



# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SUMMER SESSION

## **Fundamentals of Psychology: Theory + Research** **A three-week in-person immersion course for pre-college students**

*\*\*Note: we keep a flexible schedule in this summer course – aspects of the syllabus or schedule may change but we will keep you posted of all changes!\*\**

### **Psychology 21860 - Summer Session**

#### **Instructor:**

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#### **Teaching Assistants:**

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#### **Course Description**

This course introduces basic concepts and research in the study of human behavior. A breadth of topics will be included such as: sensation and perception, emotions, memory, development, and psychological disorders. Lectures, readings (both textbook and academic journal articles), discussions, and field trips will combine to give you an overview of the scientific study of psychology across areas of inquiry. For the major project in the course, students, working in small groups, will develop and execute their own experimental research projects.

#### **Course Goals**

- Gain a general understanding of theories and broad topic knowledge in various areas of Psychology
- Develop critical reading skills particularly for academic journal research articles
- Understand the difference between evidence and claims
- Learn how to formulate problem-focused research questions that speak to broad issues regarding human behavior
- Learn psychology research methods & gain hands-on experience with them
- Design and execute a research project on some aspect of human behavior

#### **General Course Structure & Location**

This class will be in-person on the University of Chicago campus in **Cobb 110**. Morning sessions will take place from 9am-11:30am; Afternoon sessions from 1pm-3pm.

Some small group meetings for our research projects may take place on Zoom, but research group meeting format (in-person or Zoom) will be clearly communicated to students. All course materials and communication will be through the online course management



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system, Canvas. Graded assignments including response papers will also be completed via Canvas.

## **Texts**

Cacioppo, J., & Freberg, L. (2018). *Discovering psychology: The science of mind*. Cengage Learning. (*\*any edition will be acceptable for this course.\**)

Additional journal article readings will also be assigned. These readings are listed in the course schedule, and PDFs of the readings can be accessed electronically through Canvas.

## **Grading (class is worth 100 points)**

- 10 pts class participation (detailed below)
- 15 pts Writing assignments
- 30 pts Assessments
- 40 pts Research paper sections (Introduction, Methods, Results & Discussion)
- 5 pts Final research presentation (created as a group, detailed below)

## ***Class Participation (10 pts)***

During class, all students are required to participate by answering questions, engaging in class discussions, and working in small groups. Please arrive for all classes and meetings alert and ready to actively participate to earn your participation points (be sure to **get plenty of sleep!**) Participation grades will be negatively affected if students are consistently late, falling asleep in class, clearly engaged in other activities during lectures, etc. Also, if a student needs to miss a class meeting due to illness or other emergencies; please email the instructor in advance for an excused absence. Per summer session policy, attendance will be taken daily, and the names of any missing students will be sent to the summer session office so that the students can be tracked down.

## ***Writing Assignments (15 pts)***

After some outings/movies/lectures you will be asked to write a 2-3 paragraph response for homework. Additional details will be given for each assignment in terms of thought questions and ideas for your response. These are due at the end of the day (**9:00pm CST**) and you can upload your response to Canvas. To submit these assignments, you should click on the Assignments link on Canvas.

## ***Content Assessments (30 pts)***

Twice during the course there will be an assessment covering all the reading and lecture content up until that point. These assessments will be primarily multiple choice and short answer questions.

## ***Research Project, Paper, and Presentation (45 pts total)***

In small groups (typically 3 -4 students per group), you will design and perform a small research study. This research project is an opportunity to gain experience conducting research on human behavior. Doing this project well will require forethought, planning and



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the full effort of all group members. Your groups will be meeting with the instructor and TA to discuss this project the first week of class.

Groups will pick a topic from the list (or an approved alternative topic) and develop their project in consultation with the instructor. Data collection for these research projects will take place online you **may not** collect data outside of what has been approved by the professor.

Final papers should be approximately 8-10 double-spaced pages in length with standard margins and fonts. Papers will be due in parts (Introduction, Methods, Results) as noted on the syllabus. The complete **final paper will be due on Friday of Week 3** (the final day of class) and should include the sections written previously as well as a Discussion section. Papers should be written in APA style.

Additionally, each group will make a **Presentation** of their findings to the class on **Friday of Week 3 (the last day of class!)**. Every member of the group should be an active participant in this presentation, both in its planning and execution.

### **Some Final Words: Plagiarism, Cheating, & Ethics**

It's an unfortunate fact that on occasion, students either intentionally or unintentionally claim the work of others as their own. We will provide you with detailed information on what constitutes plagiarism, as well as the APA citation style we will be using in this course. All students are responsible for reading these materials and asking whatever clarification questions are necessary to ensure that they are correctly citing the ideas they borrow from other sources.

Additionally, unless otherwise explicitly indicated on the assignment, students should assume that they should work on assignments independently without the assistance of their peers.

Finally, the use of Artificial Intelligence such as Chat GPT for any assignments in this course is strictly prohibited. If the instructor or TA believes work has been created by AI, the assignment will receive a 0. If students have not used AI, they may set up a meeting to discuss their original ideas and possibly earn some of the points back.

### **Disability Statement**

If you have any kind of disability that requires special accommodations to complete this course (such as extra time on quizzes), please talk to the instructor or TA as soon as possible. We will strive to provide any necessary accommodations that will help you succeed in this class.



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## Course Schedule & Readings

### Week 1

#### Wednesday :

Morning:

- Introduction & Psychology Research Methods

Afternoon:

- How to read + write psychology research papers
- Activity: Read Kelly et al. article + do “research breakdown”

Homework:

- Read textbook chs. 1 & 2

#### Thursday :

Morning:

- Biology & The Brain
- Movie: Secret Life of the Brain

Afternoon:

- Introduce research project + topics picked by Friday
- Lecture: How to find empirical research articles; How to write APA-style research papers

Homework:

- Read textbook ch. 4

#### Friday :

Morning:

- Sensation & Perception

Afternoon:

- Outing to Smart Museum of Art
- Research groups finalized – begin brainstorming research questions.

Homework:

- Read textbook ch. 5
- Field Trip reflection 1 – due tonight at 9pm

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## Week 2

### Monday :

Morning:

- Emotions & Motivation

Afternoon:

- Small group research meetings with TAs to develop research question + begin brainstorming methods
- Study for Assessment 1 when not in your small group meetings

Homework:

- Read textbook ch. 7

### Tuesday :

Morning:

- **Assessment 1**
- Learning

Afternoon:

- Small group research meetings with TAs to find background articles related to your research topic – aim for 3 articles per group for brief Introduction.
- Look for + begin reading articles for your paper Introduction when not in your small group meetings

Homework:

- Read articles for Introduction section of research paper

### Wednesday :

Morning:

- Small group research meetings with TAs re: research methods

Afternoon:

- Field Trip: Mindworks: The Science of Thinking Museum

Homework:

- Field trip reflection 2 – due tonight at 9pm

### Thursday :

Morning:

- Thinking & Language
- In class reading: Keysar, B., Hayakawa, S. L., & An, S. G. (2012). The foreign-language effect: Thinking in a foreign tongue reduces decision biases. *Psychological science*, 23(6), 661-668.



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Afternoon:

- Small group research meetings with TAs to finalize methods
- Finalize your Intro & Methods section write ups when not in small group meetings.

Homework:

- Brief Introduction + Methods Section due tonight at 9pm

## **Friday :**

Morning:

- Social Psychology

Afternoon:

- Off to collect data for your research studies

Homework:

- Read textbook ch. 11

## **Week 3:**

## **Monday :**

Morning:

- Developmental Psychology

Afternoon:

- Small group research meetings with TAs to analyze data

Homework:

- Read textbook ch. 13

## **Tuesday :**

Morning:

- Field Trip: Museum of Science + Industry

Afternoon:

- Small group research meetings with TAs to finalize results sections (as needed)

Homework:

- Field Trip Reflection 3 due tonight at 9pm\* (*can turn in tomorrow if easier*)
- Results Section due at 9pm CST

## **Wednesday :**

Morning:

- Psychological Disorders + Therapy



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Afternoon:

- Movie: Three Perfect Strangers

Homework

- Read textbook chs. 14 & 15

## **Thursday :**

Morning:

- Discussion: Three Identical Strangers reflection + overall course concepts
- Jeopardy Game: Review for Assessment 2
- Assessment 2

Afternoon:

- Small group work to create final presentations; write discussion section + put full paper together

Homework:

- Final paper (with discussion section) + group presentation slides due tomorrow (7/21) at 9am

## **Friday :**

Morning:

- Final project presentations

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