



PSY 2010

Psychology as a Science and Profession

Course Syllabus
Fall 2024

Classroom: [REDACTED]
Schedule: [REDACTED]

Instructor: [REDACTED]
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Course Description

Students learn and develop skills in critical thinking and critical analysis of basic research in psychology, information gathering in psychological research, basic APA format for writing and references, and course and career options for pursuing the field of psychology.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: PSY 1010 + ENGL 1010

Required Materials

How to Think Straight about Psychology by Keith E. Stanovich, 11th Edition, Pearson, 2018.
ISBN: 9780134478623.

The Psychology Major's Companion by Dana S. Dunn and Jane S. Halonen, 2nd Edition,
Macmillan Higher Education, 2019. ISBN: 9781319254551.

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Edition), APA, 2019.

Additional readings provided via Canvas, including articles on research ethics, pseudoscience, and psychological studies on marginalized groups

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Learn to gather psychological information that is connected with research, therapy and psychology related issues.
2. Students will gain skills in library and internet literature searches that focus on different areas of psychology.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of different fields of psychology, and given basic information about career options and related psychology degrees.
4. Learn about and discuss various courses in psychology and allied fields that will assist the students in their career pursuits.
5. Have a better understanding of what psychology can offer them in life, whether they continue their careers directly in psychology or related field, or pursue a very different area.
6. Learn basic APA-style formatting in writing, especially in terms of how to cite sources.
7. Demonstrate psychological knowledge and methods of oral and written delivery that prepares them for upper level psychology courses and careers in psychology.
8. Demonstrate the ability to organize information orally and in writing using key concepts from psychology and applying them to an analysis of psychological research, APA formatting, and career in psychology.
9. Analyze various research projects and data, and be able to understand the methods used, the shortcomings of data collection, and more effective techniques implications of this data.
10. Develop skill in critical thinking related to psychology and social science research and information.
11. Read, discuss, and critique classic research in psychology as a way to hone these skills.
12. Develop their skills in theory evaluation and to enhance their knowledge of research in psychology.
13. Demonstrate the ability to reason effectively using available evidence and the tools of critical thinking to present in-depth information demonstrating knowledge of the scientific method, research design, and "healthy skepticism" and analysis of research.
14. Learn to critique sources of information, and become more informed consumers of psychological information.
15. Understand the psychological contexts of marginalized groups within U.S. society, and will learn to use newly learned terms and language that will prepare them for polite and appropriate discourse of sensitive issues in the realm of psychology and psychological thought.
16. Apply their knowledge to the importance of social change and psychological adaptation.

Course Requirements

1. Literature Review Project

This multi-part project includes developing a research question, summarizing relevant research articles, preparing an annotated bibliography, and submitting a final literature review. It emphasizes APA formatting and critical analysis skills.

2. Application Assignments

Application assignments focus on real-world skills, including soft skills, career exploration, and theoretical understanding of research methods and ethics. Each assignment relates to course topics and prepares students for professional roles.

3. Personal Statement

A critical component for students aiming for graduate programs, this assignment involves drafting and revising a personal statement. It encourages reflection on personal goals and professional identity.

4. Exams

Two exams, covering major course concepts and readings, are administered online. These are open-book but must be completed within a specified timeframe. Each exam is worth 30 points.

5. Discussions and Journals

Students participate in weekly discussions and reflective journal entries on topics such as ethics, diversity, and scientific principles in psychology. Responses require engagement with peers and thoughtful reflection on course content.

Grading Breakdown

Component	Weight (%)
Literature Review Project	45-50%
Application Assignments	20-25%
Personal Statement	10%
Exams (Midterm, Final)	15%
Discussions & Journals	5-10%

Final Grade Distribution

A

A-

B+

B

100 to 94	<94 to 90	<90 to 87	<87 to 84
B-	C+	C	C-
<84 to 80	<80 to 77	<77 to 74	<74 to 70
D+	D	D-	E
<70 to 67	<67 to 64	<64 to 60	<60 to 0

Important Dates

Student Academic Calendar:

The “Student Academic Calendar” contains important dates including registration, tuition payments, holidays, and significant deadlines. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/academiccalendar/index.aspx>]

Final Exam Schedule:

The “Final Exam Schedule” lists information about when each course section will hold its final exam period. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/schedule/final-exam-schedule.aspx>]

Institutional Statements and Policies

Institutional Syllabus:

The “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas includes important statements and information on a range of institutional policies, learning support and tutoring services, and student support resources. These sections provide guidance on student rights and responsibilities, grading policies, and various support services available to assist with academic advising, counseling, accessibility, student engagement, and more. For detailed information, please refer to the “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction to Psychology as a Science	Syllabus Quiz, Introductory Discussion
2	Research Methods and Ethics	Quiz, Discussion on Research and Ethics
3	APA Formatting and Literature Review	APA Quiz, Literature Review Topic Selection

Week	Topic	Assignments
4	Careers in Psychology	Reflection on Psychology Majors
5	Scientific Thinking	Quiz on Scientific vs. Pseudoscience
6	Psychological Research Analysis	Article Summary Assignment
7	Development of Critical Thinking Skills	Critical Thinking Assignment
8	Midterm Exam	Midterm, Personal Statement Draft
9	Semester Break	
10	Diversity and Marginalized Groups	Discussion on Diversity in Psychology
11	Writing in Psychology	Annotated Bibliography
12	Applied Psychology	Application Assignment on Career Options
13	Professional Skills in Psychology	Resume and Interview Preparation
14	Literature Review Draft and Peer Review	Peer Review Activity
15	Finalizing the Literature Review	Final Draft Submission
16	Reflections on Psychology as a Profession	Final Exam, Course Reflection