# Introduction to Psychology

HUL 261 (M Slot)

Semester 1, 2021

**Course Instructors:**

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**Course Description**

This course would deliver an insightful introduction to various aspects of human behavior and mental processes. Students would engage in an interactive learning of the concepts, terminology, principles, history and relevance of the field of Psychology to their academic as well as day-to-day lives. Every component of the course would have an underpinning focus on rigorous scientific approach and empirical research evidence.

**Expectations and Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites as such, but it is expected that students will read the material before coming to the class and participate in class activities and discussions.

**Academic Honesty**

You will be required to sign the pledge and abide by it. Any form of cheating in any examination or assignment will count against you. All students have the responsibility to abide by academic honesty him/herself and also report any student who they might know of indulging dishonest behavior.

**Lectures:**

Both live online video lectures and video recorded lectures will be provided. Some classes will be in synchronous mode. You are expected to attend all sessions.

**Tutorials:**

Tutorials will be conducted on a weekly basis. Tutorials will also be used as doubt clearing/ help sessions. The students will be divided into groups and a TA will be assigned to each group.

**Reading Material**

- Online and PDF version of the textbook is available here: http://noba.to/6pgmy2rc

    The direct links to each topic is also added in the content below.

- Professor's notes, powerpoints and prescribed readings

**Audit/Pass criteria (out of 100)**

The pass criterion for the course (i.e., to get D grade) one needs to score >= 30.

The audit pass criterion for the course is D.

**Evaluation:**

Exam I - 20 marks

Exam II - 20 marks

Memos - 20 marks

Group Project - 20 marks

Research participation - 20 marks

*Pen-and-paper examinations in online mode:*
The process of the exam involves the question paper being provided using different means including email, VC software (e.g., MS Teams), upload to Moodle as an assignment a few minutes before the start time of the exam (say 5 min), etc.

Students write the exam on plain paper, scan it using the cell-phone scan-to-pdf apps (Microsoft Office Lens; Adobe Scan, etc.) and upload to the pdf files to Moodle as submission of assignment or send as an attachment to email [as announced in due course]. The exams could also be conducted on Moodle where students type in the answers. The exact logistics would be shared before each exam.

**Final Grading:**
Grading will be relative to the performance of the cohort but will not force fit any distribution.

**Re-minors:**

Only in exceptional circumstances and with prior permission. A medical certificate is required in case you miss the exam for medical reasons.

**Course Content**

| Week | Class | No. of Hours |
|---|---|---|
| 9 Aug – 13 Aug | **Week 1. Introduction: Psychology as a Science** <br><br> 1. What should you expect to learn in this course? Course Overview and Approach (S & Y) <br><br> 2. Thinking like a scientist to understand the mind; Addressing the real world using basic and applied research (S) | **1.5** <br><br><br> **1.5** |
| 16 Aug – 20 Aug | **Week 2. Introduction: History and Method** <br><br> 1. History of Psychology and its development (Y) <br><br> 2. Research designs (S) <br><br> Read on your own: Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World | **1.5** <br><br><br> **1.5** |
| 23 Aug – 27 Aug | **Week 3. Perception and Attention** <br> Information Processing, Models of Information-Processing <br>       Perceptual systems <br>             -   sensation and perception , Perception of <br>               forms (S) | **1.5** |

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| | -     Attention, (S), Social attention (S)<br><br>Tutorial Activity: Case study on Eyewitness testimonials | **1.5** |
| 30 Aug – 03 Sep | **Week 4. Memory and Learning**<br><br>-   **Memory:** encoding, storage, retrieval, (S)<br>-<br>-   **Learning**: Factors influencing learning (S)<br><br><br><br>Tutorial Activity: See demonstration and discuss Inattentional blindness<br><br>**Research Participation 1A:** <mark>**(5 marks)**</mark> | **1.5**<br><br>**1.5** |
| 6 Sep – 10 Sep | **Week 5. Judgment and Decision Making**<br><br>    1. Judgment<br>    2.  Decision Making<br><br><br>Tutorial Activity: Effective learning (what we know from research)<br><br><br>**Research Participation 1B:** <mark>**(5 marks)**</mark> | **1.5**<br><br>**1.5** |
| 13 Sep – 17 Sep | **Week 6.**<br><br>**Assignment 1**: Create a poster containing functionality for a digital tool that can impact or change behavior and link it to any specific psychological concept covered. The submission include brief explanation (upto 250 words) and the sample user interface on a A4 or A3 size word document or ppt of pdf. <mark>**(5 marks). Due by 15th Nov.**</mark> | **1.5**<br>**1.5** |
| | **Exam – 1 <mark>(20 Marks)</mark>**<br>**(**19 Sep – 22 Sep**)** | |
| 27 Sep – 01 Oct | **Week 7. Cognition and Emotion in the Real World**<br><br>1. Social Cognition and Attitudes (Y)<br><br>2. Culture & Culture and Emotions (Y) | |

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| | Tutorial Activity: Group discussion and activities on Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Ted Talk "Danger of a Single Story" | |
| 04 Oct – 08 Oct | **Week 8. Individuals, Groups and Bystanders**<br><br>1. Helping and Prosocial behavior (Y)<br><br>2. Psychology of groups (Y)<br><br>Tutorial Activity: Participation in a variation of Social Identity Wheel Activity | |
| 11 Oct – 14 Oct | **Week 9. Authority, Influence and Bias**<br><br>1. Conformity and Obedience (Y)<br><br>2. Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination (Y)<br><br>Tutorial Activity: Critical discussion and activities on prejudice and stereotypes in Indian society.<br><br>**Research Participation 2 A: (5 marks)** | |
| | **Mid Sem break**<br>**(15 Oct – 22 Oct)**<br>(No class on 21 Oct) | |
| 25 Oct -29 Oct | **Week 10. Applications**<br><br>1. Public Order Policing (Y)<br><br>2. Covid Pandemic (Y)<br><br>Tutorial Activity: Online interactive activities related to behavior change interventions into Covid Pandemic followed up by discussion.<br><br>**Research Participation 2 B: (5 marks)** | 1.5<br><br>1.5 |
| | **Week 11.**<br><br>3. Application - Designing digital nudges (S) | 1.5 |

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| 01 Nov-03 Nov | | |
| 08 Nov -11 Nov | **Week 12. Revision and Summary** (S & Y) <br><br> **Group Project Submission/Presentation- 20 marks** | **1.5** |
| | **Exam – 2 (20 Marks)** <br> **(6 Jan-12 Jan)** | |