

# PSYC S100: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2021

## 1 Course information

*Class schedule* F 2:00 pm–2:50 pm  
Room O269

*Instructor* Alan Jern  
Email: [jern@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:jern@rose-hulman.edu)

*Open meeting times* Th 3:00–4:00 pm, F 1:00–1:50 pm (On Teams)

*Textbook* Peter Gray, *Psychology*, 8th edition (E-book acceptable)

## 2 Overview

Psychology is the study of mind and behavior. This course will provide you with a broad overview of the science of psychology. Some of the questions we will consider are:

- How do we interpret sensory information?
- What motivates us?
- How do our brains create emotions?
- How accurate are our memories?
- How do children learn language?
- How much do other people influence our behavior?
- What is the difference between clinical depression and the ordinary feeling of sadness?

You can probably formulate some answers to these questions just by reflecting on your own experience. As you will learn, however, we often have far less insight into the nature of our behavior than it seems. In this course, we will focus on answering questions like these by treating people as scientific subjects. We will consider psychological theories, experiments, and case studies that address these questions and many others.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify some of the basic concepts and broad themes of psychology, with examples.
- Apply some psychological principles to everyday life.
- Interpret the results of a psychological or behavioral study.
- Evaluate psychological or behavioral research by identifying some of the strengths and potential flaws in its design.
- Read a psychological or behavioral research paper and summarize its main conclusions.

### 3 Assessment

Component	Points
Exam 1	215
Exam 2	215
Paper	365
Quizzes	90
Participation	100
Total	985

#### 3.1 Exams

Exams will be online and will be open-book and open-notes. Collaboration and copying answers (plagiarism) is prohibited. Your answers on essay and short answer questions must be in your own words. If you violate these rules you will get a 0. There will be no final exam.

#### 3.2 Paper

Assignment	Points
Paper topics	10
Paper sources	20
Paper outline	20
First draft and peer review	75
Final draft	200
Presentation	50
Total	365

You will submit a literature review paper at the beginning of the 10th week. The purpose of this paper is to summarize the research on a psychological topic of your choice. In addition to the paper itself, you will give a presentation summarizing what you learned, which will be recorded and posted on Moodle. The rest of the class will view your presentation at home.

### 3.3 Quizzes

There will be an online quiz roughly every week. They are open-book and open-notes. Collaboration and copying answers is prohibited. These quizzes will consist mostly of questions related to the video lectures and readings from the preceding week. Your two lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the quarter. No late quiz submissions will be accepted, **no exceptions**.

### 3.4 Participation

Participation refers to both online and in-class participation. Online participation means posting thoughtful responses to reading questions in the forums. In-class participation means good attendance and asking and answering questions in class. Please see the participation grading rubric on Moodle for more information.

I will assign participation scores three times over the quarter. Your final participation score for the quarter will be the sum of these scores.

### 3.5 Final grade

Grades will be assigned as follows.

Percentage	Grade
$\geq 90\%$	A
87–89.9%	B+
80–86.7%	B
77–79.7%	C+
70–76.7%	C
67–69.9%	D+
60–66.9%	D
$< 60\%$	F

## 4 Course policies

### 4.1 Late assignments

For the entire course, you will have **two free late days** that can be used for the **paper assignments ONLY** (i.e., not quizzes). Assignments will be considered one day late if they are submitted any time after the submission deadline up to 24 hours later. Assignments will be considered two days late if they are submitted any time between 24 and 48 hours after the submission deadline. You don't need to notify me in advance if you plan to use one of your late days—I will keep track of your late days and notify you by email when you have no late days remaining.

Any assignments submitted after using your late days will not be accepted. The purpose for this policy is to help me grade and return your work in a timely fashion.

### 4.2 Blind grading

Do not include your name on anything (including file name) you submit on Moodle, unless I say otherwise. The reason for this is because I use a feature on Moodle called blind grading that lets

me grade your assignments without seeing your names—your names (which Moodle knows) are revealed after I’ve finished grading the assignment. I do this to keep my grading as fair as possible. If you put your name on the assignment, it undermines the process.

### 4.3 Asking for help

I highly encourage you to contact me if you ever need help in this course. That’s what I’m here for! But I also want you to encourage you to be self-sufficient whenever possible. So if you ever ask me a question that can be easily answered on this syllabus or the Moodle page (a due date, a page limit, whether an upcoming exam is open-book), **I will deduct 1 point from your grade total.**

The corollary of this policy is that if you ever find anything on this syllabus or the Moodle page that looks like a genuine mistake (the wrong date, inconsistent information) and you ask me about it, **I will give you 1 point of extra credit.** (Only the first person to tell me gets the extra credit.)

### 4.4 Academic integrity

Academic misconduct will be addressed according to the policies described in the Rose-Hulman student handbook. Academic misconduct includes: (1) submitting work that is not your own; (2) copying ideas, words, or graphics from any source without appropriate citation; (3) misrepresenting your work or yourself (i.e., deliberately submitting the wrong assignment or lying to explain a late assignment); (4) collaborating with other students when this is not permitted; and (5) submitting the same work for credit in two courses without prior consent of both instructors. If you are unsure whether something qualifies as academic misconduct, please check with me before engaging in the behavior.

## 5 Course schedule

Below is a tentative schedule for the quarter. Quizzes will always be due at 11:59 pm on Mondays. Otherwise, I've left off specific due dates because they may vary from week to week. Check Moodle regularly for updated information.

Weekly reading assignments, including textbook readings, will be also be posted on Moodle, along with exercises and activities to be completed before coming to class that week.

Module	Week(s)	Due
Intro and methods	0/1	Quiz 1
Perception, memory, learning	2	Quiz 2
Emotion and motivation	3	Quiz 3
		Paper topics
Development	4/5	Quiz 4
		Paper sources
		Exam 1
Social behavior	6/7	Quiz 5
		Paper outline
		Paper draft
Personality and disorders	8	Quiz 6
		Peer review
Bonus topic	9	Quiz 7
Presentations	10	Quiz 8
		Exam 2
		Final paper
		Presentation