

## Psyc 1101: Introduction to General Psychology

Fall 2026

[note that some formatting may differ from original posted on Canvas]

### Instructor:

Dr. Daniel Spieler ([spieler@gatech.edu](mailto:spieler@gatech.edu)). 132 Coon Bldg, Ofc Hrs: Tuesday, 2pm to 3pm, Thursday 10am to 11am, or by appointment (ideally email me to work out a time). Remote meetings are ok via zoom.

### Course Description

This semester will be a whirlwind of an introduction to the science of psychology. We will touch on everything from the structure of individual neurons to the nature of social interactions and social influence. By the end of the semester, you will be familiar with how we collect data in many areas of psychology and how we use that data to try to explain psychological experience and behavior.

### Graduate Teaching Assistants

TBA

### Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

TBA

We strongly encourage students to come talk to us. If you have any questions or concerns, it is always better to talk to us sooner rather than later. You can bring your questions to any of us and we have distributed our office hours across the week so hopefully something will work. If you would like to arrange a time outside of office hours, just email one of us to arrange a time.

### Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should:

- Be familiar the major research areas of modern psychological science.
- Understand how psychological data is collected, analyzed, and used to test theories in psychology.
- Explain the empirical basis for major theories in psychology.

### Required Course Materials

Text: Psychology, 6th edition, Schacter, Gilbert, & Nock.  
Macmillian Publishing.

You need to purchase a text with access to the Macmillian Achieve site. I'll have information posted at the top of the Modules page.

Other materials will be made available on Canvas.

## Course Grade Components

### Exams

There will be two midterms and one final exam. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer/short essay questions. Prior to the exams, I will distribute a study guide to limit any uncertainty about the material covered by the exam. Exams are conducted during class time, in the designated classroom, and are closed book and closed notes.

### Quizzes

Throughout the semester, there will be a quasi-randomly distributed in-class quizzes consisting of 1 or 2 questions distributed at the start of class. There are no make-up quizzes will be provided. You will be able to drop one of your quiz scores, hence missing one quiz will have not impact on this component of your final grade.

### End of Chapter Quizzes

At the end of each chapter of the text, you will answer a series of multiple choice questions covering that chapter. You may take these quizzes up to four times and we will take your final score.

### Research Experience

Everything discussed in this class is based on research findings of scientists in some area of psychological science. While research in psychology is similar to research in many other disciplines, the nature of the topic (e.g., thought processes, social behavior, attitudes) also poses special challenges to carrying out rigorous scientific study. To gain exposure to research in psychology, you will be asked to complete 4 'credits' of research experience. These credits can be completed using any combination of the following:

**Research Participation.** You may participate in 4 hours of research currently being conducted in the School of Psychology. To participate, you will need to sign up on the web-based psychology subject pool manager that is linked to off of the course web page. One hour of participation is worth one credit.

**Research Report.** You will identify an empirical paper from an approved journal and answer 4 questions about the paper and the reported research. Each research report is worth 1 credit and should take an amount of time similar to 1 hour of research participation.

See this [page for details](#).

## Weightings for each course component

Midterm 1	.15
Midterm 2	.20
Final Exam	.25
Quizzes	.10
Chapt Quizzes	.20
Research Exp.	.10

To calculate, each component is converted to a percentage of the possible points and multiplied by the associated weight and summed across components. You should assume a straight grading scale (e.g., 91-100, 81-90, etc...) but I reserve the right to lower the grade cutoffs. I may make a smallish adjustment to the cutoffs and I will announce any such changes.

## Disability and Accommodations

Georgia Tech values diversity and inclusion and we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction, distribution of course material, or other aspects of the course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, then feel free to contact me, and I would encourage you to do so as soon as possible. I also encourage any students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss options of removing any barriers in this course, including accommodations. ODS can be reached at 404.894.2563, [dsinfo@gatech.edu](mailto:dsinfo@gatech.edu), or [disabilityservices.gatech.edu](http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu)

If you have already established accommodations with the Offices of Disability Services, please let me know of your approved accommodations and we will make it work. I am happy to meet with you to discuss your needs in this course.

If you have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts) but have not yet made any arrangements, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 404.894.2563 or [dsinfo@gatech.edu](mailto:dsinfo@gatech.edu) or [disabilityservices.gatech.edu](http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu). ([Links to an external site.](#))

Disability Services offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, me, and Disability Services. It is important to the Georgia Institute of Technology to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

## Academic Integrity

All students are assumed to have read the Honor Code and consented to be bound by it. Violations of the Honor Code are taken extremely seriously and violations are always

and without exception forwarded to the Dean of Students. Specific violations include (but are not limited to):

- Use or provision of prohibited assistance during exams.
- Sharing of material from quizzes, exams, or research reports.
- Plagiarism. This includes both the use of the words and ideas without attribution. Note that text analysis has gotten quite good so it will be easier to just write it in your own words than risk getting flagged.

All exams administered in this course are to be taken without the use of notes, books, ancillary materials and without the assistance of any other person or group, in the class or outside of the class. Use of any electronic devices during the exams is prohibited. Use of these devices during exams is viewed as a violation. If you have any questions, please ask any of us (instructor and TAs). I will assume that all students enrolled in the course know and understand what constitutes academic misconduct and agree to be bound by these rules.

## Courtesy

Please don't do rude things. You know what they are. I have a specific character flaw that causes me to be a little crazy when people come and go during class. I understand that this is sometimes unavoidable and I can deal with that. If you habitually do this, I will notice and it will drive me crazy.

## Important Dates

TBD

Draft Schedule:

TBD