

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH — DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY 0010-1130 (CRN 14158)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15pm Lawrence Hall 121 Fall 2024

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UTA Office Hours: TBA

Textbook: The course utilizes **Read & Practice** from **Introducing Psychology** 6th Ed. by Schacter, Gilber & Nock (2024), offered through Macmillan Learning. Purchasing Achieve Read and Practice includes the **Ebook** and the ability to complete the **Learning Curve activities**. You will not be able to complete the Learning Curve activities if you do not purchase Achieve Read and Practice.

Gaining access to Achieve Read and Practice

To Begin

Log into our Canvas page

On the left-hand side, click on **Macmillan Learning**

Click Achieve and enter your Pitt email (or a preexisting achieve email, if you have one, it is fine if you do not)

Next, select Purchase Read and Practice Access or Enter an access code that you have already purchased from the University Bookstore. You can purchase an access code in the site or at the University Bookstore.

If you are on a scholarship or other financial support that covers your textbooks, only purchase the access code at the University Bookstore.

If you have financial issues in regards to purchasing Achieve Read and Practice, email Dr. Cousins

Video instructions

<https://youtu.be/nylnY7J5wSQ>

Research Participation Requirement website: <http://pitt.sona-systems.com>

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an overview of fundamental areas within the field of Psychology. We will discuss such topics as research methods, consciousness, learning and memory, biological basis of behavior, developmental patterns, personality and adjustment, and psychopathology. The research, concepts and theories discussed across these topics allow us to better understand human behavior.

THEMES OF THE COURSE

As mentioned above, this course takes a broad look at some of the main areas within the field of Psychology. In addition to learning about these areas of Psychology there are three main themes that we will address during the course, 1) *the ability to think critically about science, science writing and scientific research* and 2) *the inclusion and recognition the importance of diverse researchers and research* and 3) *how psychological concepts can help us understand our own thinking and biases*. These three themes are critical to understanding Psychology and the field of Psychology.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS & INFORMATION

The course Canvas platform contains detailed course information, including announcements, syllabus, research participation, lecture outlines and information, study guides and exam and assignment grades. Materials covered in class will be posted prior to the class meetings in each respective module. Read all the information posted in Canvas and regularly check the website for new announcements and postings. If you don't already have one, the staff in any of the CIS computing labs can help you set up your Pitt computer account, which you must have to gain full access to the website. If you have trouble using our website, please contact the CIS helpdesk or me.

- Read the syllabus and class information on Canvas – and when you have questions see if you can find the answer on Canvas or in the syllabus first.
- By remaining enrolled in this class, you have agreed to the exam schedule and terms as specified in this syllabus. So please be sure to read the syllabus carefully.
- Please be courteous and respectful of all in the class. I will treat you with courtesy and respect, and I expect the same from you towards me and, more importantly, towards your fellow students.
- If you are struggling, need help with the course material, or did not perform well on the first exam, see me immediately for help early in the term. There is nothing that can be done at the end of the term after you have taken most of the exams.

Schedule of Topics and Exam Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapters/Modules</u>	<u>Exam Dates</u>
August 27	Introduction to the Course & What is Psychology?	Chapter 1	
August 29, September 3	Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2	
September 5, 10	Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 3	
September 12, 17, 19	Neuroscience and Consciousness	Chapter 5	
September 24	Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5		EXAM 1
September 26, October 1	Learning	Chapter 7	
October 3, 8	Cognitive Psychology: Memory	Chapter 6	
October 10, 17	Cognitive Psychology: Language and Thought	Chapter 9	
October 15	Fall Break		
October 22	Chapters 7, 6 and 9		EXAM 2
October 24, 29	Developmental Psychology	Chapter 10	
October 31	Personality	Chapter 11	
November 5, 7, 12	Social Psychology	Chapter 12	
November 14	Chapters 10, 11 and 12		EXAM 3
November 19, 21	Clinical Disorders	Chapter 14	
November 26, 28	Thanksgiving		
December 3	Stress and Health	Chapter 13	
December 5	Therapies	Chapter 15	
December 10	Chapters 13, 14 and 15		EXAM 4

Make- up Cumulative Final Exam: Tuesday December 17th 2:00pm – 3:50pm*Note: This is only if you were unable to take all 4 of the exams during the semester. The make-up final will then count as your 4th exam and the lowest of the 4 exams will be dropped. You may not take 5 exams and drop 2.

Here is a chart of the assignments and exams for the course and when they are due. Detailed information about these assignments is below.

Schedule of Assignments, Exams and Due Dates

Peerceptiv Assignments	Available	Submission Due	Reviews Due	Task Due
Peerceptiv Assignment 1: Correlations	Tuesday September 3	Tuesday September 10	Tuesday September 17	Sunday September 22
Peerceptiv Assignment 2: Research Study Design	Tuesday October 1	Tuesday October 8	Thursday October 17	Tuesday October 22

Peerceptiv Assignment 3: Empirical Design	Thursday October 24	Thursday October 31	Thursday November 7	Tuesday November 12
Make-up Assignment	Thursday November 14	Thursday November 21	Tuesday December 3	Sunday December 8
	Available			Due
Learning Curve Assignments	Completed on Canvas in the Learning Curve Modules			
LearningCurve 3b : Neuroscience	Tuesday September 3			Friday September 13
LearningCurve 5a : Consciousness	Monday September 9			Monday September 23
LearningCurve 7b : Learning	Wednesday September 25			Friday October 4
LearningCurve 6c : Memory	Tuesday October 1			Friday October 11
LearningCurve 9a : Language	Tuesday October 8			Friday October 18
LearningCurve 10b : Development	Tuesday October 22			Friday November 1
LearningCurve 12b : Social	Sunday November 3			Friday November 15
LearningCurve 14a : Clinical	Sunday November 17			Friday November 22
LearningCurve 13b : Stress	Sunday December 1			Friday December 6
LearningCurve 15a : Therapies	Monday December 2			Sunday December 8
In-Class Activities (12 pts total)	Random throughout the semester. Completed in class			Or, 24 hours after presented in class
Research Participation (8 points) Each study or paper is worth two points.	Completed on your own time. Outside of class			Tuesday December 10 Studies and reports (papers) completed by the last day of classes.
Exams (120 points total – 40 pts each) Lowest Exam score out of 4 gets dropped, if you take all 4 Exams	Exams are held in person in our classroom			
Exam 1				Tuesday September 24
Exam 2				Tuesday October 22
Exam 3				Thursday November 14
Exam 4				Tuesday December 10
Make-up Exam (only if you missed one of the four exams)	Held during the class official Final Exam schedule.			Tuesday December 17 2:00 – 3:50pm

STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM RECORDING: According to University policy, to ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not audio or video record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance is to be used solely for the student's own private use (i.e., it may not be posted publicly, distributed for use by other students, or sold).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination and other devices of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. A minimum sanction of a zero score for an exam will be imposed and further disciplinary action may be taken. The incident of cheating will be reported to the Dean's Office.

Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries, programmable calculators, and electronic devices. Students suspected of cheating may be asked to move to the front of the room or separated from others. For further information on student obligations, please review the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#).

The work that you submit in this course is expected to be your own. You may not complete assignments using generative AI, such as Chat GPT, or copying someone else's work. If you use resources to help you develop your examples for the Peerceptiv assignments, you must cite the source and the assignment must be in your own words. If plagiarism is detected, the rules above apply.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION: Every student in this class, regardless of personal history or identity, is a valued member of this group. Your experiences are valuable and important, and you should feel free to share them as they become relevant to our class. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. No student in this class is ever expected or believed to speak for all the members of a group. As a member of this class, you have a right to be called by whatever name you wish, and for that name to be pronounced correctly (I will make every effort not to need corrections, but please correct me every time I mispronounce your name or use incorrect pronouns!). If you find that there are aspects of course instruction, subject matter, or classroom environment that result in barriers to your comfort and well-being in the class, please contact me via email or schedule an appointment to discuss this. If you'd like to contact me anonymously, please leave a note in my mailbox on the third floor of Sennott Square outside the Psychology Department administrative offices.

GENDER INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE: Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Just as sexist language excludes women's experiences, non-gender-inclusive language excludes the experiences of individuals whose identities may not fit the gender binary, and/or who may not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Identities including trans, intersex, and genderqueer reflect personal descriptions, expressions, and experiences. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of any gender (for example, first year student versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind, etc.). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students, faculty, and staff may share their preferred pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored.

MENTAL HEALTH: Many of us face issues with our mental health over the course of our lives, and sometimes being a student can create or exacerbate these issues. If you are having any problems or concerns such as relationship issues, emotional or social difficulties, substance use, feeling overwhelmed, feeling lost, having concerns about your classes or academic progress, or you just need someone to talk to, I encourage you to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Center. These services are free and confidential. To make an appointment, call 412-648-7930 or visit the Counseling Center, 119 Mark A. Nordenberg Hall. Please don't wait until you reach a state of crisis to ask for help. It's hard to do, but important.

STUDENT ATHLETES: Ask your coach or the Athletics Department for the "instructor's letter" and your sports schedule. Please give me your schedule during the first two weeks of class for my class file. Check for conflicts with exams and discuss the situation with me ASAP and before the conflict date. Please remember that it is your responsibility to speak with me well in advance of the schedule conflict to determine what arrangements can be made to complete the work.

DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 [412-383-7355 (TTY)] as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. A comprehensive description of the services of that office can be obtained at <http://www.drs.pitt.edu/>

COMMUNICATION: Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to university communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Gmail). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Set Email Preferences, Email Forwarding, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html.)

Please feel free to email me. I try to reply to students within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Weekends are variable, so you can expect to receive a reply to weekend messages on Mondays. If you do not receive a reply in 2 weekdays, send the message again as messages do get lost in cyberspace or are re-routed to the spam-message mailbox.

Email is great for brief communications. If you have a *specific* question, send it along. For example, “My understanding of X is ____ and it seems to relate to Y in the following way _____. Is my understanding of this, correct?” If you have a more involved/complicated question or one that requires lengthy explanations, such as “What is theory X about?”, please see me as it is more efficient for us to speak in person via zoom for me to provide an explanation.

MISSING CLASS

If you must miss class for any reason, you can review the notes posted on Canvas, contact another student in class for the information, or stop by UTA/TA/Instructor’s office hours. Please contact Dr. Cousins and provide documentation when absences have an impact on the exams. This should be done via email or before or after class as soon as possible. If you are having trouble attending class or completing assignments, please contact Dr. Cousins, the sooner the better.

OFFICE HOURS and APPOINTMENTS

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30am – 1:30pm at 3103 Sennott Square, or by appointment. You can come to office hours to talk about the course material, psychology in general, research/internship opportunities, if you need help with or want to review the course materials, want general advice, want to go over your exams, if you have questions about assignments, or anything class related. You can also come to office hours if you want to say hi or if you just want to tell me how your day is going. You do not have to make an appointment for office hours during the scheduled time; just show up, students are seen on a first come, first served basis. I do make appointments to meet with students during other day/times if my office hours conflict with your class or work schedule - talk to me before or after class or email me to make an appointment. This will require that you plan ahead so that we have time to make an appointment. When emailing to make an appointment to meet during day/times other than office hours, please send along all the days/times when you are available to meet during the next several days. Once you send me your availability schedule, I will see what fits my schedule and set the meeting. I am happy to meet with you.

GRADES

Your course grade will be determined from the 3 out of the 4 Exams, Peerceptiv Assignments, Learning Curve Activities, In-Class Activities, and the Research Participation. The total points add up to 200. Add up your total points and divide by 200 to obtain your grade average percent.

Exams	60% - 120 points
Exam 1	40 points*
Exam 2	40 points*
Exam 3	40 points*
Exam 4	40 points*
Peerceptiv Assignments	15% - 30 points (10 pts each; 4 pts per submission, 4 pts per review, 2 pts per task)
Learning Curve Activities	15% - 30 points (3 points each)
In-class Activities	6% - 12 points
Research Participation	4% - 8 points (2 points per study/paper)

*You must take all 4 exams; the lowest score will be dropped so that the top 3 scores count towards your final exam score.

Your grade average percent will translate into your final letter grade as follows:

A+ = 97 – 100%	B+ = 87 – 89%	C+ = 77 – 79%	D+ = 67 – 69%	F = below 60%
A = 93 – 96%	B = 83 – 86%	C = 73 – 76%	D = 63 – 66%	
A– = 90 – 92%	B– = 80 – 82%	C– = 70 – 72%	D– = 60 – 62%	

EXAMS: Four exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will include 40 multiple-choice questions.

Exams will include material from both the textbook and lecture. Some of the information presented in class will overlap with the textbook, and some will not. Therefore, you should review and understand all information that was presented in class (including videos, demonstrations, etc.) and in the textbook. This includes the, what, where, how, and why, and not just definitions. Also, be prepared to apply information to situational questions. The distribution of questions from the different sources will vary. A study guide will be posted on Canvas one week prior to each of the exams. The exams will be taken in the classroom, you must turn in a scantron and your exam during the exam period. If you do not, the exam will count as one of your four exams, and you will receive a zero.

Exams 1 through 4 will cover the topics as listed on the class schedule. The lowest score of the four exams will be dropped from the final exam grade and your top 3 exams scores will count towards your final grade. **YOU MUST TAKE FOUR OF THE EXAMS TO HAVE THE LOWEST GRADE DROPPED. If you do not take 4 Exams, a zero will be given as your score for the Exam you missed, and all the Exam scores (including the zero) will be averaged together for your total Exam score.**

If you must miss one of the four exams (**for any reason**) you can “make it up” by taking the optional cumulative final exam. The make-up final exam is **ONLY** for making up a missed exam. You may not take 5 exams and drop 2. The optional cumulative make-up final exam will be given during finals week following the University’s final exam schedule. The score from the final exam will be counted as the fourth exam score and after, the drop-lowest policy will apply. ***Therefore, no makeup exams will be given prior to finals week and no exams will be given early, regardless of the reason.***

If you are having difficulty and are missing exams, you need to meet with me to discuss your situation. There are no make-up exams, except for extreme circumstances. Extreme circumstances require written documentation. If you have an extreme circumstance, you need to see me, Dr. Cousins as soon as you can. You are welcome to stop by during office hours to review your exams and ask questions. Answers will not be posted on Canvas nor emailed.

PEERCEPTIV ASSIGNMENTS: You must complete 3 peerceptiv assignments. Each assignment has a total of 10 points. The breakdown of the points is below. If you miss an assignment or are unhappy with your score on one of the assignments, you may complete the make-up peerceptiv assignment to count as your third assignment or to replace your lowest grade. There are three components to each peerceptiv assignment: submission, reviewing and overall task. You get points for each component you complete per assignment and a 0 on each component you do not complete, and a 0 for the assignment if you do not submit, review, or do feedback or your work is plagiarized.

Submission Grade: You can earn up to 4 points, 40% of the assignment grade, on your submission. Your submission grade is based on the ratings received on your work. If you submit an assignment, you will receive a submission grade. If you do not provide a submission for an assignment, you will receive a 0 for your submission grade.

Review Grade: You can earn up to 4 points, 40% of the assignment grade, for your review grade. Your review grade is based on the accuracy and helpfulness of your reviews. Accuracy is determined by how similar your review rates are in comparison to the other ratings given by the other reviewers on the same submission. Helpfulness is determined based on the feedback from the submitter when the rates the helpfulness of the comments received. Accuracy and helpfulness each count 50% for the reviewing grade. You will receive a 0 for your review grade if you do not complete any reviews.

Note: It is important that you read every submission and provide thoughtful and constructive responses for each. If you give the exact same responses to every submission, your review score goes down.

Task Grade: The task grade is worth up to 2 points, 20% of the assignment grade, and reflects whether you completed all the required reviewing and task grades. You receive full credit if you review 3 submissions and complete 3 feedback tasks. You receive 50% if you do only reviews or only feedback.

LEARNING CURVE ACTIVITIES: The learning curve activities are available on Canvas via the Macmillan Learning tab on the left side of the Canvas page. You will click on the link and a Learning Curve will open in a new window. Each Learning Curve consists of a series of questions based on material we have covered in class and that is in the ebook. There are 10 Learning Curves to complete throughout the semester, each worth 3 points, for a total of 30 points. The Learning Curves are graded on completion, if you complete the assignment, you earn 3 points. If you miss a Learning Curve deadline, you have up to 4 days to complete it for partial credit, at 20% less per day.

IN CLASS ACTIVITIES: There will be in-class activities given at random throughout the course. They will be given during the lecture. However, the activities are on canvas, and you will have an opportunity to complete the activity for 24 hours after the lecture has ended. The in-class activities will total 12 points. There are no make-ups for these activities if you missed it during class or in the 24-hour period after class you cannot make it up.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENT

What is research? Scientists—including those here at Pitt—learn about human thinking and behavior by conducting surveys on relationship satisfaction, testing which study strategies result in the best exam grades, and measuring brain activity as people learn words in a new language, among many others.

One goal of Introduction to Psychology is that, in addition to learning *what* scientists have discovered about psychology, you will also learn *how* psychologists conducted that research.

To see first-hand how psychologists perform research, the Department of Psychology gives all students in this course a research assignment worth up to 4% of your total grade.

You may earn the **4 credits** to complete this research assignment in several ways:

- Participate in approved research studies conducted by professors in the Department of Psychology. Each hour of participation counts as 1 credit towards the 4 total credits possible. This is the **preferred** option—you will get to see how researchers right here at Pitt are studying psychology, *and* contributing your participation will provide us with valuable scientific knowledge that enhances our understanding of psychology and the world we live in.
- Write brief reports on published psychology research articles. Each article report counts as 1 credit towards the 4 total credits possible.
- You can combine research participation and article reports to reach your 4 credits total.

You **cannot** earn more than 100% from the research assignment; there is no extra credit for doing additional studies or article reports.

The research assignment **must be completed by 11:59 PM on the last day of undergraduate classes, as listed on Pitt's academic calendar.**

(i.e., this week includes the date marked as "Last day for undergraduate day classes" on the calendar).

If you've previously taken Introduction to Psychology at Pitt and completed some or all of the research assignment, you can transfer your credits to the current term by e-mailing the research coordinator at sfraundo@pitt.edu.

Many common questions are answered on the Research Participation Pool website:

⇒ <http://psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/research-participation-sona-system>

If you still have questions or problems with research participation, please contact the research pool coordinator, Dr. Scott Fraundorf, at sfraundo@pitt.edu, **not your instructor**. Dr. Fraundorf coordinates the research assignment across all sections of Introduction to Psychology.

To sign up for research studies:

To sign up for research studies, visit the Sona Systems website:

⇒ <http://pitt.sona-systems.com>

Only studies from this pitt.sona-systems.com website count towards the research assignment. For example, if you sign up for a paid research study somewhere else on campus (such as the Economics Department's Sona site), you can't get class credit for that because you are already getting paid.

You can log in to the Sona Systems site using your usual Pitt Passport account.

There is also a Sona Systems **app** for your phone or tablet that you can get from the iOS or Android app store. The app uses the same login as the website.

To participate in research studies, **you must be at least 18 years old**. If you are not 18 years old, you will have to complete the assignment by writing article reports.

Other tips:

- The requirements for each research study are listed on the Sona Systems site. **Please make certain that you meet the requirements of each study before signing up**—otherwise they can turn you away!
- **Don't be a no-show!** For in-person studies, you must show up to the scheduled appointment; for online studies, you must complete them by the posted due date. If you cannot, you must cancel **at least 24 hours in advance**. Some studies require extensive preparation by the researchers. If you no-show twice without canceling, you will no longer be allowed to sign up for research studies and will have to earn the remaining points using the report option.
- **Don't do during them during the class time!** If you cannot find another time that works for you, please contact the experimenter to see if you can find a mutually agreeable time that would not require you to miss class.
- **Some research studies will not become available until later in the semester.** Please be patient and check the web site often for research opportunities. If you are worried about finding enough studies in time, you may consider writing an article report instead.
- If you would like, you can get a **weekly e-mail listing currently-available studies**. Once you have signed in on the Sona Systems website, click "My Profile" and there is an option at the bottom to receive a weekly e-mail announcement.

To write article reports:

Go to this web site for a list of articles and information on what should be included in the report and how to submit it:

⇒ <http://psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/research-participation-sona-system/writing-research-papers>

You will submit your article reports on the IntroPsych Papers Canvas site, which is linked on the website above. Use the assignments "Article Report 1," "Article Report 2," and so on.

This site uses Turnitin to check for plagiarism, so be certain that all of the information is written in your own words. If you are not sure what this entails, please see <http://plagiarism.org>.