

Introduction to Psychology: 101-06

When:	Mon & Wed, 9:25 – 10:40am; Fall 2024
Where:	New Bldg 1.123, John Jay College
Instructor:	Laurie Hurson (lhurson@jjay.cuny.edu)
Office Hours:	Wed 11am-12pm or by appt; Location: NB 10.67

Course Description

This course is a survey of the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Topics to be covered include research methods and applications in Psychology's major areas of study: thought, memory, learning, personality, social processes, human development, psychological disorders, and the biological bases of behavior. (3cr/3hrs)

Notes: This course satisfies the Flexible Core: Individual & Society area of Gen Ed Program. It includes both LOs for the Major and for General Education.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, you will be able to....

1. assimilate information relating to psychology from a variety of sources
2. think critically in their approach to psychological topics in a writing assignment
3. reason using evidence to support their conclusions in a writing assignment
4. describe basic psychological theories and methods
5. describe contextual influences on human behavior and diversity of perspectives, including those related to race, class, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality and culture
6. recognize APA ethical principles and codes of conduct for psychologists
7. define psychology, describe major sub-fields in psychology (e.g., social, cognitive, developmental, clinical, forensic) and differentiate between major psychological perspectives.
8. Describe basic history of psychology, research methods (e.g., advantages and disadvantages of various scientific research methods), and applications and careers in psychology.

Course Website

All class information, readings, and documents will be uploaded to the course website. To access this content visit: cuny.is/psych101fall24

Required Text and Materials

There is no required textbook. This is a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course. We will use the following resources for our class:

- *Introduction to Psychology (A critical approach)* Edited by Jill Grose-Fifer, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at John Jay College, CUNY
- Selections from *Noba Textbook Modules for Psych 101*

Our Class Community

In this course we will celebrate diversity, actively work to foster equity, and strive to cultivate an inclusive environment. I care about you and will work to make sure you have a successful and meaningful experience in this class. In return, I hope you will come to class ready to engage in whatever way makes most sense for you -- active listening, detailed note taking, enthusiastic participation in discussion, and critical thinking and sharing in group work are all great ways to participate.

I recognize that students and professors are just people! We are complex human beings with different backgrounds and lives outside of school. I will understand if and when things come up for you outside of the classroom. If you feel you are falling behind or need help please get in touch with me. You can talk to me before/after class or email me. I am committed to always treating you respectfully and will listen to any issues that you may experience that will impact your ability to perform in this class. I hope that you will treat me and your peers in the class with a similar level of respect and understanding.

Together, we can create an environment in which we treat others with respect, compassion, and understanding. We will not stand for violent, oppressive, or racist rhetoric or actions in our class.

Join me in fostering a culture of care in the classroom by...

- Being kind and respectful to everyone.
- Listening to others' ideas and engaging in considerate ways.
- Cultivating dialogue and understanding even when expressing opposite opinions.
- Looking after your peers, and your own! Take care of yourself and others.

Accessibility & Inclusion

This course is intended for all John Jay students. If, at any point in the term, you find yourself not able to fully engage in the course or access the course content, you are welcome to contact me via email or come talk to me to discuss your needs.

You are not required to disclose your specific disability to the instructor (me) or anyone else. Students with disabilities are entitled to confidentiality over disability-related status or details.

Students who believe that they may need an accommodation due to a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) in the New Building, room in room L.66 and email: accessibilityservices@jjay.cuny.edu. Qualified students with dis/abilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the (OAS). <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/student-life/wellness-center/accessibility-services>

Prior to granting dis/ability accommodations in this course, I will need written verification from the Office of Accessibility Services. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the office to have the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Preferred Gender Pronoun and Name: I affirm all forms of gender expressions and identities. Please let me know of your preferred pronouns, and if you would rather be called a different name than what is on the class roster.

Students experiencing or witnessing discrimination or harassment, should discuss their concerns with me, and/or the psychology department.

Please see these policies for more information:

- [John Jay's Non-discrimination policy](#)
- [John Jay's Policy and Procedures on Equal Opportunity and Non-discrimination](#)
- [John Jay's Policy on Sexual Misconduct](#)
- [Procedures for Implementing Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments](#)

Assignments & Exams

Task	Points	Opportunities	Total
Free Writing Papers	1 pt /paper	20	20 pts
In class activities	1 pt / activity	5	5 pts
Synthesis Papers	10 pts / paper	4	40 pts
Exams	10 pts / exam	2	20 pts
Final Exam	15 pts / test	1	15 pts
Research Participation	8pts + 2 Extra Credit	-	10 pts
			100 pts

Attendance

You are encouraged to attend every class session. In class you will complete free writing reflections and in-class activities, both of which give you points towards your final grade.

Free Writing Reflections

At the beginning of each class, you will complete a free writing activity to reflect on the course topics. This paper will be a chance for you to reflect, ask questions, and propose ideas for further exploration and discussion.

In-class Activities

Class will be an active space where you will share your ideas and questions openly. You will work with your peers in groups on worksheets, group questions, exit tickets, etc. I will collect the activity materials to document your participation.

Grade	Points Needed
A	93+ points
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	81 – 86
B-	77 – 80
C+	72 – 76
C	63 – 71
C-	60 – 62
D+	53 – 59
D	50 – 52
F	0 – 50

Synthesis Papers

Synthesis papers are ~500 word (2 page) short essays that will help you understand the course topics and prepare for exams. Each essay will demonstrate your understanding and analysis of course content. Papers will be focused on the following topics:

1. **What is Research in Psychology?** The first unit of our course will cover social psychology & conditioning, both of which have several examples of research studies in psychology. This paper will require you to identify and analyze these research methods and propose a research question of your own. You will also participate in research studies and can include a reflection on this participation in this paper.
2. **What Makes You, You?** Personal Reflection: After our second unit on developmental & personality psychology, you will analyze course content and determine if and how it gives you a better understanding about yourself.

3. **How do we talk about the Brain?** Biopsychology in the Media: After our third unit on Biopsychology you will engage with a piece of non-fiction media (podcast, documentary) to identify and analyze how mainstream media can help you understand biopsychology.
4. **What is your Psychology Path?** Careers in Psychology: Looking back at the semester, you will identify topics and avenues within discipline of psychology that interest you and explore how this connects to possible future career paths.

Exams

Three exams will take place throughout the semester. Exams will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short answer. Final exam will be comprehensive.

Research Participation

Psychology, like all other sciences, is based on research. Exposure to research is a vital component of this class since you will learn more about how different researchers gather information and how they apply this to psychological theory.

The Department asks ALL PSY 101 students to complete 8 points (4 hours) of research experience, which will count as 8% of your final grade. You also have the option of getting two additional extra credit points (1 hour for 2 points). Therefore, your research experience points can provide a maximum of 10 points (5 hours of participation) or 10% of your final grade in PSY 101. There are two options for getting research points. See last pages of the syllabus for details.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topic	TO DO
1	August 28	Welcome	
2	Sept. 2	NO CLASS	
	Sept. 4	Branches of Psych & the BioPsychoSocial Model	
3	Sept. 9	Social Psychology - Cognition	
	Sept. 11	Social Psychology - Interaction	
4	Sept. 16	Social Psychology - Groups	
	Sept. 18	History of Psychology	
5	Sept. 23	Conditioning	
	Sept. 25	Research Methods	
6	Sept. 30	Research Methods	
	Oct. 2	NO CLASS	
7	Oct. 7	Learning & Memory	Paper due – Research Methods
	Oct. 9	Learning & Memory	Study
8	Tuesday Oct. 15	Exam Lifespan Development	
	Oct. 16	Developmental Psych	
9	Oct. 21	Language, Intelligence, Culture	
	Oct. 23	Personality	
10	Oct. 28	Personality	
	Oct. 30	Motivation & Emotions	
11	Nov. 4	Stress	Paper Due – Personal Assessment
	Nov. 6	Review	Study
12	Nov. 11	Exam & Consciousness	
	Nov. 13	Sleep	
13	Nov. 18	Sensation and Perception	
	Nov. 20	Biopsychology & Nervous System	
14	Nov. 25	Brain Chemistry	
	Nov. 27	NO CLASS	Paper Due: BioPsych in the Media
15	Dec. 2	Psych Disorders & Treatment	
	Dec. 4	Careers in Psychology	
16	Dec. 9	Career Discussion	
	Dec. 11	Review	Paper Due – Interests & Career
	Dec TBD	Final Exam	Study

Course Policies

Plagiarism & Generative AI (ChatGPT, etc.)

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism:

- Copying others' words without the use of quotation marks or citations.
- Presenting others' ideas or theories without acknowledging the source.
- Using information that is not common knowledge without citing sources.

Plagiarism includes submitting term papers or parts of term papers you did not write, paraphrasing or copying information without citing the source, and "cutting and pasting" from various sources without proper attribution (including ChatGPT and AI text generators). Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. **It is your responsibility to make sure you cite your sources, and not copy directly from the internet without citing the source.** See the [John Jay College Policy of Academic Integrity](#)

I do not encourage or tolerate the use of Generative AI to complete writing assignments for this class, especially the Synthesis Paper writing assignments. When you use AI tools the AI generated content is not original work - you do not write the words, develop the statements, or generate the ideas. In other words, you did not produce the knowledge. The content is produced by AI and therefore you may not learn from the assignment.

I want your papers to be in your own words, in your unique voice, with your original ideas - even if that means there are a few grammar errors, or it's not "perfectly" written. You will have many opportunities to refine your writing during college, use this class as an opportunity to begin developing your own writing voice and style.

Incomplete Grades

An INC grade may be given only if you would pass the course if you were to satisfactorily complete course requirements. It is within my discretion to assign the grade of INC. INC grades will only be given in consultation with the student.

If a grade of INC is given, incomplete work is due by no later than the end of the third week of the following spring semester.

When assigning the INC grade, I will grade your outstanding coursework and submit your grade for the course any time from the date you submit the completed work until the end of the following fall or spring semester. If I do not submit a change of grade, the incomplete grade automatically becomes the grade of FIN.

Student Resources

Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in room 01.68 New Building, is a service that provides free tutoring to students of John Jay. The Center has a staff of trained tutors who work with students to help them become more effective writers, from planning and organizing a paper, to writing and then proofreading it.

<https://jjcweb.jjay.cuny.edu/writing/Writing%20Center%20Online.htm>

Lloyd Sealy Library

The Library provides online resources at *no cost* to students:

<https://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/content/providing-online-resources-students-during-remote-learning>

Department of Counseling (L68.02 New Building)

The Department of Counseling provides services for students for support with adjustment to college life, choice of majors, and exploring the special programs; it offers individual and group counseling, psychological services, crisis intervention, outreach, and consultation

Wellness Center

Students experiencing any personal, medical, financial or family-related distress, which may affect their ability to fulfill the requirements of this course, are encouraged to visit the Wellness Center (L.65 NB). Available resources include Counseling Services, Health Services, Food Bank, and legal and tax aid through Single Stop. <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/wellness-resources>

Healthcare

The Student Health Center is a primary health care facility available to all John Jay students with a valid ID. Most of the services are free of charge.

<https://new.jjay.cuny.edu/student-life/wellness-center/health-center>

Food Bank: <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/john-jay-food-bank>

Tuition, Financial Aid, Emergency Funding

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/tuition-financial-aid>

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/scholarships> <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/emergency-funding>

Resources for Undocumented Students

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/undocumentedstudents>

ESL Resources

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/esl-support-services>