Assessment - Active Participation

To pass this (pass/fail) element you need to attend and participate in discussions and group work in at least 10 of the 13 classes. Limited exceptions 'may' be granted due to e.g. illness.

Assessment - Group Presentation

In groups of 3-5, explore a chosen psychological phenomenon through the lens of dynamic systems. This is intended to serve as a basis for your individual report, treat it as a chance to try out ideas and gain feedback.

Presentation Structure / Submission:

The presentation should last 10-15 minutes. Submit your slides before, or on, the 3rd of December 2025 via email to <michael.aristodemou@psychologie.uzh.ch> with subject "Presentation Slides - DSTP". Format slides as pdf or pptx. If you would like to use a different format, then you have to make sure you can connect your own device to the projector. The presentation(s) will take place on the 4th of December 2025.

Task:

1. **Select a Psychological Phenomenon:** Maybe a topic you've already worked on, or something of interest.
2. **Conceptual Story:** Craft a narrative explaining the phenomenon's changes over time and among individuals, considering factors such as environmental influences, developmental trajectories, individual differences, and feedback loops. This narrative does not need to be based in empirical research, but should make sense as one possible description of the system.
3. **Visualization:** Use suitable methods to visualize and convey your ideas of the system dynamics – simulation, plotting, hand drawn diagrams, formal mathematics – feel free to get creative.
4. **Background Research:** This is not required, but some literature research can stimulate your thoughts on the topic.

Assessment Criteria - Group Presentation:

1. **Understanding of Course Content:** Demonstrate understanding of course concepts, mathematical and statistical concepts, and their application to psychological phenomena.
2. **Complexity & Depth:** Explore the phenomenon's complexity by e.g., integrating multiple processes, time scales, and potential influences on system dynamics and or measurement properties.
3. **Critical Thinking:** Engage in critical analysis, considering strengths, alternatives, and limitations.
4. **Presentation Quality:** Deliver a clear, coherent, and engaging presentation, focusing on organization, clarity of visuals, and verbal delivery.
5. **Collaboration & Contribution:** Demonstrate effective group collaboration.

Assessment - Individual Report:

Report Structure/Submission:

The report should roughly be between 1000 and 3000 words, 7-15 pages. The individual report must be submitted by email to <michael.aristodemou@psychologie.uzh.ch> on the 12th of December 2025, in PDF format.

Task:

Building upon the group presentation, extend your theoretical model in new directions, and incorporate any feedback you received during the presentation. The report should demonstrate a solid grasp of course concepts and showcase the your ability to consider psychological concepts from a dynamic systems perspective. More specifically, take the theoretical possibilities discussed in your presentation, extend / critique these, and represent them using some combination of visualization / mathematical / simulation approaches that we have looked at in class. Do not be restricted by technical competence; feel free to consider and discuss possibilities that you are not able to formally represent or statistically model, highlight these difficulties, and discuss your rationale for proceeding with a simplified form (if desired).

Assessment Criteria - Individual Report:

1. **Understanding of Course Content:** Demonstrate understanding of course concepts, mathematical and statistical concepts, and their application to psychological phenomena.
2. **Complexity & Depth:** Explore the phenomenon's complexity by e.g., integrating multiple processes, time scales, and potential influences on system dynamics and or measurement properties. Demonstrate originality and creativity in your analysis and interpretation of the chosen phenomenon. Explore novel approaches or insights that go beyond what was covered in the group presentation.
3. **Critical Thinking:** Engage in critical analysis, considering strengths, alternatives, and limitations.
4. **System Specification and Analysis:** : Specify the system using appropriate methods, such as formal mathematics, descriptive analysis, and R code where applicable. Provide clear and insightful visualizations of the system dynamics.
5. **Clarity and Organization:** Present your analysis in a clear, well-organized manner, with logical flow and appropriate use of headings, subheadings, and visuals.
6. **Use of R Code:** Where applicable, include R code, and ensure code it is well-commented and organized.

Assessment - Oral Exam

Examination Date & Location:

The oral exam will take place on one of two dates, either the 18th or 19th of December between 10:00 a.m. - 17:00 p.m. Individual students will be informed about their specific date and time slot. The exam will take place in room 5.E.08. It is recommended to be at the waiting area outside the room 15-minutes in advance. Being late will result in failing the exam, unless due to circumstances outside of one's personal control.

Task:

This assessment will consist of a 15-20 minute conversation, where you will be asked questions to determine your understanding of the content of your individual report. Therefore, the questions will be restricted to the content of your individual report.

Grading:

The grading scale for the course follows a 1-6 scale, with half grades given. The "Group Presentation" will make up 30% of your overall grade. The combination of the "Individual Report" and "Oral Exam" will make up 70% of your grade.