

Psychology 1101 Section I Fall 2026

Introduction to General Psychology

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Course Description

Content

The topics covered in this course are the scientific method (as it applies to psychology), learning, physiological psychology, sensation & perception, memory & cognition, and developmental psychology. The course will frequently focus on how psychological experiments are designed and carried out and how the data are analyzed.

Goals and Learning Objectives

The aim of this course is to familiarize you with some key theories and findings in psychology and to help you learn to think productively about research and theories and learn to make predictions based on those theories. You will also learn to think critically about theories and apply them.

Course Materials

OPTIONAL *Understanding Human Behavior* (any edition). C.R. Mynatt & M.E. Doherty. Allyn and Bacon.

Course Requirements and Grading

There will be four exams in this class occurring at approximately equal intervals. All students are required to take all exams. The exams will occur roughly 1) after the Learning section, 2) after the Sensation & Perception section, 3) after the Memory & (part of the) Cognition section, and 4) during the final exam period. The exam during the final exam period is not cumulative.

You will earn a certain number of points from the tests. The number of the points you need for each letter grade is as follows: A: 126 (90%) B: 112 (80%) C: 98 (70%) D: 84 (60%) There is no rounding.

The above grading scheme represents the toughest I will grade. However, the cutoffs for grades might be relaxed depending on the proportion of students achieving each grade.

Attendance and Office Hours

Attendance in class is up to you. However, please note that *you are responsible for keeping up with any in-class announcements about test days*. I do not have a set time for office hours. I am happy to meet with you to go over class content, exam issues, etc. If you want to meet, please e-mail me for an appointment or see me before or after class and we can find a time.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. This includes, but is not limited to: 1. Not possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or oral information in the preparation of a paper or for an exam. 2. Not substituting as your own work material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another individual, web site, or computer-based tool (e.g. ChatGPT). 3. Making false claims of performance or work that has been submitted by another student.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity (OSI), which manages the due process, including collecting relevant information from all parties, and if responsibility for a violation is found, identifying the appropriate penalty. For more information on the Honor Code, visit the OSI website.

Accommodations and Learning Environment

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at 404.894.2563 or their website, as soon as possible, to discuss your needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Also, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your learning needs. I am committed to creating a learning environment in which students feel comfortable. Because we are individuals with varying needs, I am reliant on your feedback to achieve this goal.

Research Exposure

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. Do some combination of 1 and 2 above.

Amount of Research Participation Required

You need to participate in 6 hours of research credit and at least half of your research hours must be completed in-person. In other words, you can complete only a maximum of 50% of the requirement through online studies. Studies will be labeled in SONA as Online studies or Standard (in-person) studies. For every 1 hour you earn in an online study you must earn at least 1 hour in an in-person study. You may complete as many hours through in-person studies as you would like (i.e., you can complete the entire requirement with in-person studies).

Deadline for Research Participation

At least half of your hours must be completed by the midpoint of the semester and you have until the last day of class (prior to the reading and exam periods) to complete the rest of your research hours.

Penalty for Incomplete Research Hours

Unsuccessful completion of all hours can result in up to a letter grade reduction toward the final grade in the course. If you complete only 5 required hours, you will lose points equal to 1/6 of a letter grade on

your final point total; if you complete only 4 required hours, you will lose points equal to 2/6 of a letter grade; and so on. If you complete 0 required hours, you will lose a full letter grade. At the end of the semester I will generate a report showing how many hours of experiments you completed.

Penalty for Not Showing Up For an Experiment

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 described above. Arriving late to an appointment might 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, people that have a conscientious objection to participating in experiments or research studies, and/or people who do not otherwise fulfill the research exposure requirement by participating in experiments.

Periodically throughout the semester, the School of Psychology will host Research Review sessions. Students may attend these sessions to earn up to two research hours 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 me or the TA.

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the University System of Georgia's General Education 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, economics, 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

Tentative Course Outline

Topic	Relevant Chapters (2nd edition)
Introduction	1, 11, 16, 35-36, 41 (1st edition: 1, 35-37, 39-40)
Methodology	2-3, 30, 32-33 (1st edition: 2-3, 28-30)
Learning	4, 7, 12-15 (1st edition: 4-5, 9-12)
Physiological Psychology	5-6 (1st edition: 41-42)
Sensation & Perception	8-10 (1st edition: 7-8)
Memory	17-19 (1st edition: 13-15)
Cognition	20-22, 26, 44 (1st edition: 16-17, 19, 23, 38)
Developmental Psychology	24-25 (1st edition: 21-22)