

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

I. COURSE INFORMATION:

Prefix & Number:	PSYC 1101	Meeting Times:	TR 12:30pm – 1:45pm
CRN:	92516	Location/Format:	Paper Tricentennial 109
Semester/Term:	Fall 2026	Section:	E

II. INSTRUCTOR/CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name:	Dr. William Stern	Face-to-Face Office Hours:	TBD
Office Location:	J.S. Coon G53-B	Course Email Address:	sternpsyc1101@gatech.edu
Zoom Office Hours:	By appointment	Personal Email Address:	wstern@gatech.edu

Email policy:

Email is the easiest way to get in touch with me or the TAs quickly, and I encourage you to send an email when you have questions, comments, or concerns.

If you have general questions about the course, please use the course email address (sternpsyc1101@gatech.edu). If you have questions specifically directed at me, please feel free to contact my personal email address. If you email my personal address, please include your **full name and the class you are taking (day/time)**. I teach multiple classes, so this will help you receive a quicker response.

We will strive to answer your questions as quickly as we can, but please remember that everyone has other courses and responsibilities. Please allow 2 business days (excluding weekends and holidays) for response to emails (although response times will typically be shorter than this). If you have not received a response in that timeframe, you may send a friendly remind of your question or concern.

III. 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.

This course has no pre-requisites.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 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

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V. TEXTBOOK AND 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**

VI. EVALUATION/GRADING:

Assignment	Points Possible
Four Unit Exams	400
Final Exam	200
Weekly Reflections	50
In-Class Assignments	50
Application Assignments	100
TOTAL:	800

Final Grade	Final Points
A	≥ 716
B	636-715
C	556-635
D	476-555
F	≤ 475

VII. REQUIRED COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- **EXAMS:**

Unit Exams (100 pts. x 4 exams = 400 pts.): There will be four unit exams, each covering approximately one-quarter of the course material. Exams will be 40 multiple-choice questions and 10 fill-in-the-blank questions. Each question will be worth 2 points. The questions will require not only recognition of concepts and correct answers, but comprehension and application of course material.

This semester, all of your exams will be completed in-class through Canvas using Respondus LockDown Browser. You will need to bring a laptop or other device compatible with LockDown browser in order to complete the exam.

Final Exam (200 pts.): The final exam will take place during the institute scheduled exam period for the course. The final exam is comprehensive and will contain 80 multiple-choice questions and 20 fill-in-the-blank questions (worth 2 points each).

- **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Weekly Reflections (10 pts. x 5 reflections = 50 pts.): Some weeks, students must reflect on the material covered in class. Reflection assignments will be completed through Canvas and typically ask students to submit a brief (about 1 paragraph) essay addressing the reflection prompt for the week. Prompts may vary slightly, but each is designed to encourage reflection and application of course materials. More than 5 reflections will be given throughout the semester, but only 5 reflections will be counted in student's grades (i.e., low grades will be dropped).

In-Class Assignments (10 pts. x 5 assignments = 50 pts.): During some class periods, students will be asked to complete brief assignments related to the day's lecture material. These assignments will primarily be graded for completion and effort. More than 5 in-class assignments will be given throughout the semester, but only 5 assignments will be counted in students' grades (i.e., low grades will be dropped).

Application Assignments (25 pts. x 4 assignments = 100 pts.): Application assignments also ask students to reflect on and apply course concepts, but are lengthier and more in-depth than weekly reflections. The format of these assignments will vary from unit to unit, and details for each assignment will be posted on Canvas.

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VIII. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT

We in the School of Psychology believe that exposure to research is essential to gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of human behavior. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. There are three ways to experience research activity to fulfill the research exposure requirement for PSYC 1101:

1. experience research as a volunteer participant in studies conducted in the School of Psychology at GT. You can learn about, and sign-up for, the experiments on the experiment web site: gatech-psych.sona-systems.com
2. complete a series of alternative assignments (see below)
3. or some combination of both.

Amount of Research Participation Required

You need to participate in 4 hours of research credit, and at least half of your research credits must be completed in-person (in other words, you can only complete a maximum of 50% of the requirement through online studies. Studies will be labeled in SONA as Online studies or Standard (lab) studies. For every 1 credit you earn in an online study, you must earn at least 1 credit in a standard study. You may complete as many credits through standard studies as you would like (i.e., you can complete the entire 4 credit requirement with standard, in-person studies).

Deadline for Research Participation

At least half of your credit must be completed by the midpoint of the semester (this semester, that's March 3rd) and you have until the last day of class (prior to the reading and exam periods) to complete the rest of your research credit.

Penalty for Incomplete Research Credits

Unsuccessful completion of all research credits can result in up to a letter grade reduction toward the final grade in the course. You will not technically earn points for participating in research hours. By doing 4 hours of research, you get to keep the points you have earned throughout the semester. The breakdown for partial completion is as follows:

- Only 3 hrs completed: -2.5% from total course grade
- Only 2 hrs completed: -5% from total course grade
- Only 1 hr completed: -7.5% from total course grade
- 0 hrs completed: -10% from total course grade

Penalty for No-Showing to Studies

When students sign up for studies, it is important that they show up at the appointed time or cancel their appointments 24 hours in advance. Missed appointments are problematic because of the time and opportunities lost such as depriving other students from taking that spot and the lost time of the researchers. If there are three unexcused missed appointments during the semester, the student will no longer be able to sign up for studies. In this case, the remaining requirement must be fulfilled using Option 2. Arriving late to an appointment may constitute a missed appointment if the researcher is not able to accommodate the student in the remaining time.

Alternative Research Options for Minors and Objectors

This information is for people who are not yet 18 years of age and for people that have a conscientious objection to participating in experiments or research studies.

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Periodically throughout the semester, the School of Psychology will host Research Review sessions. Students may attend these sessions to earn up to two (2) research credits toward their PSYC 1101 requirement (per session attended). Students who wish to complete all of their research participation requirement through Research Review sessions will need to attend at least two sessions to fulfill their requirement.

During Research Review sessions, students will be provided with a research article and asked to summarize the major theoretical foundations, hypotheses, methodology, and findings of the study. **Research summaries will be completed on paper (i.e., you may not use laptops, tablets, etc. during Research Review sessions).** If you have accommodations on file with Disability Services indicating you are unable to complete this assignment, please contact your instructor for alternative options.

For dates, times, and locations of the Research Review sessions, please check Canvas for an announcement from your instructor during the first few weeks of the semester.

IX. ESSENTIAL COURSE POLICY INFORMATION:

- **ATTENDANCE:**

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.

- **FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME:**

The final exam will be held during finals week. Time TBD.

- **POLICY FOR LATE WORK:**

Application assignments may be turned in up to 48 hours late with a 20% late penalty per day.

Weekly reflections and in-class assignments cannot be turned in late. No make-ups will be offered for these assignments.

- **POLICY FOR MISSED EXAMS AND QUIZZES:**

There will be no make-up exams except as permitted by institute policy for university-excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. Students should contact the professor **prior** to the scheduled exam if possible, or **within 24 hours** of missing the exam due to accident or illness, to schedule a makeup exam.

Exams must be made up within one week of the student being cleared to return to campus.

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

- **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

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If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, please contact the Office of [Disability Services](#) (404-385-2593) on campus as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also email as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs. I am happy to arrange to accommodate your learning needs based on their recommendations. We will need to work together to achieve certain accommodations, such as extended time on exams.

• **A NOTE ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):**

In this class we treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants.

However, all work you submit must be your own. You should *never* include anything that was not written directly by you in an assignment without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes).

Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying AI, we recommend the following heuristics:

Heuristic 1: Never hit “Copy” within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your own conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.

Heuristic 2: Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Similar to the above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge. This heuristic includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also you should avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission.

Deviating from these heuristics does not automatically qualify as academic misconduct; however, following these heuristics essentially guarantees your collaboration will not cross the line into misconduct.

X. SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus should be viewed as a guide. While every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes to the syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor and will be made with clear notice.

PSYC 1101 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

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

XI. COURSE CALENDAR:

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Dates	Topic	Assignments
Day 1	Syllabus and Classic Theories	
Day 2	Modern Approaches	
Day 3	Psychological Research	Reflection 1
Day 4	Biopsychology	
Day 5		
Day 6	Sensation and Perception	Reflection 2 Application Assignment 1
Day 7	Exam 1	
Day 8	States of Consciousness	
Day 9		Reflection 3
Day 10	Psychological Disorders	
Day 11		
Day 12		
Day 13	Therapy and Treatment	Reflection 4 Application Assignment 2
Day 14	Exam 2	Half of Research Experience Credits
Day 15	Learning	
Day 16	Memory	Reflection 5
Day 17		
Day 18	Thinking and Intelligence	Reflection 6
Day 19		Application Assignment 3
Day 20	Exam 3	
Day 21	Personality Basics	
Day 22	Personality Theories	
Day 23	Lifespan Development	
Day 24		Reflection 7
Day 25	Social Psychology	
Day 26		Reflection 8 Application Assignment 4
Day 27	Exam 4	
Day 28	Final Exam Review	
Final	Final Exam TBD	

NOTE: Assignments are due on Canvas at 11:59pm unless otherwise specified

NOTE: Course calendar is subject to change at the discretion of instructor