

## Course Information

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### **Psy as a Science & Profession**

PSY 2010-403

Fall 2025

## Course Section Information

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**Days:** Thursday

**Time:** 7-9:50pm (19:00-21:50)

**Campus:** Redwood

**Classroom:** AAB 124

## Course Description

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Prereq: PSY 1010 and ENGL 1010. 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.

Semester: All

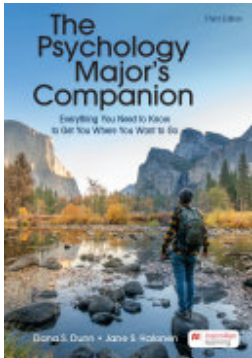
## Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

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Eng 1010 and Psy 1010

## Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials

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**Authors:** Dana S. Dunn, Jane S. Halonen

**Publication Date:** 2023-03-20

**Title:** The Psychology Major's Companion

**Publisher:** Macmillan Higher Education

**ISBN:** 9781319528539

**Title:** Research Methods in Psychology (OER)

**Link:** <https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/psychmethods4e/>

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at [ads@slcc.edu](mailto:ads@slcc.edu).

# Psy as a Science & Profession

PSY - 2010 403

## Engagement Plan

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- I will respond to email within 24-48 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments within 1 week. The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this email over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.
- Additionally, you can attend office hours and we can also find another time to meet as well.

## Additional Materials

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Optional:

American Psychological Association. (2019). The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

American Psychological Association.

ISBN 10: 1433832178 ISBN 13: 9781433832178

American Psychological Association (2020). Concise Guide to APA style (7th ed.).

<https://apastyle.apa.org/products/mastering-apa-style>

Stanovich "How to Think Straight about Psychology"

Supplemental: OER textbook about careers in Psychology

<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/the-australian-handbook-for-careers-in-psychological-science/view>

## How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Learn to gather psychological information that is connected with research, therapy and psychology related issues.
- Students will gain skills in library and internet literature searches that focus on different areas of psychology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of different fields of psychology, and given basic information about career options and related psychology degrees.
- Learn about and discuss various courses in psychology and allied fields that will assist the students in their career pursuits.
- 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.
- Learn basic APA-style formatting in writing, especially in terms of how to cite sources.
- Demonstrate psychological knowledge and methods of oral and written delivery that prepares them for upper level psychology courses and careers in psychology.
- 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.
- 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.
- Develop skill in critical thinking related to psychology and social science research and information.
- Read, discuss, and critique classic research in psychology as a way to hone these skills.
- Develop their skills in theory evaluation and to enhance their knowledge of research in psychology.
- 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.

- Learn to critique sources of information, and become more informed consumers of psychological information.
- 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.
- Apply their knowledge to the importance of social change and psychological adaptation.

## How to Succeed in the Course

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### Required Textbooks:

Because this course is Psychology as a Science and Profession – we will be using a few different resources including one that you will need to purchase and then others are OER and other types of resources. You may purchase older editions, share, rent or purchase etextbook. Please let me know if you have any difficulties accessing the textbook.

There are two required textbooks (one that you will need to purchase and one that is OER) for this course because one focuses more on psychology as a science part and the other focuses on the professional aspects.

### Psychology as a Profession

Dunn & Halonen. The Psychology Major's Companion 3rd Edition

ISBN-10

1319334768

ISBN-13

978-1319334765

Dunn and Halonen's "The Psychology Major's Companion," focuses on more of navigating your undergraduate experience, understanding various career options and how to prepare for these various options, including preparing for graduate school if that is of interest to

you and I recommend keeping if you are interested in pursuing graduate school at some point in the future.

## Psychology as a Science

Required OER (Referred to in the course as OER)

## Research Methods in Psychology

This text explores psychology as a science and critical thinking about psychological research.

### **Canvas:**

This course uses canvas to provide materials to you as well as is the primary place for you to complete and turn in assignments, thus this course does require access to a computer. Most of the content you will need to successfully complete the course will be housed on Canvas, with the books being the exception. For example, the syllabus, quizzes, journals, discussions, lecture PowerPoints, exams, additional reading material, media links and exam prep materials are all posted on-line. In addition, your grades will also be posted on canvas.

Due Dates – I will try to be pretty flexible with due dates, especially under extenuating circumstances, but discussions ideally should be completed on-time to allow full participation and a few will be dropped if you are late/miss. You can also at least 5 “freebee” late assignments to accommodate illness or other issues. You do not need to wait for permission beforehand for these freebees but please let me know as soon as possible so I am aware and please turn the assignments in as soon as possible so that you do not fall behind in this course (best is to put a comment in the assignment submission section that tells me you are using a freebee and will turn it in so I don’t bug you about it too much). I’m more concerned about you not falling behind than exact due dates, because this course is a lot of work. As many of the assignments in this course build on each other, many need to be completed in order and it is important to avoid falling behind so that you do not become overwhelmed with trying to catch up.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

Via successful completion of this course, you will expand a variety of cognitive skills and should be able to:

1. Compare various career options related to psychology and the various degree requirements
2. Apply career development skills to enhance one's ability to advance their professional endeavors
3. Create a literature review utilizing APA style formatting guidelines
4. Identify research methodology in psychology and/or the social sciences and issues related to conducting psychological research
5. Apply critical thinking skills to interpret and evaluate claims regarding psychological research.

## **Course Expectations**

This course invites individual self-reflection and respectful discussions in an inclusive community. It is the diversity of our perspectives and experiences that allow for opportunities for learning. As a learning community, particularly as psychology students, we endeavor to understand all of humanity, we embrace all perspectives, and will engage with each other in respectful and open ways. While psychology has a history of primarily white male western founders and its history has been spotted with some unethical experiments, racism, prejudice and discrimination, sexism, and stigmatization towards various groups, including the LGBTQ community, recently the APA has made an apology statement and as individuals and as psychologists as a community, we strive to be better and do better. We continually focus on adhering to APA's 5 ethical principles, "Beneficence and Nonmaleficence," "Fidelity and Responsibility," "Integrity," "Justice," and "Respect for People's Rights and Dignity." We will dive deeper into these issues throughout this course, but here is a link to the apology statement (Apology to people of color for APA's role in promoting, perpetuating, and failing to challenge racism, racial discrimination, and human hierarchy in U.S.). In this course, I will strive my best to be open and respectful and uphold these ethical principles and ask all students to be open and respectful of each

other all well and embrace opportunities to learn from the perspectives and experiences of others.

## Student Resources at SLCC

SLCC offers many different types of resources to our students. If there is something you are struggling with, including academically, but also financially, emotionally, or socially, please know that we have a variety of resources that may help. You are welcome to talk to me, your academic advisor, the student services center and check out some of these online resources:

Clubs and Organizations | SLCC

Thayne Center and Service Learning Resources (Resources | SLCC)

Student Resources (<https://www.slcc.edu/mysuccess/student-resources/index.as>)

Disability Resource Center (About the DRC | SLCC)

Financial Resources (Financial Aid Resources | SLCC)

Scholarships (SLCC Scholarships and Tuition Waivers | SLCC)

## Assignment Schedule

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Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Discussion: Correlation and Causation (extra credit)</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Extra Credit Points for deep dive</a>	Assignment	0
	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Discussion	0



Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Optional: Ask a Librarian- Research Help</a>	Discussion	0
	<a href="#">Student-Only Discussion Forum</a>	Discussion	0
8/28/25	<a href="#">Discussion: Get to know each other &amp; understanding this course</a>	Discussion	5
8/29/25	<a href="#">Journal: Values</a>	Assignment	5
8/29/25	<a href="#">Quiz: Syllabus</a>	Quiz	5
8/31/25	<a href="#">Discussion: Psychology Student Skills &amp; Study Tips</a>	Discussion	5
8/31/25	<a href="#">Quiz: D&amp;H Ch 5</a>	Quiz	5
8/31/25	<a href="#">Studying Self-Assessment Survey</a>	Quiz	0
8/31/25	<a href="#">Quiz 1: Week 1 - D&amp;H Ch 1 &amp; Articles</a>	Quiz	5
9/4/25	<a href="#">Discussion: Psychology as a Science</a>	Discussion	5
9/4/25	<a href="#">Lilienfeld Reading Assignment</a>	Quiz	5
9/7/25	<a href="#">Journal: Psychology as a Major &amp; Thinking about Research Topics</a>	Assignment	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/7/25	<a href="#">Quiz 2: Module 2: D&amp;H Ch 2 &amp; OER Ch 1 &amp; Articles</a>	Quiz	5
9/11/25	<a href="#">Discussion: How to Spot Pseudoscience (falsifiability).</a>	Discussion	5
9/14/25	<a href="#">Falsifiability Assignment</a>	Quiz	5
9/14/25	<a href="#">Quiz 3: D&amp;H Ch 7part 1 &amp; OER Ch 2</a>	Quiz	5
9/28/25	<a href="#">Discussion: Ethics in Psychology</a>	Discussion	5
9/28/25	<a href="#">Quiz: APA Ethics</a>	Quiz	5
10/5/25	<a href="#">Assignment: Practice APA</a>	Assignment	5
10/5/25	<a href="#">Deep Dive Option 1: IRB Training</a>	Assignment	15
10/5/25	<a href="#">Lit Review Assignment 2: Finding Peer-Reviewed Articles &amp; Practice APA Format</a>	Assignment	5
10/5/25	<a href="#">Quiz: D&amp;H Ch 7 part 2 Lit Review</a>	Quiz	5
10/19/25	<a href="#">Application Assignment: Correlation</a>	Quiz	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/19/25	<a href="#">Application Assignment: Independent vs. Dependent Variables</a>	Quiz	5
10/19/25	<a href="#">Discussion: The Experimenter</a>	Discussion	5
10/19/25	<a href="#">Lit Review Prep 3: Summarizing a Peer-Reviewed Primary Article</a>	Assignment	5
10/19/25	<a href="#">Quiz: OER Ch 5 &amp; 6</a>	Quiz	5
10/26/25	<a href="#">Deep Dive Option 2: The Experimenter Article</a>	Assignment	15
10/26/25	<a href="#">Lit Review Prep 4: Outline with sources</a>	Assignment	5
11/30/25	<a href="#">Literature Review Due</a>	Assignment	0
12/12/25	<a href="#">Exam 2: D&amp;H Ch 3-4,6,8-13</a>	Quiz	50

## Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

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Exams (2x50 points = 100)

There will be two exams for this course. All exams will be completed on canvas. Exams will consist of both a multiple choice section and an essay portion.

Quizzes (12 x 5 points each = 60 points)

There will be chapter quizzes on the reading assignments given on Canvas. Quizzes are open book and open notes but NOT open friends. Make sure you have completed your reading and assignments prior to taking the quiz. If there are more than 14 quizzes, only your 14 top quizzes will be counted towards your grade. Quizzes will help you prepare for the exams.

#### Discussion Assignments (12 x 5 points each = 60 points)

We will engage in discussions each week in class. Sometime you will be asked to read or watch and sometimes write a response before class so we can be prepared for our in-class discussion. So please check canvas early each week so you can be prepared before class.

#### Deeper Dive Assignment (Choose 1 = 15 points)

There will be several opportunities to dive deeper into a particular area. These assignments are more time consuming and require more critical thinking, so only 1 is required, but you may do more and additional ones will count towards extra credit.

#### Reading Assignments (3x5points = 15)

You will the opportunity to read various articles throughout the course and complete assignments about them. This gives you an opportunity practice understanding scientific research and critically think about articles

#### Application/Reflective Journal Assignments (10 x 5 points each = 50 points)

This assignments are designed to help you practice applying concepts and/or reflecting on your interests, skills, talents, values, goals, etc. to help you make educational and career choices that are a good fit for you. As these are reflective in nature, there are not right or wrong answers, but grades will be based on the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of your responses. You may use video, audio recordings or a written response.

## Literature Review Assignments

One of the two main focuses of this course is learning about psychology as a science, including its history, what it means to be a science, some challenges psychology has/currently faces as a science or being recognized as a science, critically thinking about psychological research, being able to recognize pseudoscience, and being able to find, understand, analyze, synthesize and critique psychological research. While we will explore psychology as a science all semester, the assignments in this section are specifically designed to help you think more critically about psychological research, and analyze and synthesize it. These assignments will build on each other to help you learn how to research a psychological topic in peer-reviewed journals, understand that research, critique that research, and synthesize it together in a well-written literature review. This is also an opportunity to learn and practice APA format (now on the 7th edition, so APA 7 style) through your writing, which will be an important skill if you continue to pursue psychology as a major.

You are encouraged to work in a group on this project, as most research in the “real-world” is collaborative and to practice working in a team and to receive feedback from each other. We will have time in class to work on these projects as well. If you really would prefer to work alone, you may, but then you will have to do all of the work yourself, which is kind of a lot.

Literature Review Preparation Assignments (4 x 5) 20

Annotated Bibliography 10

Literature Review Rough Draft & Peer Reviews 5

Literature Review Final Draft 50

Literature Review Presentation 20

## Career Exploration Projects

As this course explores psychology both as a science and profession, part of the course will focus on career development. Some of these projects will focus more on career exploration while others will focus on helping you develop soft skills that will be helpful in a variety of professions and learn how to present yourself, both orally and in writing in the best light possible.

Field of Psychology Presentation 20

Field of Psychology Prep 5

Personal Statement/Scholarship Application 20

Personal Statement Rough Draft 5

Interview Project/Career Preparation 10

## Grading Scale

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### Grading

Grades for this course will be calculated and assigned on a standard scale. You are responsible to track your grades on Canvas throughout the semester.

A 93-100%

A- 90-92%

B+ 87-89%

B 83-86%

B- 80-82%

C+ 77-79%

C 73-76%

C- 70-72%

D+ 67-69%

D 63-66%

D- 60-62%

F <59

## Course Content Advisory

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Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

## Advising and Counseling Support Services

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At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the

challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

## Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)