

**Welcome to PSYC 1101 (Section TBA): Introduction to General
Psychology!
Fall 2026
TR 9:30 – 10:45 am
TBA**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor Rick Thomas, Ph.D.

- ❖ *Office hours and location: Thursdays, by appointment (I can meet virtually or in person)*
- ❖ *Office: J.S. Coon (Psychology Building) rm. 233*
- ❖ *Work/cell phone: 405-639-9929 (Please call during office hours unless pre-arranged)*
- ❖ *Course email: rick.thomas@psych.gatech.edu*
- ❖ *Emails are the best way to reach me. Emails will be returned within 24 hours. Please indicate the course name in the email's subject, including a greeting (e.g., "Hello, Dr. Thomas"), and sign your full name at the end of the email.*
- ❖ *Please use my email to contact me rather than messages on Canvas.*

CLASS MEETING DAYS/TIMES/LOCATION

PSYC 1101(Thomas): TR: 9:30 – 10:45 am
Location: TBA

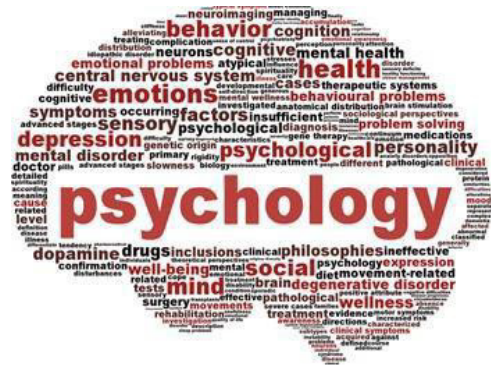
REQUIRED MATERIALS

Introduction to Psychology (Lumen One)
ISBN: 978-1-64087-392-6
Net Price: \$35

In this course, you will use Introduction to Psychology (Lumen One) from Lumen Learning instead of a traditional textbook. The course materials are provided digitally inside Canvas and include readings, videos, Study Plans, quizzes, and other learning activities.

PURCHASING

Access can be purchased directly through Canvas for a net price of \$35. You will be prompted to enter an activation code or make an online payment when you first access the Lumen materials. Access codes may also be ordered using the Lumen Learning [Access Code Order Form](#).



Course description:

This course's primary objective is to provide you with an overview of the major areas of study in psychology. This course will introduce you to concepts and critical thinking skills used in psychology, which will help you learn to think like a psychologist. You will learn about significant approaches and perspectives in psychology, research methods, and concepts from different content areas such as physiological, developmental, social, and cognitive psychology. Understanding some of the central concepts in psychology is beneficial for understanding people's mental processes and behavior and provides a framework for future studies in this field. This course should help you develop insights into understanding psychological processes such as learning, memory, personality, stages of human development, stress and its effects, behavior in groups, and psychological disorders. Thus, the course will expose you to information that is not only interesting but also useful in "the real world."

CORE IMPACTS STATEMENT

Orienting Question: How do biological, psychological, and social factors influence human behavior and mental processes?

Learning Outcomes:

- 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
- Understand the ways that environmental and biological processes contribute to psychological phenomena
- Knowledge to identify and differentiate among the basic methods of scientific psychology
- Familiarity with the fundamental changes in behavior and mental processes that occur during the lifespan
- Understand how groups and individuals influence behavior and attitudes
- Knowledge to identify factors that contribute to an individual's personality and attitudes
- Knowledge to recognize psychological disorders and describe treatment options
- Understand how to apply psychological concepts to general descriptions of human behavior as well as your own experiences and attitudes to effectively communicate in writing

Career-Ready Competencies:

- *Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:* Experience analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information
- *Research & Analytical Skills:* Understanding the scientific method and research methodologies; Ability to critically evaluate information sources
- *Ethical Reasoning and Professionalism:* Knowledge of ethical standards in behavioral science, including confidentiality, informed consent, and professional conduct.
- *Intercultural Competence:* Awareness of cultural influences on behavior and mental processes; Explores Prejudice and Stereotyping.
- *Perspective-Taking:* Theory of Mind, Covers Empathy and Social Cognition, Discusses Developmental Milestones in perspective-taking ability.
- *Persuasion:* Foundational models like the Elaboration Likelihood Model (ELM) and Cognitive Dissonance Theory; Attitude Change; Techniques of Persuasion; Applications of Persuasive communication; Critical Evaluation of persuasive messages.

CLASS

- What happens during class time? Although this course is a traditional lecture-based class, there will be time for in-class activities, discussion, and Q&A.
- Attendance will not be collected, but there will be graded unannounced quizzes or in-class activities.

GRADES

Your performance in the class will be evaluated based on:

- Three Exams (~36% of grade)
- Study Plan (~16% of grade)
- End of Chapter Quizzes (~32% of grade)
- Course Participation (~16% of grade)

Your grades are based on the percentage of points earned and follow the standard grading scale for assigning letter grades.

- A: 90 – 100%
- B: 80 – 89%
- C: 70 – 79%
- D: 60 – 69%
- F: 59% or less

EXAMS (300 points)

Three in-class exams will be administered. Exams are closed-book and closed-notes and will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions designed to assess recognition, comprehension, and application of course concepts. At the instructor's discretion, any exam may be administered online through Canvas or another approved course platform during the regularly scheduled class meeting or the official final-exam period. Students will receive advance notice and, when an exam is administered online, should bring a fully charged device capable of accessing the course site. Exam material will be drawn directly from the assignments, slides, and lectures. Although exams are not cumulative, concepts most often missed on the previous exam may be tested.

The following topics will be covered on each exam. (See appended Course Schedule):

- *Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)*
- *Exam 2 (Chapters 5-9, and Most-Missed concepts from Exam 1)*
- *Exam 3 (Chapters 10-13, and Most-Missed concepts from Exam 2)*

STUDY PLAN (130 POINTS)

Your Lumen One course materials are organized into Study Plans (one for each chapter or module) designed to provide you with everything you need to learn, apply what you've learned, and check your understanding of course topics. Each Study Plan will update as you go to help you strategize your time. Participation for each Study Plan is calculated by how many Readiness Checks and Self Checks you have completed (start to finish – *don't forget to click the finish button*) out of the total available in that Study Plan. Each question in a quiz counts equally toward your final percentage. Some questions, however, have multiple parts and you are given credit for any *part* that you answer correctly. For example, if your quiz has 10 questions, each question is worth 10% of your quiz. But if one question has four parts, each part is worth 2.5% of your quiz.

END OF CHAPTER (MODULE) QUIZZES (260 POINTS)

End-of-chapter quizzes will be graded for accuracy and will occur at the conclusion of each chapter. Students will have two attempts to complete each quiz, with the highest score being recorded. No late submissions will be accepted for these quizzes.

COURSE PARTICIPATION (130 POINTS)

Assignments will be unannounced and conducted live; no late submissions will be accepted. Grading will be based on completion or at least 50% accuracy, depending on the assignment type; for instance, a quiz requires at least 50% accuracy, whereas group work or polling will be graded on completion. Additionally, two assignments will be free to account for two unexcused absences.

RESEARCH EXPOSURE PROGRAM SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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% 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. 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.

RESEARCH EXPOSURE EXTRA CREDIT

You can earn up to 2% of extra credit by participating in up to two credits of research exposure hours over the required four. For each additional research credit (up to two), you will earn one percentage point of extra credit toward your final course grade over the required four.

POLICY ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE AI FOR CLASS WORK

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

However, all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you 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 simultaneously. Like 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 or code directly into your submission, you should also 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Course Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	Aug. 25 (T)	Welcome & Lumen One		Introducing Yourself Activity
	Aug. 27 (R)	Psychological Foundations	Ch. 1	
2	Sept. 1 (T)	Psychological Foundations	Ch. 1	Ch. 1 Study Plan
	Sept. 3 (R)	Psychological Research	Ch. 2	Ch. 1 Quiz
3	Sept. 8 (T)	Psychological Research	Ch. 2	Ch. 2 Study Plan
	Sept. 10 (R)	Biopsychology	Ch. 3	Ch. 2 Quiz
4	Sept. 15 (T)	Biopsychology	Ch. 3	Ch. 3 Study Plan
	Sept. 17 (R)	States of Consciousness	Ch. 4	Ch. 3 Quiz
5	Sept. 22 (T)	States of Consciousness	Ch. 4	Ch. 4 Study Plan
	Sept. 24 (R)	Exam 1		Ch. 4 Quiz
6	Sept. 29 (T)	Sensation & Perception	Ch. 5	
	Oct. 1 (R)	Sensation & Perception	Ch. 5	Ch. 5 Study Plan
7	Oct. 6 (T)	Fall Recess - No Class		
	Oct. 8 (R)	Learning	Ch. 6	Ch. 5 Quiz
8	Oct. 13 (T)	Learning	Ch. 6	Ch. 6 Study Plan
	Oct. 15 (R)	Memory	Ch. 7	Ch. 6 Quiz
9	Oct. 20 (T)	Memory	Ch. 7	Ch. 7 Study Plan
	Oct. 22 (R)	Thinking & Intelligence	Ch. 8	Ch. 7 Quiz
10	Oct. 27 (T)	Thinking & Intelligence	Ch. 8	Ch. 8 Study Plan
	Oct. 29 (R)	Emotion & Motivation	Ch. 9	Ch. 8 Quiz
11	Nov. 3 (T)	Emotion & Motivation	Ch. 9	Ch. 9 Study Plan
	Nov. 5 (R)	Exam 2		Ch. 9 Quiz
12	Nov. 10 (T)	Development	Ch. 10	
	Nov. 12 (R)	Development	Ch. 10	Ch. 10 Study Plan
13	Nov. 17 (T)	Social Psychology	Ch. 11	Ch. 10 Quiz
	Nov. 19 (R)	Social Psychology	Ch. 11	Ch. 11 Study Plan
14	Nov. 24 (T)	Personality	Ch. 12	Ch. 11 Quiz
	Nov. 26 (R)	Thanksgiving Holiday - No Class		
15	Dec. 1 (T)	Personality	Ch. 12	Ch. 12 Study Plan
	Dec. 3 (R)	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 13	Ch. 12 Quiz
16	Dec. 8 (T)	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 13	Ch. 13 Study Plan & Quiz
Finals Week	Dec. 14 (M) 8:00-10:50 am	Exam 3 (Final Exam)		Final Exam

STUDENT RESOURCES



[Emergency Phone Numbers / State & National Resources](#)

If You Are in Crisis:

If this is a life-threatening emergency, please call **911** or, if on-campus, call the Georgia Tech Campus Police at **404-894-2500**.

Students experiencing a crisis that requires immediate attention may speak with the Counselor On-Call at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Between 8 am and 5 pm Monday-Friday, students should call the Center for Assessment, Referral and Education (CARE) at **404-894-3498** and identify that they are in crisis.

After hours, please call **404-894-3498** and select option 1 to speak to the after-hours counselor. You may also call the Georgia Tech Police at **404-894-2500**.

The following list includes various services offered by Georgia Tech for the benefit of all students. For a more comprehensive list of health and well-being resources, events, and information, visit the [GT Well-Being Connect](#)

[page \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or [Health and Well-Being at GT \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Georgia Tech Police Department

Website: <http://www.police.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-2500 (emergency and non-emergency)

Look here for:

- Centralized point of contact available 24/7 that can connect you to any requested mental health resources
- All officers are trained in Crisis Intervention Team, Mental Health First Aid, and QPR to assist in mental health crises
- GTPD offers Good Samaritan and 9/11 Amnesty: if a student needs help and either of you are intoxicated or under the influence of any drug, call GTPD, and neither of you will be in legal trouble for being in that condition.

Center for Assessment, Referral, and Education (CARE)

Website: <https://care.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-3498

Look here for:

- Single point of entry for mental health services at Georgia Tech, no appointment necessary
- After a primary assessment at CARE, students can then be referred to other mental health resources and services on or off campus, including the Counseling Center and Stamps Psychiatry.

Counseling Center

Website: <http://counseling.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-2575

Look here for:

- Students may be recommended to the Counseling Center after an initial consultation at CARE
- Services are confidential and free of charge to currently enrolled students
- Website includes a wide variety of self-help resources, found [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Stamps Health Services

Website: <https://health.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-1420

Look here for:

- Primary care
- Pharmacy
- Women's health
- Psychiatry
- Immunization, allergy, health promotion, and nutrition services for students
- Open 8 am-5 pm Monday through Wednesday and Friday, and 9 am-5 pm on Thursdays
 - A list of after hours resources is available [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LGBTQIA Resource Center

Website: <http://lgbtqia.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-385-2679

Look here for:

- LGBTQIA+ support, resources, workshops, training, and discussions
- Virtual office hours offered Monday through Thursday, as well as a number of virtual community events and workshops, found [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- Extensive list of resources and information available [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

VOICE

Website: <https://healthinitiatives.gatech.edu/well-being/voice> (Links to an external site.)

Phone:

- - - 404-385-4464 or 404-385-4451 (8 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday)
 - GTPD: 404-894-2500 ask for the VOICE Advocate on call (after hours)

Look here for:

- Confidential support for victim-survivors of sexual violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking

- Education on healthy relationships and preventing sexual violence
- Students seeking support or further information can call either of the above numbers during regular business hours to speak to a VOICE Advocate, or call the Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500 after hours and ask for the VOICE Advocate on-call.

Office of the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students

Website: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/get-help-now> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-6367

Look here for:

- Help with class absences and academic issues
- STAR program, which provides assistance with meals, professional clothing, crisis housing, and emergency financial support
- Help for students and their families in personal or medical emergencies by contacting the office at 404-894-2565 during normal business hours
- After hours, call GTPD at 404-894-2500 instead and ask for the Dean on Call

Health Initiatives

Website: <https://healthinitiatives.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-9980

Look here for:

- Programs, services, and resources designed to increase students' holistic well-being
- Information on topics like mental well-being, nutrition, relationships, alcohol and other drugs, finance, sexual violence prevention, body positivity, sexual health, and sleep
- Individual virtual wellness coaching via BlueJeans
- Virtual nutrition consultations with campus dietitians
- Virtual Well-Being Weekly workshops held every weekday on a variety of subjects

Center for Academic Success

Website: <http://success.gatech.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-385-0041 (Tutoring Reception Desk)

Look here for:

- Free, one-to-one virtual tutoring by appointment, accessible [here](#) (Links to an external site.)
- Virtual Academic Coaching appointments, which can be scheduled [here](#) (Links to an external site.)

Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR)

Website: <https://star.studentlife.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Email: steve.fazenbaker@gatech.edu

Look here for:

- Klemis Kitchen: assistance with meals
- Campus Closet: professional clothing loans
- Emergency Housing
- Dean Griffin Hip Pocket Fund: emergency financial support for students.

Women's Resource Center

Website: <http://www.womenscenter.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-385-0230

Look here for:

- Information on women's issues on campus, community events, advocacy, and training for women
- Virtual community care hours available by appointment

Veteran's Resource Center

Website: <http://veterans.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-385-2067

Look here for:

- Support and information for veterans, military, reservists, guard members, and dependents
- Virtual office hours and one-on-one video conferences by appointment
- Information on VA educational benefits, tuition assistance, and other scholarship opportunities
- **Employment resources and assistance, found [here](#)** (Links to an external site.)

OMED: Educational Services

Website: <http://www.omed.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-894-3959

Look here for:

- Services designed to support traditionally underrepresented populations, but open to all Georgia Tech students
- Academic support, including drop-in online tutoring, available [here](#) (Links to an external site.)
- Extensive list of COVID-19 virtual resources available [here](#) (Links to an external site.)

- Transition and mentorship programs for new undergraduate and graduate students

Campus Recreation Center

Website: <https://crc.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.)

Phone: 404-385-7529

Look here for:

- The CRC facility is currently open for the Fall 2020 semester; information on the CRC's reopening can be found [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [\(Links to an external site.\)](#) A list of guided workouts and exercises that can be completed at home without specialized equipment, found [here \(Links to an external site.\)](#)