

PSY 1000A General Psychology
2008-09, 1st Term
Department of Psychology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

1. Course Description: What is the course about?

This is a course introducing psychology, the scientific study of human behavior. It will offer a survey of different sub-fields of psychology, including the nervous system, perception, memory, learning, intelligence, development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorder, etc. Focuses will be put on the scientific methodology adopted by psychologists, some key figures and theories, and applications of concepts to personal and social issues.

2. Learning Approach: How does the course help you learn about psychology?

Through lectures you will obtain the basic understanding of different topics related to psychology and the scientific tools involved. Tutorials will include a variety of activities, including games, demos, video viewing, etc., to help you further understand the course material. Individual writing exercises (thought pieces) and group discussions during tutorials will encourage you to reflect on issues related to the study of psychology and on the implications of those issues in real life, as well as help you develop the ability to engage in educated discussions on issues related to psychology.

3. Prerequisites: What knowledge do you need before taking this course?

No courses have to be taken as the prerequisite.

4. Contact Information of Teaching Members

Lecturer:	
Name:	Prof. Alan Chun-Nang Wong
Office Location:	Sino Building 334
Telephone:	2609-6505
Email:	alanwong@psy.cuhk.edu.hk
Lecture Time & Venue:	Tue 8:30-10:15am (CKB109)
Consultation Hours:	Mon 10am-noon (or by appointment)
Website:	http://www.psy.cuhk.edu.hk/en/people/alanwong/index.html

Teaching Assistants:			
Name:	Yanling Zhou	Tony Cheng	Shiwei Jia
Office Location:	Sino Building 348	Sino Building 351	Sino Building 339
Telephone:	2609-6724	2609-6521	2609-6489
Email:	ylzhou@psy.cuhk.edu.hk	tthcheng@psy.cuhk.edu.hk	swjia@psy.cuhk.edu.hk
Tutorial Time & Venue:	Thu 12:30-1:15pm CKB109	Thu 12:30-1:15pm FYB UG02	Thu 12:30-1:15pm FYB UG02
Consultation Hours:	Fri 2-4pm (or by appointment)	Wed 4-5pm (or by appointment)	Wed 3-4pm (or by appointment)

5. Course Content

Topics	Contents/fundamental concepts
1. Introduction	What is the history of psychology studies? What are the key issues and controversies in psychology?
2. Scientific Method	How do psychologists do their research? How to do an experiment?
3. Neuroscience & Behavior	How is the nervous system organized? What do neurons and brains have to do with our behavior?
4. Sensation & Perception	How do we receive stimulations from the environment? How do we understand and derive meaning from these stimulations?
5. Learning	Different types of learning: classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and cognitive approaches.
6. Memory	What are the types of memory? How can we improve our memory?
7. Intelligence	How to define intelligence? Are there different types of intelligence? How to measure them?
8. Development: Cognitive	The nature/nurture debate; What is the cognitive capacity of babies, and how do they become smarter as they grow?
9. Development: Social	How do children and adolescents develop a sense of self and learn to interact with others?
10. Personality	Different ways to understand personality: trait, psychodynamic, social-cognitive, and humanistic approaches.
11. Emotions	Why do we experience emotions? What are they actually?
12. Social Psychology	How do we influence others? How are we influenced by others?
13. Psychological Disorders	What are the types of psychological disorders? What are the symptoms and causes?

6. Expected Learning Goals

Learning Goals:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the phenomena related to psychology 2. Develop critical thinking skills in psychology 3. Apply and relate psychology to daily issues 4. Reflect upon personal development

7. Expected Learning Outcomes

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8. Learning Activities

	Interactive Lecture	Tutorial	Quiz & Thought-piece Discussion	Self-directed Study
Time per week	2 hours in-class Tue: 8:30-10:15am	1 hours in-class Thu: 12:30-1:15pm	1 hours in-class Thu: 12:30-1:15pm	3 hours out-of-class
Venue	CKB109	CKB109/FYB UG02	CKB109/FYB UG02	Out of class
No. of sessions in total	13 lectures	5 tutorials	5 tutorials	--
Attendance	Optional	Mandatory	Mandatory	--
Teaching Member(s)	Lecturer	Teaching assistants	Teaching assistants	Self-initiated by students
Matching with learning goals (LG)	√ LG 1 √ LG 3	√ LG 1 √ LG 2 √ LG 3 √ LG 4	√ LG 2 √ LG 3 √ LG 4	√ LG 2 √ LG 3 √ LG 4
Matching with learning outcomes (LO)	√ LO 1 √ LO 2	√ LO 1 √ LO 3	√ LO 3 √ LO 4	√ LO 4

Four different types of learning activities will be adopted in this course:

I. **Interactive Lectures**

- Present an overview of psychology-related concepts, terminologies, theories and experimental findings, both classical and contemporary
- Discuss in the class controversial topics in psychology.
- Engage the class in interactive activities to consolidate the understanding on psychological concepts, terminologies, and theories.

II. **Tutorials**

- Reinforce, through demonstrations, games, videos, etc, the understanding of different psychology theories and their applications.
- Discuss in small groups on issues in psychology.

III. **Quiz and Thought-piece Discussion**

- Discuss in small groups the problem-based task, either daily life issues or fictional scenarios, and to explore and apply concepts, terminologies and theories in psychology.
- Express and comment on ideas related to the quizzes and assignments.

IV. **Self-directed Studies**

- Let students take responsibility for design, direct and regulate their own learning about psychology, to consolidate knowledge, critical thinking skills, and personal reflection on psychology-related topics to pursue further learning.

9. Assessment Scheme

Assessment Mode:	Matching of learning goals:						
<p>Students will be assessed in the form of:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>1. Formative assessment (measures what you have learnt at different stages during the course)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>2. Authentic assessment (measures various abilities that you can apply to address real-life problems or fictional scenarios)</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>1. Formative assessment (measures what you have learnt at different stages during the course)</p>	<p>2. Authentic assessment (measures various abilities that you can apply to address real-life problems or fictional scenarios)</p>	<p>Each assessment mode matches with the following learning goals:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>√ Learning Goal 1</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>√ Learning Goal 2</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>√ Learning Goal 3</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>√ Learning Goal 4</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>√ Learning Goal 1</p>	<p>√ Learning Goal 2</p>	<p>√ Learning Goal 3</p>	<p>√ Learning Goal 4</p>
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<p>√ Learning Goal 4</p>							

Assessment Scheme	Description	Weight	Matching with assessment mode (AS)
Quizzes	Multiple-choice questions covering the entire course. Quiz 1 (20%): Lect. 1-4 & Tuto. 1-4 Quiz 2 (25%): Lect. 5-8 & Tuto. 5-8 Quiz 3 (25%): Lect. 9-12 & Tuto. 9-11	70%	√ AM 1
Thought Pieces	This assignment provides a chance for students to reflect on the scientific and/or daily-life implications of theories or findings (7% × 3 pieces).	21%	√ AM 2
Tutorial Participation	Participation in presentations, discussions, debates, etc., will be assessed.	9%	√ AM 2

Note:

- Students are expected to attend all tutorials.
- You are required to participate in 3 hours of psychology experiments. Sign-up sheets for these experiments are posted outside SB LT1. Details will be introduced in the first tutorial.
- Absentees from a quiz for unjustified reasons will not be granted a make-up quiz and will be given a “0” for that quiz. Students with justified reasons will be given a make-up quiz with essay questions. The instructor and the teaching assistants reserve the rights for the final decision to grant or not to grant a make-up quiz to a particular student.
- Each thought piece assignment should be submitted together with a signed CUPIDE receipt (see p.8). Otherwise, 1% will be deducted (i.e., the maximum score will be 6% instead of 7%). Late submission will also be subject to score deduction (1% for any late submission plus 0.5% for every 24 hours after due date).

Learning resources

Textbook required:

Feldman, R. S. (2008) *Understanding Psychology (8th Ed)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Other recommended readings:

Books and journals will be suggested for different topics at the end of each class.

10. Course Updates

CUForum (<https://cuforum.cuhk.edu.hk/>) will be adopted in this course for posting course notes, announcements, submitting on-line assignments, etc.

For students who are not familiar with the platform of CUForum, you are recommended to read the instructions and guidelines of how to use CUForum once you logged onto CUForum.

11. Feedback for evaluation

Students are welcome to give comments and feedback at any time during the class. Stop by to talk to the instructor or teaching assistants. You can also send us emails or post your comments on CUForum.

Around Week 7-8 of the course, we will ask you to give us comments and feedback through an open-ended questionnaire. Some questions will be like “things that you like and do not like about this course”, “suggestions on enhancing the course”, and etc.

12. Course schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	2 Sept. 4 Sept.	Lecture 1: Introduction Tutorial 1: Introduction	Chapter 1: Modules 2 & 3
2	9 Sept. 11 Sept.	Lecture 2: Scientific Method Tutorial 2: Experiment Design (Game)	Chapter 2
3	16 Sept. 18 Sept.	Lecture 3: Neuroscience & Behavior Tutorial 3: Handedness (Exercise)	Chapter 3: Modules 7 & 9
Reminder: Thought piece 1 due at the beginning of the tutorial on 25 Sept.			
4	23 Sept. 25 Sept.	Lecture 4: Sensation & Perception Tutorial 4: Illusions (Demo)	Chapter 4: Modules 11 & 13
5	30 Sept. 2 Oct.	Lecture 5: Learning QUIZ 1 (Lecture Topics 1-4)	Chapter 6
6	7 Oct. 9 Oct.	Public Holiday – Chung Yeung Festival Tutorial 5: Quiz 1 Review	
7	14 Oct. 16 Oct.	Lecture 6: Memory Tutorial 6: Applying Learning & Memory To Life (Brain Storming)	Chapter 7
Reminder: Thought piece 2 due at the beginning of the tutorial on 23 Oct.			
8	21 Oct. 23 Oct.	Lecture 7: Intelligence Tutorial 7: Intelligence Tests (Exercise)	Chapter 9: Modules 26 & 28
9	28 Oct. 30 Oct.	Lecture 8: Development: Cognitive Tutorial 8: TBA	Chapter 12: Modules 37, 39, 40
10	4 Nov. 6 Nov.	Lecture 9: Development: Social QUIZ 2 (Lecture Topics 5-8)	Chapter 12 Modules 37, 39, 40
11	11 Nov. 13 Nov.	Lecture 10: Personality Tutorial 9: Quiz 2 Review	Chapter 13: Modules 42 & 43
Reminder: Thought piece 3 due at the beginning of the tutorial on 20 Nov.			
12	18 Nov. 20 Nov.	Lecture 11: Emotions Tutorial 10: TBA	Chapter 10: Modules 31 & 32
13	25 Nov. 27 Nov.	Lecture 12: Social Psychology QUIZ 3 (Lecture Topics 9-12)	Chapter 17
14	2 Dec.	Lecture 13: Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15

14. Academic honesty and plagiarism

The University places very high importance on honesty in academic work, and has a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Guidelines on academic honesty are on the website on "Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide for Students and Teachers"

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Guideline about plagiarism

Any assignment (i.e., project, essay, or paper) that shows evidence of plagiarism will be marked down severely. In simple terms, plagiarism is copying passages and/or ideas from other sources without referencing those sources. Moreover, when you report someone else's ideas/findings you must put it in your own words and not merely copy full sentences or parts of sentences from the source article. It is your responsibility as a scholar-in-training to cite the ideas and work of others correctly. Please visit the following websites for discussions of how to recognize and avoid plagiarism.

<http://ec.hku.hk/plagiarism/introduction.htm>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.hamilton.edu/writing/style/plagiarism/plagiarism.html>

If you commit plagiarism in an assignment, and it is your first offence in the course, the penalty will range from a minimum of a single letter grade reduction in score on the assignment to a maximum of failure on the assignment. A second offence within the same course will result in a minimum penalty of a single letter grade reduction in the course grade to a maximum penalty of course failure. The specific penalty applied is up to the discretion of the professor. In all cases of plagiarism, the student's name will be recorded in a central database maintained by the general office. If a student is referred for plagiarism in more than one course, or more than one instance in the same course, the student's case will be forwarded to the university administration for follow-up action.

Detecting plagiarism

The Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning requires that all student assignments in undergraduate programmes should be submitted via CUPIDE (the Chinese University Plagiarism IDentification Engine System). Obviously, this policy will only apply to assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based (i.e., excluding calculations in science, brief laboratory reports, drawings in fine arts and architecture, etc.).

- Each student must upload a soft copy of the completed assignment to the plagiarism detection engine CUPIDE, at the URL: <http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student>
- The system will issue a receipt which also contains a declaration of honesty, which is the same as that in <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p09.htm>
- The declaration should be signed, and the receipt stapled to a hard copy of the assignment, which should be handed in before the assignment due date.
- Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers.

(To be signed by students at the beginning of the semester)

I promise that all assignments submitted to this course across the entire semester will be original except for source material explicitly acknowledged. I also acknowledge that I am aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations as contained in the website <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Signature

Date

Name

Student ID

Course code

Course Title