional assignments.*

**You may not post to any web site or otherwise distribute any class materials such as lecture slides, exam/quiz questions, or homework questions.**

## Fall 2021 Course Schedule\* (Reading Assignments, Quizzes, and Homeworks)

This schedule presents the topics we will cover and the order in which we will cover them. Except for Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, and December 9<sup>th</sup>, all quizzes and/or homework assignments will be due on Tuesdays at 11:59 pm through Canvas. Please note that no quizzes, only homework, will be due the days before exams.

Wk	Date	Topic/Terms	Readings	Due
1	Sep 1	Syllabus Overview/Myths About Psychology		--
	Sep 3	The Discipline of Psychology	Chapter 1: The Science of Mind	
	Sep 7			Chp 1 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
2	Sep 8	Measuring Psychology	Chapter 2: The Measure of Mind	
	Sep 10	Biological Psychology Part 1: CNS	Chapter 4: The Biological Mind	
	Sep 14			Chp 2 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
3	Sep 15	Biological Psychology Part 2: PNS	Chapter 4 cont.	
	Sep 17	The Evolutionary Basis of Behavior	Chapter 3: The Evolving Mind	
	Sep 21			Chp 4 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
4	Sep 22	Connections Between Nature and Nurture	Chapter 3 cont.	
	Sep 24	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5: The Perceiving Mind	
	Sep 28			Chp 3 Quiz/Hw due by 11:59 pm
5	Sep 29	Elements of Consciousness	Chapter 6: The Aware Mind	
	Sep 30			Chp 5 and 6 HW <i>only</i> due by 11:59 pm (no quizzes)

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	Oct 1	--> EXAM 1		--> EXAM 1
6	Oct 6	Three Types of Learning	Chapter 8: The Adaptive Mind	
	Oct 8	Memory	Chapter 9: The Knowing Mind	
	Oct 12			Chp 8 Quiz/Hw due by 11:59 pm
7	Oct 13	Emotion and Motivation Part 1	Chapter 7: The Feeling Mind	
	Oct 14			Chp 9 Quiz/HW due at 11:59 pm
	Oct 15	Emotion and Motivation Part 2	Chapter 7 cont.	
	Oct 19			Chp 7 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
8	Oct 20	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Chapter 10: The Thinking Mind	
	Oct 22	Developmental Psychology: Infancy and Childhood	Chapter 11: The Developing Mind	
	Oct 26			Chp 10 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
11	Oct 27	Developmental Psychology: Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood	Chapter 11 cont.	
	Oct 29	Developmental Psychology: Later Adulthood	Chapter 11 cont.	
	Nov 2			Chp 11 HW <i>only</i> due by 11:59 pm (no quiz)
10	Nov 3	--> EXAM 2		--> EXAM 2
	Nov 5	Personality Psychology: History and Theories	Chapter 12: The Individual Mind	
11	Nov 10	Personality Psychology: Influences and Assessments	Chapter 12 cont.	
	Nov 12	Social Psychology	Chapter 13: The Connected Mind	
	Nov 16			Chp 12 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
12	Nov 17	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14: The Troubled Mind	

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	Nov 19	Therapy	Chapter 15: Healing the Troubled Mind	
	Nov 23			Chp 13 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
13	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Recess: No classes		
	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Recess: No Classes		
	Nov 30			Chp 14 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
14	Dec 1	Stress and Coping	Chapter 16: The Healthy Mind	
	Dec 3	Health Psychology	Chapter 16 cont.	
	Dec 7			Chp 15 Quiz/HW due by 11:59 pm
15	Dec 8	Positive Psychology	Chapter 16 cont.	
	Dec 9			Chp 16 HW <i>only</i> due by 11:59 pm (no quiz)
	Dec 10	--> EXAM 3		--> EXAM 3

### Final Exam Period: Thursday, December 16- Wednesday, December 22

\*Regular classes end Monday, December 13, 2021. Schedule subject to change without notice. For further information see your instructor.

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