
INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY in Fall 2019 (PY1000B)

Course Code	PY1000B	Professor(s)	Martin Dege
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	PL 104
Class Schedule	TF: 15:20-16:40 in C-102	Office Hours	by appointment
Credits	4	Email	mdege@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

This course explores psychology as an academic discipline and a social phenomenon. Students will learn about developments of psychological theorizing, how implied ideas and concepts have been applied and how various notions of what it means to be human can be understood. Together we will explore phenomena such as identity, violence and obedience, memory, culture, perception, emotion, learning, and others. Students will learn about the classical branches of the discipline such as associationism, psychoanalysis, behaviorism, cognitivism, constructionism, as well as narrative approaches. My goal is to introduce you to the ways in which psychological research shapes ideas about the human mind. To that end, we will read original research articles and discuss how psychological work relates to the world we live in.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to intelligently discuss research in the field of psychology.

Students will understand and be able to apply a broad range of psychological theories.

Students will be able to critically evaluate psychological findings as reported in the popular press.

Students will learn how psychologists study human beings, begin to understand the limits of various methods of investigation and to question how knowledge is constructed.

Students will understand the ethical obligations that psychologists have to protect others from harm.

Awaken students' intellectual curiosity about how psychological approaches can help to better understand persons and real world social problems.

Students will improve their ability to write clear and effective arguments.

Local and Global Perspectives: Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate. (CCI LO1)

Exploring and Engaging Difference: Students will think critically about cultural and social

difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class. (CCI LO3)

Civic and Ethical Engagement: Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical considerations relating to specific societal problems, values, or practices (historical or contemporary; global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become engaged actors at various levels in our interconnected world. (CCI LO4)

General Education

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the Mapping the World requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

Students will improve their ability to think through the developmental, social and cultural influences on human action and thought.

Course Outline

SEPTEMBER

Week I: 3rd-6th

Tuesday 3rd: Intro: What kind of Knowledge?

([Valsiner, A guided science, Introduction](#)).

Friday 6th: Doing Research in Psychology

How does it work? ([Hacker & Sommers, A Pocket Style Manual Chapters 1-15](#)).

Bring your laptops to class!

Assignment 1: Add all of our class readings to [zotero](#). Produce an output file with zotero that shows all the references formatted in APA Style. Upload the file to blackboard until Sunday (8th) midnight.

Week II: 10th-13th

Tuesday 10th: What's Psychology?

[Assignment 2](#): Team up with a classmate and ask people in the streets two questions:

1. *What is psychology?*
2. *What do psychologists do?*

The people you ask must be strangers and they may not be members of the AUP community!

A café might be a good location or a place where people wait in line like the Eiffel Tower/other museums etc. The Metro is typically a bad place since people are in a rush. Ask at least five people for their opinion. Write a reflection paper about your experiences (individually). Assignment due Thursday (12th) at midnight.

Friday 13th: Library Session (Location: Q-609)

Bring your laptops to class!

- How can you find psychology journals and articles?
- How do you research a particular topic?
- How do you assess the quality of a paper?

[Assignment 3](#): Find articles and book resources that define branches of psychological research, the state of the art in those branches and the general research scope. Due Monday (16th) at midnight.

Week III: 17th-20th

Tuesday 17th: What is science? Is Psychology a science?

([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 1](#); Valsiner, [Ch 2](#) & [Ch 5](#)).

Wednesday 18th, 6:30pm movie screening

[A Dangerous method](#). Room C102

Friday 20th: Psychoanalysis vs lifespan development

A debate with Professor Irene Strasser from The American University in Cairo. ([Baltes, On the Incomplete Architecture of Human Ontogeny](#) & [Baltes et al. Lifespan Psychology. Theory and Application to Intellectual Functioning](#))

Week IV: 24th-27th

Assignment 4: During the entire week, leave a pen and paper next to your bed during the night. Set your alarm clock ten minutes earlier than usual. Once you wake up, instantly write down anything you dreamt about during the night. Write a reflection paper about your experiences (due Sunday (29th) midnight).

Tuesday 24th: What is Psychoanalysis?

The Wish ([Freud, Interpretation of Dreams Ch 2 & 3](#))

Friday 27th: Psychoanalysis II

What do your dreams mean? ([Freud, Interpretation of Dreams Ch 6 A-C](#))

OCTOBER

Week V: 1st

Tuesday 1st: Early Approaches to Psychology:

German Psychology ([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 9](#)).

American Functionalism ([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 11](#)).

Friday 4th: No class

Week VI: 7th-8th

Monday 7th, 6:30 pm: Movie Screening

[Experimenter. The Stanley Milgram Story.](#) (Location: C104; Time 6:30 pm; no meeting during regular class hours).

Assignment 5: Write a reflection paper about the movie: What did you learn about the study of behavior? Reflect about how politics and research are entangled. Assignment due Friday (11th) at midnight.

Tuesday 8th: The Milgram Experiment

([Milgram, Behavioral study of obedience.](#))

Week VII: 15th-18th

Tuesday 15th: Roundup before the midterm exam.

Friday 18th: Midterm exam.

Week VIII: 21st-25th

Monday 21st: 6.30pm: Movie screening

[The Stanford Prison experiment.](#)

[Assignment 6](#): Write a reflection paper about the movie. Include the material from <https://www.prisonexp.org/links#criticisms>. Assignment due Thursday (24th) midnight.

Tuesday 22nd: Discussing the SPE

([Zimbardo, Maslach, Haney, Reflections on the Stanford Prison Experiment.](#))

Tuesday 22nd, 6:30pm, Q-801: The Ecological Self in Relationship

Guest Lecture by [Paul Sebastian Ruppel](#)

Friday 25th: Humanistic & Positive Psychology

([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 17](#); [Aanstoos, The relevance of humanistic psychology](#); [Seligman & Csikszentmihalyi, Positive psychology: An Introduction.](#))

[Assignment 7](#): What's so humane about humanistic psychology? What's so positive about positive psychology?. Use APA style. Assignment due Monday (28th) midnight.

Week IX: 29th

No class

NOVEMBER

Week X: 5th-8th

Tuesday 5th: Perception

([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 14](#); [Köhler, Gestalt Psychology Ch 4](#), [Myers & DeWall Ch 6](#))

Friday 8th: Emotion

([Barrett, Ten common misconceptions about psychological construction theories of emotion](#); [Robson, The 'untranslatable' emotions you never knew you had](#); [Pelly, Big Mood Machine](#))

Week XI: 15th

Group A Friday 15th, 9:50 am: Visit L'Atelier des Lumières

Please bring 7 Euros in cash.

Group A Friday 15th at 15:20 in C102: Cognitive Psychology: A language of information

([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 19](#); [Collins, From H = log sn to conceptual framework](#)).

Group B Friday 15th: No classes.

Assignment 8: Write a reflection paper about perception, emotion, and how they play out during your experiences at the Lumières. APA Style. At least three external references. Assignment due Thursday (21st) at midnight.

Week XII: 19th-22th

Group B Tuesday 19th, 9:50 am: Visit L'Atelier des Lumières.

Please bring 7 Euros in cash.

Group B Tuesday 19th at 15:20 in C102: Cognitive Psychology: A language of information

([Hergenhahn & Henley, Ch 19](#); [Collins, From H = log sn to conceptual framework](#)).

Group A Tuesday 19th: No classes.

Assignment 8: Write a reflection paper about perception, emotion, and how they play out during your experiences at the Lumières. APA Style. At least three external references. Assignment due Thursday (21st) at midnight.

Friday 22nd: How does memory work?:

([Tulving, Are There 256 Different Kinds of Memory?](#); [Lande, Your Brain Probably is a Computer](#); [Epstein, Your brain does not process information and it is not a computer](#)).

Week XIII: 26th

Tuesday 26th: What is memory?

([Brockmeier, Beyond the Archive Ch 1](#)).

Assignment 9: What is memory? Reflect on the various approaches we discussed. Minimum 2 pages. Use APA style. Include external resources. Due Thursday (28th) midnight.

DECEMBER

Week XIV: 3rd-6th

Tuesday 3rd: Narrative Psychology

([Schiff, A new Narrative for Psychology Ch 3](#); [Bruner, Acts of Meaning Ch 4](#)).

[Assignment 10](#): What is narrative? And How is it related to the concept of identity? Minimum 2 pages. Use APA style. Include external resources. Assignment due Thursday (5th) midnight.

Friday 6th: Who am I?

([Freeman, Hindsight Ch 1](#); [Bamberg, Who am I?.](#))

NOTE: This is a tentative course schedule, it is subject to modifications.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

I expect students to attend every scheduled class and arrive on time. We will meet to work through the material together. A significant amount of our time will be dedicated to work in groups of no more than five students where your active participation is required. If you experience an emergency and cannot attend class or expect to arrive late, please let me know in advance. Students who miss four or more classes will receive a lowered final grade. Students who miss seven or more classes will fail the class.

Grading Policy

Attendance, Participation, Surprise Quizzes 30%
Reflection papers 30%
Midterm 20%
Final exam 20%

Other

Professional behavior

Students are expected to maintain professional behavior in class. During class, please refrain from private conversations, including text messages. All electronic devices, such as computers (unless needed for group work), cell phones, etc. must be turned off. Please devote your full attention to the class.

Academic dishonesty

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are serious offenses and could lead to suspension or expulsion from the university. If you have a question about academic integrity, please contact me as soon as possible.

Office hours

You are encouraged to visit me during the semester. If you have any questions regarding the class or otherwise run into problems, please let me know as early as possible. I am approachable and there to help.