

# General Psychology

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Last Updated: Mon, 01/05/2026

**Course prefix:** PSYC

**Course number:** 1101

**Section:** B

**CRN (you may add up to five):**

20340

**Instructor First Name:** William

**Instructor Last Name:** Stern

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

Introduction to Psychology is a broad survey of the major topics in psychology, including (but not limited to) research methodology, biological and social factors influencing behavior, development, learning, memory, personality, and psychological disorders.

**Course learning outcomes:**

- demonstrate familiarity with major psychological concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends
- describe the basic processes underlying a variety of psychological phenomena, including development, emotion, motivation, learning, memory, and consciousness
- discuss the ways that environmental and biological processes contribute to psychological phenomena
- identify and differentiate among the basic methods of scientific psychology
- explain the fundamental changes in behavior and mental processes that occur during the lifespan
- discuss how groups and individuals influence behavior and attitudes
- identify factors that contribute to an individual's personality and attitudes
- recognize psychological disorders and describe treatment options
- apply psychological concepts to general descriptions of human behavior as well as his/her own experiences and attitudes
- effectively communicate in writing

**Required course materials:**

There is no required textbook for this course. However, if you'd like a text, I recommend making use of the open access textbook from OpenStax. This textbook is available for free

online. If you prefer, you can also purchase a print version from OpenStax on Amazon.com.

**Psychology from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1938168356, Digital ISBN 1947172077,**

**[www.openstax.org/details/psychology](http://www.openstax.org/details/psychology)**

**Grading policy:**

- A - 800-716 points
- B - 715-636 points
- C - 635-556 points
- D - 555-476 points
- F - 475-0 points

**Attendance policy:**

Attendance in this class is mandatory. There is no grade for attendance, but you are expected to show up to all planned class periods, and completion of in-class participation assignments is contingent on your attendance on the day they are given.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

**This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
  - Perspective-Taking
  - Persuasion