



HSS 175: Introduction to Psychology

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Fall 2023

Instructor: **Prof. John Wilcox**
Course Schedule: --
Contact Info: jwilcox3@stevens.edu
Office Hours: By email appointment
Office Hour Location: --

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology is the scientific study of the behavior of individuals and their mental processes. A primary goal of this course is to help you develop an understanding of the major topics that make up the field of psychology. Psychologists study a variety of topics, including motivation, aggression, stereotyping, prejudice, cognition, childhood and developmental psychopathology, close relationships and attachment, stress, learning and memory in animals, and more! Despite the range of topics in psychology, these topics are linked by common themes, theories and methods. This course will introduce you to a variety of theoretical perspectives, research methods, empirical findings, and practical applications of psychology. The breadth of psychological principles will be illustrated through current events, films, and other mass media. This course will encourage you to think critically about the methods used and conclusions drawn in psychological research on these topics. We will cover topics from the textbook in greater depth, as well as material not found in the textbook.

Students should complete the reading assignments for the day on which they appear on the schedule.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. You will better understand the nature of the discipline of psychology, including the many scientific research methods used.
2. You will better understand the ethical implications of the research methods used in the discipline.
3. You will better understand some of the main concepts included in the various disciplines of psychology (e.g., social, memory, learning and behavior, human development, etc).

4. You will be able to apply psychological concepts/theories discussed in class to the real world (e.g., your own behavior, the behavior of others, and behavior among humans in general)

COURSE FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

Class will consist of a combination of lectures, discussion boards, assignments, and exams. It is essential that you complete all required readings. Participation in the form of questions and/or discussion of material is always encouraged. This is your class! The more actively engaged you are, the more you will enjoy the class.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook(s): *Psychology and Life* (20th edition) by Richard Gerrig

Other Readings: will be uploaded on Canvas

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments and Discussion Board Participation: Throughout the summer session, you will be given assignments and discussion board prompts to help you develop critical thinking skills, promote discussion, and engage in active learning.

Exams: There will be 2 non-cumulative exams for this course. Each exam will have equal weight, each making up 25% of your total grade. The exams will be in multiple choice format. You will be tested on materials covered in assigned lectures.

Paper 1: There will one 4-6 paper assigned during the semester. More information on this paper will be provided.

Presentation: There will be one 7-10 minute presentation on the topic of Psychology in the Media. More information on this presentation will be provided.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be based on:

Assignments and Discussion Board Participation 25%

Paper on Applying Psychological Concepts 15%

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Presentation on Psychology in the Media: 10%

ONLINE DISCUSSION BOARD ETIQUETTE

You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's inclusion statement below, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Do not dominate any discussion. Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion. Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.

GRADING SCALE

Your final grade will be based on the following scale. PLEASE NOTE: To be fair to everyone, we need to use these exact cutoffs. Under no circumstances can I change the grade of any one particular student unless an actual error in calculation or recordkeeping can be demonstrated.

Letter Grade	Score	Letter Grade	Score
A	93 – 100	C	73 – 76.999
A-	90 – 92.999	C-	70 – 72.999
B+	87 – 89.999	D+	67 – 69.999
B	83 – 86.999	D	60 – 66.999
B-	80 – 82.999	F	< 60
C+	77 – 79.999		

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Undergraduate Honor System

Enrollment into the undergraduate class of Stevens Institute of Technology signifies a student's commitment to the Honor System. Accordingly, the provisions of the Stevens Honor System apply to all undergraduate students in coursework and Honor Board proceedings. It is the responsibility of each student to become acquainted with and to uphold the ideals set forth in the Honor System Constitution. More information about the Honor System including the constitution, bylaws, investigative procedures, and the penalty matrix can be found online at <http://web.stevens.edu/honor/>

The following pledge shall be written in full and signed by every student on all submitted work (including, but not limited to, homework, projects, lab reports, code, quizzes and exams) that is assigned by the course instructor. No work shall be graded unless the pledge is written in full and signed:

“I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System.”

Reporting Honor System Violations Students who believe a violation of the Honor System has been committed should report it within ten business days of the suspected violation. Students have the option to remain anonymous and can report violations online at www.stevens.edu/honor.

EXAM ROOM CONDITIONS

The following procedures apply to exams for this course. As the instructor, I reserve the right to modify any conditions set forth below by printing revised Exam Room Conditions on the exam.

1. Students may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, etc) aside from the computer on which they are completing the exam.
2. Students may not use any materials (e.g., notes, textbooks, readings, etc) during exams
3. Students are not allowed to work with or talk to other students during exams.

LEARNING ACCOMODATIONS

Stevens Institute of Technology is dedicated to providing appropriate accommodations to students with documented disabilities. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with undergraduate and graduate students with learning disabilities, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorders, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, psychiatric disorders, and other such disabilities in order to help students achieve their academic and personal potential. They facilitate equal access to the educational programs and opportunities offered at Stevens and coordinate reasonable accommodations for eligible students. These services are designed to encourage independence and self-advocacy with support from the ODS staff. The ODS staff will facilitate the provision of accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

Disability Services Confidentiality Policy Student Disability Files are kept separate from academic files and are stored in a secure location within the Office of Disability Services. The Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34CFR, Part 99) regulates disclosure of disability documentation and records maintained by Stevens Disability Services. According to this act, prior written consent by the student is required before our Disability Services office may release disability documentation or records to anyone. An exception is made in unusual circumstances, such as the case of health and safety emergencies.

For more information about Disability Services and the process to receive accommodations, visit <https://www.stevens.edu/office-disability-services>. If you have any questions please contact: Phillip Gehman, the Director of Disability Services Coordinator at Stevens Institute of Technology at pgehman@stevens.edu or by phone (201) 216-3748.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Stevens Institute of Technology believes that diversity and inclusiveness are essential to excellence in education and innovation. Our community represents a rich variety of backgrounds, experiences, demographics and perspectives and Stevens is committed to fostering a learning environment where every individual is respected and engaged. To facilitate a dynamic and inclusive educational experience, we ask all members of the community to:

- be open to the perspectives of others
- appreciate the uniqueness their colleagues
- take advantage of the opportunity to learn from each other
- exchange experiences, values and beliefs
- communicate in a respectful manner
- be aware of individuals who are marginalized and involve them
- keep confidential discussions private

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are due by the dates specified on the course schedule. Students with special circumstances should contact me at least 72 hours prior to the deadline to avoid penalty. The penalty for late assignments is 20% of the total assignment points per each 24 hours.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

If you have a question or concern about the course, the readings, or any assignment, I encourage you to attend my office hours. I am also happy to answer questions over email. As a general rule, I try to respond to email as quickly as possible during business hours (M-F, 9am – 5pm), however it may take me up to 24 hours to respond. Emails sent after business hours or over the weekend may require more time.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Subject to change with prior notice.

Module / Topic	Dates	Readings Due	Assignments and Discussion Board	Due This Week
Introduction to Psychology	Tuesday, September 19	Chapter 2		Research methods assignment
	Thursday, September 21			
Biology of the Mind	Tuesday, September 26	Chapter 3		Evolution assignment
	Thursday, September 28			
Sensation, Perception, and Consciousness	Tuesday, October 3	Chapter 4 Chapter 5, pp. 121-132		Sensation and Perception Assignment
	Thursday, October 5			
Learning and Behavior	Tuesday, October 10	No class – Monday Schedule		
	Thursday, October 12	Chapter 6		Learning and Behavior Assignment
Exam 1	Tuesday, October 17		Exam 1 Review	
	Thursday, October 19		Exam 1 in class	

Cognitive processes	Tuesday, October 24	Chapter 8		Cognitive processes assignment
	Thursday, October 26			
Motivation	Tuesday, October 31	Chapter 11		Motivation assignment
	Thursday, November 2		Complete motivation assignment	
Human personality	Tuesday, November 7	Chapter 13		Human personality assignment
	Thursday, November 9		Complete human personality assignment	
Emotion, stress and health	Tuesday, November 14	Chapter 12		Emotion, stress and health assignment
	Thursday, November 16			
	Tuesday, November 21			
	Thursday, November 23	No Class – Thanksgiving Break		
Psychological Disorders	Tuesday, November 28	Chapter 14		
	Thursday, November 30		Complete last discussion post and work on paper	
Exam 2	Tuesday, December 5		Exam 2 review	
	Thursday, December 7		Exam 2 in class	
Psychology in the Media	Tuesday, December 12		Presentations in class	Paper due by 11:59 pm
	Thursday, December 14		Presentations in class	