

Intro to General Psychology: PSYC-1101-A

PSYC 1101 Spring 2026 Syllabus

General Psychology, Section A, 3 credit hours

Wednesdays: 5pm- 7:45pm, Room 1443, Klaus Advanced Computing

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

Instructor Information

Instructor	Contact	Office Hours & Location
		Wednesdays, 11am to 12pm
Na Liu	na.liu@gatech.edu	Fridays, 11am to 12pm J.S. Coon Building, G26

Instructor	Contact	Office Hours & Location
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OR, by Appointment

Teaching Assistant Contact	Office Hours & Location
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Junxia Wang	junxia.wang@gatech.edu	Mondays, 4pm to 5pm
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J.S. Coon Building, B79

Eileen Grouchnikov	egrouchnikov3@gatech.edu	Tuesdays, 12pm-1pm
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J.S. Coon Building, G73

Course description

Description:

In this course we will survey the methods, findings, and theories of psychological science. Psychology is a broad topic and as the name implies (General Psychology) we'll be covering the general themes and information of broad research areas. We begin the course covering fundamentals of psychological science and progress through fundamental aspects of human thinking and behavior. Along the way we'll discuss neuroscience, perception, learning, memory, language, and thought.

Pre-&/or Co-Requisites:

None

Course Goals and 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
- Describe key psychological concepts, relate psychological science to a variety of behaviors
- Identify how data can be used to understand human thinking and behavior, and appraise human behaviors and actions from a simple psychological perspective.

Applications of the course:

- For those planning to continue your psychology education, this course should prepare you for more focused courses by providing familiarity with many psychology topics and psychological perspectives.
- For those intending to make this their only psychology course, you will be exposed to a scientific perspective on human behavior which will broaden your understanding of others in many aspects of your life.

Course Structure

This class will be taught in person.

Lecture structure:

Class times will consist of both lecture and in class activities. During class I try to use various methods to break up the time. I will pose questions to the class and hope you will feel comfortable providing responses. Additionally, at times I will ask you to work with those around you to complete some tasks/activities and share with the class. These are intended to facilitate your learning and break up the class, they are not meant to be high stakes grades. With that being said, I hope to see your engagement and critical thinking in these activities.

Homework:

There will be assignments assigned consistently through Canvas and an online utility called Achieve. Homework will be due **prior to** the start of class on the day it is due. For

example, an assignment assigned for Wednesday would be due before the start of class at 5PM EST of that day.

Exam Administration:

The two midterm exams will be administered in person during scheduled class in the same room as lecture. The final exam will be scheduled in accordance with the final exam matrix. Exams will be completed using paper and pencil without any other resources.

Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Date	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
In Class Activities	Various	10%
Research Participation	TBD	4% (1% per SONA credit)
Homework	Various	36%
Exams		50% Total
Exam 1	11/Feb/26	15%
Exam 2	18/Mar/26	15%
Exam 3	06/May/26	20%

Description of Graded Components

In Class Activities

In class Activities are intended to aid your learning and thinking during lecture so they will be graded based on participation, assuming proper effort. To receive full credit, you will need to be in class and submit a given assignment during the class. Late submission will not be accepted.

Different activities may require you to utilize different resources to complete some tasks, generally these will be provided through by Canvas, Achieve, or free online utilities.

Research Participation

Experiencing psychological research firsthand is important for learning psychology. To facilitate this, you are assigned to participate in research studies run by the Georgia Tech School of Psychology. You'll need to complete a total of four credit hours of research participation from the two research participation options.

1) The most straight forward way to earn research participation credit is to participate in research studies organized through the Georgia Tech School of Psychology SONA system. You can find and register for ongoing research studies awarding course credit using the SONA system.

2) OR participate the research projects conducted by PSYC 2015 students (Make sure to ask them for participation IDs).

3) OR scan the QR code in the flyers that I will post in announcements.

4) If you are younger than 18 years old, you may not be eligible to participate some of the studies. Please come to talk with your instructor after the first class. Alternative ways to earn these credits will be provided then.

Note: If you complete more than 4 credit hours of research participation you will not receive extra credit.

Homework

Throughout the semester there will be assignments every week to complete (Often time called **LearningCurve**). When you are given an assignment, you will be given written instructions for completion, due date, and submission. Generally, assignments will become available once we start a module with due dates starting a week later. In most cases assignment deadlines will be **prior to** the start of class on the day it is due.

Exams

The general format of exams is a combination of multiple-choice questions, matching, filling in the blank, and short essay questions. Exams will be administered in person during class or the scheduled finals time. Exams will be completed on paper pencil forms using a test booklet and scantron. All exams will be closed book and closed note.

On test days you will need to bring a #2 pencil and your GTID. During test administration only a pencil, your GTID, blank water bottle, pen, eraser, and quiet pencil sharpener are allowed on your desk. Any brimmed caps or hats will need to be removed or turned such that the brim is not in your line of sight while taking the exam. Once the first student has left the room or completed their exam, late students will not be allowed to start the exam.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Currently, there are no planned extra credit for this class. Depending on circumstances I may decide to make extra credit available to everyone in the class. If this occurs, I will provide specific details at that time.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89% (89.50% - 89.99% will be rounded up to 90%)
- C 70-79% (79.50% - 79.99% will be rounded up to 80%)
- D 60-69% (69.50% - 69.99% will be rounded up to 70%)
- F 0-59% (59.50% - 59.99% will be rounded up to 60%)

For students enrolled under Pass/Fail: earning a total course grade of 70% or higher will be considered 'Satisfactory', earning a total course grade of less than 70% will be considered 'Unsatisfactory'.

Course Materials

Course Text

Nolan, S., & Hockenbury, S. (2024). *Discovering Psychology* (10th ed.). Worth Publishers. Available through the bookstore either in loose leaf or as an ebook when packaged with Achieve

Additional Materials/Resources

Textbook specific Achieve access through Macmillan Learning is required.

Select ONE of the two packages available through Library:

1. 6-month Achieve access card. Achieve provides a digital version of the text
2. Physical textbook and 6-month Achieve access card

For either package, you will need the Achieve access card to complete homework and in-class activities.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Respect for your classmates - During this class you will be asked to discuss your thoughts, experiences, and ideas with your classmates. In these interactions, I expect each

student to show respect to their peers. This means being constructive when discussing and comments should never be belittling. You are expected to show the same respect to other students that you would expect from me.

In academic discussions there is room and even encouragement of healthy disagreement. While you don't need to agree with everyone, I expect differing opinions to be discussed in a constructive, researched, and academic way. I'm confident that this won't be an issue but just in case I'll state that I won't tolerate any student attacking another student or criticizing, directly or indirectly, based on race, color, religion, national origin or citizenship status, sex, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, disability, or military status. Some simple guidelines to use.

- Do not belittle anyone for not knowing something or understanding a concept.
- Answer questions in a supportive and respectful way.
- If you disagree with someone provide evidence to support your view.
- When you disagree with someone do not attack the person.

Respect for your TAs - Your TAs are here to support your learning and success, but you should recognize that they are humans with many responsibilities outside this course and deserve to be treated with respect. Consider these guidelines when communicating with them.

- Address them politely in your correspondences.
- Do not expect instantaneous responses.
- When you want to discuss a grade or specific assignment, please give some heads up. This allows us to have the materials ready so your time and our own isn't wasted.
- Psychology is a broad topic and while both our TAs are experts in the field, they may not have a quick answer for your specific questions. Please be understanding if they (or I) tell you we will get back with an answer.
- Keep a professional tone in your communications.

Respect for your instructor – I will do my best to show you the respect you deserve and in turn I expect the same from you. Please be courteous to me and I will do the same.

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.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an exam, assignment, or other submission 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

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance and Participation

Based on evidence from learning centered teaching I believe active participation during lectures is an important aspect of learning. To encourage your participation, I include a class participation portion to your grade. For details about how class participation will be evaluated please see the “In Class activities” section under “Graded Components”.

I recognize that there may be various reasons for being unable to participate in a lecture. If you have any institute approved activity, a religious observance, or an emergency and are unable to participate in a lecture please inform me as soon as possible. In the case of an institute approved absence I will either excuse you from a day’s participation or assign you an alternative assignment.

Note on illnesses:

It should be stated that an illness is not considered an institute approved absence. This means that generally an illness will not be sufficient to be excused from class.

In the case of illness, you should follow proper protocols and take care of yourself. I prefer that you do not come to class on a day when sick but if you decide to please take proper precautions such as wearing a mask and avoiding contact with others.

Absences

Institute approved absences: This absence is usually for a GT event (conference, sports event, etc.). You must submit this form at least 5 days prior to the absence and get me the approval ASAP: <https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/institute-approved-absence-form-for-students>.

Personal emergencies: Students may need to miss classes due to personal emergencies such as being hospitalized or being in a car accident. The Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students can assist students with documented emergencies by contacting professors on behalf of the student. For more information, please call the Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students.

Religious holidays: Please contact the Instructor ASAP to reschedule missed work.

I will accept documentation from the Registrar or the Dean's Office. Missed work must be made up within 5 business days of the date on the approved documentation.

Collaboration & Group Work

Unless otherwise stated all course work is to be your own original work. This means that you are not to work with others when completing course work for this class unless explicitly directed to. You are welcome to work with others while studying or learning material, but you must complete each activity on your own.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

If you have a conflict with an exam time you need to contact me at least 1 week ahead of time so that we can appropriately reschedule a time for you. Without proper notice you will not be able to take an exam after it has been administered

Late homework assignments will be penalized 20% credit for the first 24 hours after the deadline and an additional 20% credit after 24 hours of being late. After 48 hours, assignments will not be accepted for credit.

Depending on individual circumstances extensions may be provided, but you will need to contact us as soon as you are aware of a problem. It should be noted that internet connectivity issues within 2 hours of a deadline will not be sufficient for an extension.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. For an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Student Use of Laptops and Mobile Devices in the Classroom

I will be utilizing several online utilities during class; hence the use of laptops or mobile devices is permitted.

However, you likely are aware of the distractions that electronic devices can provide. There is also evidence indicating people learn better (e.g. retain more information) during lecture when taking notes on paper compared to using a computer. Importantly, this difference seems to have more to do with how people take notes on computers rather than simply the distractions they provide.

If you decide to use an electronic device in class, I ask you to keep your usage relevant to class. Additionally, evidence suggests that electronic devices aren't only distracting to the user but can extend beyond to those in the vicinity. Because of this I also ask that if you find yourself engaging in other activities such as work for other classes/work, watching videos, scrolling *insert social media platform*, etc. that you take yourself to the back of the room (also you might want to re-evaluate the use of your device during class).

Recordings of Class Sessions and Required Permissions

Classes may not be recorded by students without the express consent of the instructor unless it is pursuant to an accommodation granted by the Office of Disability services. Class recordings, lectures, presentations, and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students currently enrolled in the course.

Students may not record or share the materials or recordings, including screen capturing or automated bots, unless the instructor gives permission.

If students are identifiable by their names, facial images, voices, and/ or comments, written consent must be obtained before sharing the recording with persons outside of currently enrolled students in the class.

Additional Course Policies

Communication

- Questions about exam content sent the day before the exam might not receive a response until after the exam.
- Generally, it is best to communicate early if you have concerns.

Office Hours

To meet students' requirements, needs, and comfort levels, meetings and office hours will be offered in-person, virtually, or outdoors.

Disputing Grades

At certain times you may disagree with how we graded your submissions. If this occurs, you will have TWO DAYS AFTER THE GRADE POSTING to contact us to discuss your grade. All grades are final and can no longer be disputed after this window.

If you wish to dispute a grade you will need to provide your explanation in writing. If appropriate, provide references to course materials (i.e. lectures, textbook, course activities)

Dean of Students Office, CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center

The CARE Center and the Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Dean of Students Office will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Student Center services and operations are available on the Student Center website. For more information on these and other student services, contact the Dean of Students or the Division of Student Life.

Tentative Course Schedule: *Subject to Change*

I highly recommend you read each chapter *before* the lecture series begins. If you do not finish the chapter by this time, it's highly recommended you finish reading the chapter by the time the lecture series is complete (typically over the course of 3 days).

Date	Topic(s)	Readings	Assignments (Due)
14-Jan	Research Method	Ch.1	In Class Activity #1
21-Jan	Neuroscience& Behavior	Ch. 2	HW1 & In Class Activity #2
28-Jan	Sensation and perception	Ch.3	HW2&In Class Activity #3
4-Feb	Consciousness & It's Variations	Ch. 4	HW3&In Class Activity #4
11-Feb	Exam 1 & Memory 1	Ch.6	

18-Feb	Memory 2	Ch.6	HW4&In Class Activity #5
25-Feb	Thinking and Intelligence	Ch. 7	In Class Activity #6
4-Mar	Learning	Ch.5	HW5&In Class Activity #7
11-Mar	Lifespan development	Ch.9	HW6& Class Activity #8
18-Mar	Exam 2 &Social Psychology 1	Ch. 12	HW7 &In Class Activity #9
25-Mar	No Class-Spring Break		
01-Apr	Social Psychology 2 & Motivation and Emotion	Ch. 8	HW8&In Class Activity #10
08-Apr	Psychological disorders	Ch. 14	HW9&In Class Activity #11
15-Apr	Personality	Ch. 11	HW10&In Class Activity #12
22-Apr	Stress, Health, and Coping	Ch. 13	HW11
6-May	Final Exam	6pm-8:50pm, Room 1443, Klaus Advanced Computing	