Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 101-01)

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Office Hours	By Appointment
Class Times	Asynchronous

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a broad introduction to the field of Psychology, covering various sub-disciplines and emphasizing the scientific study of behavior and cognition. Students will gain a solid understanding of the scientific process, major psychological theories, and the correct usage of psychological terminology. The curriculum fosters critical evaluation skills for examining psychological research findings and highlights practical applications of psychological concepts in daily life. Emphasizing contemporary insights, the course focuses on the scientific method in measuring human behavior, with a student-centric approach that encourages active engagement and self-knowledge.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR:

Contacting: The best way to contact me is by e-mail. You can email me at any time. I do my best to respond as quickly as possible, especially during normal business hours (9 am – 5 pm). You can most definitely send e-mails outside of that time, but don't expect an immediate response. A response will likely happen the next day. *I will not respond to messages or correspondence through myCourses. Please use email.*

Office Hours: I won't have a specific time for office hours over the summer. But I will be as available as necessary! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I'd be happy to set up a time to meet by Zoom or in-person if you are on campus. We will find a time that works for both of us!

REQUIRED READINGS:

Textbook: We will an open source (this means free) textbook throughout the semester. The link to the textbook is included below. A PDF version of the text is uploaded to myCourses.

Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W., & Lovett, M. (2020). Psychology 2e.
https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e

Other Required Readings: All additional readings (if necessary) will be posted to the course website.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Assignment Type	Points	% of Grade
Intro Video & Syllabus Quiz	40	10%
Quizzes (6) – lowest dropped	125	35%
Unit Activities (4)	140	35%
Discussion Post & Reply	20	10%
Final Project	60	20%
SONA Credits (8 credits)	-	-
Total	**385**	**100%**

Failure to complete all 8 SONA credits leads to a reduction of final grade by 3.3%

Introduction Video & Syllabus Quiz

With the online, asynchronous structure of the course it can be challenging to have a sense of connection. I will ask each student to create a brief video introducing themselves (rubric will be posted). These will only be seen by the instructor. This introduction is a requirement by RIT for online courses as we need to confirm you are who you say you are (but I also want to get to know my students).

During the first unit, you will also need to complete a brief quiz on the syllabus. You will be allowed to take the quiz as many times as you need to in order to receive the full credit. I want you to be aware of the policies in the course.

Quizzes

To help solidify the material and identify areas that you can focus your study, there will be regular quizzes consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. These will be posted to myCourses and can be taken at any point prior to the deadline. All quizzes will become available at the beginning of the semester. There will be 25 multiple choice questions that will be taken mainly from the readings. Each quiz time limit will be 30 minutes. The quizzes will only cover the information from that specific topic (i.e., non-cumulative). Quizzes will be open-note. Lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped.

Unit Activities

The assignments for this class will consist of utilizing your knowledge of the topic and applying it to various examples in the real world. Each assignment will be related to a topic in the course, but will also allow you to incorporate information across multiple topics. The assignments will have different structures with some consisting inf written responses and others to incorporate other creative components. The goal of the assignments is to move beyond the textbook and classroom to investigate the application of psychology and to think like a psychologist.

Discussions

To help bring the discussion beyond the class, there will be the expectation that you will create and engage with discussion posts (Minimum of 1 created & 1 response). The posts will focus on an area of psychology that is of interest to you. The goal of these posts is for you to share information that you have gathered from elsewhere and bring in to provide some additional information. Topics of these discussions can vary from examining the science behind pop-science articles, reflecting on reading a scientific study, identifying a popular myth in psychology and describing why it is a myth. More information is available on myCourses/course site to highlight the specific content and expectations.

Discussion posts and replies must be completed prior to deadline (7/25/25 at 11:59pm)

Final Project

The course will culminate in a final project that will be completed individually. You have the ability to choose the type of project you would like to complete. I want this to be a time for you to bring in any other creative elements that you would like. If you have other ideas for a type of project, please let me know. I am happy to update to accommodate your ideas if they continue to fit the expectations of the project. Please see the course site/myCourses for more information.

SONA Participation

> SONA Director: Dr. Dustin Haraden
> Email: sona@rit.edu
> Information website (for more guidance): https://ritpsych.github.io/sona/
> Sona website (for signing up for studies): https://rit.sona-systems.com

Every PSYC101 student must earn 8 Sona credits. You earn 1 credit per 15 minutes of participation, plus a bonus credit for face-to-face studies, so this will take you a maximum of 2 hours to complete. To earn Sona credits, you must sign up for studies through the psychology department's Sona website. Other research will not qualify.

Your participation must be complete by 5pm on the last day of classes (i.e., the day before Reading Day). At that time, if you have NOT earned at least 8 credits, your final grade will be dropped by one "step" – that is, from A to A-, from B- to C+, or from D to F. There is no partial credit and there are no exceptions.

Grade Scheme (RIT Default)

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
93+	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	60-69	< 60

Rochester Institute of Technology   PSYC 101
Department of Psychology   SUMMER 2025

COURSE SCHEDULE
Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified immediately of any changes.

UNIT	TOPICS	READINGS	LECTURES	ASSIGNMENTS	QUIZ
1	Psychological Research & Biopsychology	Ch. 1, 2 & 3	What is Psychological Research? Biopsychology	Introduction Video Due 7/11	Syllabus Quiz Content Quiz 1 Due 7/6
2	Consciousness & Sensation/Perception	Ch. 4 & 5	Sleep & Circadian Rhythms Sensation & Perception	Sleep Journal Due 7/13	Content Quiz 2 Due 7/11
3	Learning, Memory, Cognition	Ch. 6, 7, 8	Conditioning Memory	Mini-Experiment Due 7/20	Content Quiz 3 Due 7/18
4	Emotion, Motivation, Development	Ch. 9 & 10	Emotions & Motivation Puberty	Development in Media Due 7/27	Content Quiz 4 Discussion Posts Due 7/25
5	Personality, Social Psychology	Ch. 11 & 12	Classification - Personality	Personality Test Drive Due 8/3	Content Quiz 5 Due 8/1
6	Psych Disorders, Therapy & Treatment	Ch. 15 & 16	Psych Disorders Therapy		Content Quiz 6 Due 8/6

Final Project: (Due August 10th @ 11:59pm)

Latest Edit: 5/28/25

COURSE POLICIES:

Late Policy

   "A Wizard is never late, nor are they early. They arrive precisely when they mean to." 🧙
Thanks Gandalf. Super helpful. Unfortunately, we are not wizards and late penalties will be applied to
work that is not on time. Due to the accelerated nature of the course, the late penalty will be more
severe. There will be a 50% deduction on the first day. Work will not be accepted beyond 24 hours after
the deadline.

Statement on Reasonable Accommodations
RIT is committed to providing academic adjustments to students with disabilities. If you would like to
request academic adjustments such as testing modifications due to a disability, please contact the
Disability Services Office. Contact information for the DSO and information about how to request
adjustments can be found at www.rit.edu/dso. After you receive academic adjustment approval, it is
imperative that you contact me as early as possible so that we can work out whatever arrangement is
necessary.

Mandatory Reporting
As an instructor, I have a mandatory reporting responsibility as a part of my role. It is my goal that you
feel comfortable sharing information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your
written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep the information you share private to
the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to report information I receive regarding sexual
misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred during your time at RIT.

Statement on Title IX
RIT is committed to providing a safe learning environment, free of harassment and discrimination as
articulated in our university policies located on our governance website. RIT's policies require faculty to
share information about incidents of gender-based discrimination and harassment with RIT's Title IX
coordinator or deputy coordinators when incidents are stated to them directly. The information you
provide to a non-confidential resource which includes faculty will be relayed only as necessary for the
Title IX Coordinator to investigate and/or seek resolution. Even RIT Offices and employees who cannot
guarantee confidentiality will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible.
If an individual discloses information during a public awareness event, a protest, during a class project,
or advocacy event, RIT is not obligated to investigate based on this public disclosure. RIT may however
use this information to further educate faculty, staff and students about prevention efforts and available
resources.

If you would like to report an incident of gender based discrimination or harassment directly you may do
so by using the online Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Reporting or
anonymously by using the Compliance and Ethics Hotline. If you have a concern related to gender-based
discrimination and/or harassment and prefer to have a confidential discussion, assistance is available
from any of RIT's confidential resources (listed below).
- RIT Counseling and Psychological Services
    - 585-475-2261 (V)
    - 585-475-6897 (TTY)
    - www.rit.edu/counseling
- NTID Counseling and Academic Advising
    - 585-475-6400

- o   www.ntid.rit.edu/counselingdept
- RIT Student Health Center
  - o   585-475-2255 (V)
  - o   www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studenthealth
- Center for Religious Life
  - o   585-475-2137
  - o   www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/religion
- RIT Ombuds Office
  - o   585-475-7357
  - o   585-475-6424
  - o   585-286-4677 (VP)
  - o   www.rit.edu/ombuds/contact-us

Academic Integrity Statement
As an institution of higher learning, RIT expects students to behave honestly and ethically at all times, especially when submitting work for evaluation in conjunction with any course or degree requirement. The Department of Psychology encourages all students to become familiar with the RIT Honor Code and with RIT's Academic Integrity Policy. RIT's policy on academic integrity requires the instructor to investigate of any suspected breach of academic integrity. If the preponderance of evidence indicates a breach of academic integrity, the student who did so may incur a consequence up to and including failure for the entire course.

About Generative AI
Each course that you are involved in will have differing opinions and goals regarding generative AI (i.e., ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity, Claude, etc.). In this course you are allowed to use these as a tool. You can use prompts such as "Teach me about (insert psych topic here) and give me an example that might apply to me." If you do use generative AI, I would like for you to disclose that information just so I can have a sense of how it is being used. If I suspect that the work that you have turned in is using AI, we will have to have a conversation to determine the next steps. Turning in AI work is considered plagiarism, and you may be asked to re-do the assignment, or possibly receive a 0 on the assignment.

RIT COVID-19 Safety Plans
RIT is committed to the safety of the RIT community and beyond. Because the situation is still in a rapid state of change, checking the RIT Ready website, and specifically the RIT Safety Plan for the most up to date information is recommended: https://www.rit.edu/ready/rit-safety-plan.

Changes to the Syllabus
I have provided this syllabus as a guide to our course and have made every attempt to provide an accurate overview of the course. However, as instructor, I reserve the right to modify this document during the semester, if necessary, to ensure that we achieve course learning objectives. You will receive advance notice of any changes to the syllabus through myCourses/email.

Latest Edit: 5/28/25