

PSY 111: Basic Principles of Psychology

Course Syllabus

Section B

Fall 2025

MWF 12:00-1:10pm

Science Center 147

COURSE INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mary Saczawa

Office: Science Center 152

Email: saczawa@hanover.edu

Phone (call or text): (812) 307-5509

Office Hours: T/Th 12:00-2:00pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of the broad field of psychology, addressing the basic principles of psychology, the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. Throughout the course is an emphasis on developing an understanding of psychology as the science of human thought and behavior and to critically evaluate “common sense” knowledge about how people function.

In this course, you will learn to:

- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings related to the science of psychology.
- Use social science methods and content to interpret and analyze data and reports in the media and to make informed decisions regarding local, national, and international issues.
- Understand and apply ethical and socially responsible standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
- Hone the skills needed to become competent in writing, oral, and interpersonal communication.

TEXTBOOK

Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., & Lovett, M. D. (2020). Psychology 2e. OpenStax.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

COURSE WEBPAGE

This course will rely heavily on material posted in Canvas (<https://hanover.instructure.com/courses/1366>) including written assignments, reading guides, weekly review quizzes, and lecture slides. There is also a Q&A board where you can ask questions about concepts, assignments, or the course in general. You are also expected to check your Hanover email account regularly. Regardless of whether or not you read the emails, you are responsible for their content.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

EXAMS (45%)

This course will include four exams. Exams will include a mixture of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short-answer questions and will cover material from the assigned text and lectures, even if they were not presented in both formats (so it is important for you to read the assigned readings **AND** to attend class).

READING GUIDES (20%)

This course covers a lot of content, and in order to be able to focus on some of the more fun and interesting stuff in class, you need to have some background information before you walk into class each day. However, many students enter college having never learned how to actually read a textbook in a useful way. I have provided guides for each of the assigned readings as a way of helping you to develop these skills. You should upload a photo of your completed reading guide (or a digital copy if you type your responses) by class time each day. Reading guides will be graded for completion only, but I will be checking to make sure you didn't copy someone else's answers. You are required to complete 22 of the 26 reading guides, but completing additional reading guides will earn you extra credit points!

WEEKLY REVIEW QUIZZES (15%)

Despite extensive evidence supporting the value of distributed practice, students often take notes during class and do not look at them again until the day before the exam. In an effort to encourage you to at least glance at the notes again before the exam, you will have weekly quizzes that will assess your understanding of the material we covered in the previous week's classes. **These quizzes will take place on Canvas and will be open from Friday at 1:10pm until Sunday at 11:59pm.** You are allowed to use your notes and textbook on these quizzes, but you are **NOT** allowed to get help from another person or to use generative AI. You can miss one weekly review quiz without penalty.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (10%)

As a 100-level course, one of the goals of this class is to introduce you to the academic study of Psychology. This will be done through a series of small assignments that will teach you how to find, read, and cite research articles and ultimately how to apply empirical research to a critical evaluation of the portrayal of psychological concepts in popular media. Detailed instructions for all of these assignments will be posted on the course page in Canvas.

ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT (5%)

Engagement will be based on attendance, participation in class discussions and activities, asking or answering questions, and being on-task.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION (5%)

Because psychology is a science, what you learn in this class has been supported by empirical research. Now, it's your chance to be part of that! You will earn credit for participating in research on campus conducted by the faculty as well as by your fellow students. You need to complete at least 4 research credits to receive full points, and you can get extra credit on your final grade by completing additional research credits. Details and research opportunities are available in Canvas.

GRADING SCALE

A = 100 – 95%; A- = 90 – 94.9%; B+ = 87 – 89.9%; B = 83 – 86.9%; B- = 80 – 82.9%; C+ = 77 – 79.9%; C = 73– 76.9%; C- = 70 – 72.9%; D+ = 67 – 69.9%; D = 63 – 66.9%; D- = 60 – 62.9%; F = <60.0%

COURSE POLICIES

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments are due by 11:59pm the date listed. Extensions may be granted for College-approved reasons that include proper documentation. Extension requests should be made before the deadline or within 24 hours (for unexpected emergencies). Late assignments without an approved extension will be penalized 10% for each day late. ***Assignments submitted more than one week after the deadline but before the last day of class will receive a 75% penalty.***

RESUBMISSION AND GRADE DISPUTES

I have found that the best way to get students to read the feedback I give them on assignments is to give them the chance to get some of the points back. For that reason, all written assignments can be resubmitted for a higher grade. They must be resubmitted within one week of the grade being posted, but they can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times until you get a perfect score (as long as it is returned within one week of each updated grade being posted). All resubmissions must be received before **5pm on Friday, December 5.**

If you want to dispute an exam question, you should write a short paragraph explaining the dispute and why your answer was correct, including page numbers and/or lecture slides that support your answer.

MISSED EXAMS AND QUIZZES

Make-up exams will be offered only for excused absences, and requests should be made **as soon as possible**. If you know about an excused absence ahead of time (e.g. for a college-sponsored game or competition), you should plan to take the exam BEFORE the scheduled time. For unexpected emergencies, you should let me know within 12 hours of the scheduled exam. If your big toe falls off on the way to the exam, get to the hospital, and then send me a quick email or text saying you're in the hospital and that you'll follow up with me after you're released to reschedule your exam. If I have not heard from you within 12 hours of you missing an exam, I will assume it was an unexcused absence, and you're taking a zero on the exam or that you're experiencing locked-in syndrome and are having to communicate by blinking.

Weekly review quizzes can only be made up for valid reasons (e.g. severe illness, extended technical issues, etc.). If you know that you will be without internet access during the entire Friday-Sunday window, let me know so that we can make alternative arrangements. If your internet goes out suddenly Sunday night or you are otherwise unable to take the quiz, you should text me IMMEDIATELY (don't wait to talk to me the next day in class). If I do not hear from you before 11:59pm on Sunday night, you will receive a zero on the quiz.

STUDENTS IN DISTRESS

Your success in this course and throughout your college career depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Stress is a common part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected life changes outside the classroom. Your other professors and I strongly encourage you to take care of yourself throughout the term before the demands of midterms and finals reach their peak. Before circumstances and conditions become overwhelming, please don't hesitate to speak with me about any difficulty you may be having that may affect your academic performance. Please know as well that there are several support services on campus available to assist you, as needed. You can make appointments with Health Services by calling x-6102. Appointments for Counseling Services can be made online at any time through [MyHanover](#).

AUTHORIZED MATERIALS FOR EXAMS, QUIZZES, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Because the quizzes and assignments for this course will be completed outside of the classroom, I want to make it crystal clear what materials are allowed.

- **Weekly review quizzes**: you may use your textbook and notes. You may not work with or get assistance from another person (either in person or online) or use the internet or generative AI
- **Written assignments**: you may use any resources available, but your work must be your own. For instance, if you are working on one of the analysis paper assignments, you may ask the librarians to help you find an appropriate article or the Learning Center tutors to help you format the paper. You and a classmate may help each other to make sure you are doing APA format correctly, but you must complete the assignment on your own. If you are working with a classmate, I *strongly* recommend that you use different articles/movies so that there is no risk of overlap in your final product. You may use generative AI for help with structuring your papers, but the actual content must come from your brain.

NOTE: this list is not exhaustive. If I missed a potential resource, you must consult me before using it or assume that it is not allowed.

HANOVER COLLEGE POLICIES

HONOR CODE

As stated in the Hanover College Principles, students, faculty, staff, and trustees of Hanover College seek to promote academic, personal, and moral growth within a safe, challenging, and responsive community. This includes a commitment to academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity have a broad impact on the College and will result in College review and action.

Academic dishonesty includes any action with the intent to deceive in order to obtain an unfair advantage, as well as any act of aiding and abetting academic dishonesty. Note that the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools without the direction or approval of the instructor may be considered academic dishonesty. The Hanover College statement on academic dishonesty may be found in the Catalog and in the Student Handbook. Any given instance of academic dishonesty is dealt with by the instructor of the course in which it occurs. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the chair of the Student Academic Assistance Committee, and repeated instances of academic dishonesty will subject a student to additional penalties up to and including dismissal from the College as outlined in the College Catalog.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Hanover College offers accessibility services to students with documented physical, visual, hearing, learning, or psychiatric disabilities. Any Hanover student is eligible for special services or accommodations if: 1) The student self-identifies that he or she has a disability and needs accommodation; 2) The student provides appropriate and verifiable documentation of the disability; and 3) The student provides notification in a timely fashion. For accessibility services, [Email Accessibility Services](#) or call 812-866-6844. The Accessibility Services (AS) office is in the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning on the first floor of Duggan Library.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Hanover College is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities, and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. Anyone who observes or who is a victim of bias is encouraged to report incidents using the [online bias reporting forms](#). An Equal Opportunity employer, the College also affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination in its employment policies and practices. In compliance with Title IX (20 U.S.C Sec. 1681 et seq.) Hanover College prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. For student related disability discrimination concerns, contact the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning at 812-866-6840. For other discrimination complaints, including any arising under Title IX, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-6740 or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-7097.

Date	Lecture Topics	Reading
25-Aug	Course Introduction	
27-Aug	What is Psychology?	Chapter 1
29-Aug	Research in Psychology	Chapter 2
1-Sep	Labor Day – No Class	
3-Sep	Interpreting Research in Psychology	Chapter 2
5-Sep	Neurons & the Nervous System	Chapter 3
Sunday, September 7: APA Format Assignment Due		
8-Sep	Neuroanatomy and Physiology	Chapter 3
10-Sep	Neurotransmitters & Drugs	Chapter 4
12-Sep	Consciousness & Sleep	Chapter
15-Sep	Exam 1	Chapters 1-4
17-Sep	Physical & Motor Development	Chapter 9
19-Sep	Cognitive Development	Chapter 9
Sunday, September 21: Analysis Paper 1 Plan Due		
22-Sep	Social & Moral Development	Chapter 9
24-Sep	Faculty Work Day – No Class	
26-Sep	Vision & Hearing	Chapter 5
Sunday, September 28: Analysis Paper 1 Due		
29-Sep	Other Senses	Chapter 5
1-Oct	Perception	Chapter 5
3-Oct	Conditioning	Chapter 6
6-Oct	Fall Break – No Class	
8-Oct	Learning	Chapter 6
10-Oct	Exam 2	Chapters 5, 6, 9
13-Oct	Remembering	Chapter 8
15-Oct	Forgetting	Chapter 8
17-Oct	Thinking	Chapter 7
20-Oct	Motivation	Chapter 10
22-Oct	Emotion	Chapter 10
24-Oct	Stress & Health	Chapter 14
27-Oct	Industrial & Organizational Psychology	Chapter 13
29-Oct	Human Factors Psychology	Chapter 13
31-Oct	Exam 3	Chapters 7, 8, 10, 13, 14
3-Nov	Personality	Chapter 11
5-Nov	Faculty Work Day – No Class	
7-Nov	Personality	Chapter 11
Sunday, September 21: Analysis Paper 2 Plan Due		
10-Nov	Social Cognition	Chapter 12
12-Nov	Social Influence	Chapter 12
14-Nov	Prosocial & Antisocial Behavior	Chapter 12
17-Nov	Psychopathology & Therapies	Chapters 15 & 16
19-Nov	Anxiety Disorders & Cognitive-Behavioral Therapies	Chapters 15 & 16
21-Nov	Mood Disorders & Humanistic Therapies	Chapters 15 & 16
24-Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
26-Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
28-Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
Sunday, September 28: Analysis Paper 2 Due		
1-Dec	Schizophrenia & Dissociative Disorders	Chapters 15 & 16
3-Dec	Personality Disorders	Chapters 15 & 16
5-Dec	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Chapters 15 & 16
Dec 8-Dec 12	Final Exam	Chapters 11, 12, 15, 16