

PSYC 1101 – Introduction to General Psychology

Fall 2026

Professor

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Office Hours: by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistant

TBD

Required Textbook

[*Introducing Psychology, 6th edition*](#)

Schacter, Gilbert, and Nock

Worth Publishers, Macmillan Learning

Course Website

Handouts, lecture slides, and announcements will be available on GT Canvas

Course Description

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

Course Goals: After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the basic processes underlying a variety of psychological phenomena, including development, emotion, motivation, learning, memory, and consciousness
- Demonstrate familiarity with major psychological concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends
- Discuss the ways that environmental and biological processes contribute to psychological phenomena
- Apply psychological concepts to general descriptions of human behavior as well as your own experiences and attitudes

Classroom Expectations

Please read Georgia Tech's [Student-Faculty expectations](#). Attendance will not be monitored. However, research indicates that you will learn more, retain more, and do better in class if you attend each lecture and [take notes](#). In general, the more you can actively engage (e.g., ask questions, take notes, translate notes into your own words, draw diagrams), the better you will learn. You do not need to contact me if you cannot attend class.

Please be courteous and respectful to others in class. Don't play games or distract others. Arrive on time and do not pack up early.

Course Exams and Grading

Your grade will be based on four midterm exams, with an optional comprehensive final exam. The four midterm exams will each cover 3-5 chapters worth of material and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions, each worth two points (100 points per exam). The final exam is comprehensive, covering material from the entire semester, and is optional. The final exam will be the same format as the midterm exams. If your final exam score is higher than your lowest midterm exam score, then it will replace that score. If it is lower than your lowest midterm score, then it will be discarded. This means that there is *no risk* of lowering your grade if you take the final exam, because your final grade will be based on your four highest exam scores (modified by your research participation, see below). Each of the four exams will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Make-up exams can be arranged if you have a valid reason (e.g., approved extra-curricular event) and arrange it with me prior to the exam. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, I will consider scheduling a make-up exam on a case by case basis. I will need an official absence via the Dean of Students office or other GT authority to schedule a makeup exam.

Grades will be determined based on the following scale:

90% – 100%	=	A
80 %– 89%	=	B
70% – 79%	=	C
60% – 69%	=	D

Please do not write to me at the end of the semester asking for a grade increase. I will not respond.

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 (see course calendar for details), 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% points from total course grade
- Only 2 hrs completed: -5% points from total course grade
- Only 1 hr completed: -7.5% points from total course grade
- 0 hrs completed: -10% points 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.

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.

Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code

Article II: Section 3. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. The immediate objective of an Academic Honor Code is to prevent any Students from gaining an unfair advantage over other Students through academic misconduct. The following clarification of academic misconduct is taken from Section XIX Student Code of Conduct, of the Rules and Regulations section of the Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog: Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort Student grades or other Student academic records. Such acts include but need not be limited to the following:

- **Unauthorized Access:** Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of a problem set, laboratory report, essay, examination, or other academic assignment.
- **Unauthorized Collaboration:** Unauthorized interaction with another Student or Students in the fulfillment of academic requirements.
- **Plagiarism:** Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating the authorship.
- **False Claims of Performance:** False claims for work that has been submitted by a Student.
- **Grade Alteration:** Alteration of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit.
- **Deliberate Falsification:** Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a Faculty member and/or Institute Official, so as to obtain unearned academic credit.
- **Forgery:** Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any Institute document relating to the academic status of the Student.
- **Distortion:** Any act that distorts or could distort grades or other academic records.

While these acts constitute assured instances of academic misconduct, other acts of academic misconduct may be defined by the professor. Students must sign the Academic Honor Agreement affirming their commitment to uphold the Honor Code before becoming a part of the Georgia Tech community. The Honor Agreement may reappear on exams and other assignments to remind Students of their responsibilities under the Georgia Institute of Technology Academic Honor Code.

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

APA Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify basic concepts and research findings, and give examples of psychology's integrative themes.
- Apply psychological principles to everyday life.
- Draw appropriate, logical, and objective conclusions about behavior and mental processes from empirical evidence.
- Evaluate misconceptions or erroneous behavioral claims based on evidence from psychological science.
- Design, conduct, or evaluate basic psychological research.
- Describe ethical principles that guide psychologists in research and therapy.

Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
M	8/18	Welcome and Course Plan	Syllabus
W	8/20	Evolution of Psychology as a Science	Chap 1
M	8/25	Methods in Psychology	Chap 2
W	8/27	Methods in Psychology	Chap 2
M	9/1	No Class- Labor Day	
W	9/3	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chap 3
M	9/8	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chap 3
W	9/10	Sensation and Perception	Chap 4
M	9/15	Sensation and Perception	Chap 4
W	9/17	Exam 1	Chapters 1-4
M	9/22	Consciousness	Chap 5
W	9/24	Memory	Chap 6
M	9/29	Memory	Chap 6
W	10/1	Learning	Chap 7
M	10/6	No Class- Fall Break	
W	10/8	Learning	Chap 7
M	10/13	Exam 2	Chapters 5-7
W	10/15	Emotion and Motivation	Chap 8
M	10/20	Emotion and Motivation	Chap 8
W	10/22	Language and Thought	Chap 9
M	10/27	Intelligence	Chap 9
W	10/29	Development	Chap 10
M	11/3	Personality	Chap 11
W	11/5	Exam 3	Chapters 8-11
M	11/10	Social Psychology	Chap 12
W	11/12	Stress and Health	Chap 13
M	11/17	Psychological Disorders	Chap 14
W	11/19	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chap 15
M	11/24	Exam 4	Chapters 11-15
W	11/26	No Class- Student Recess	
M	12/1	Final Instructional Class Day	Review session
W	12/3	No Class- Reading Day	
F	12/5	Optional Final Exam, 11:20am-1pm	Chapters 1-15