

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

1. Course Description: What is the course about?

This course introduces you to the scientific study of human behavior. We will survey major areas of research in psychology, such as brain and the nervous system, perception, memory, learning, development, personality, cross-cultural differences, and psychological disorder. You will be exposed to up-to-date scientific findings, theories, unresolved questions and controversies. Also, you will learn scientific methods that psychologists use in approaching these questions.

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

Lectures will introduce you important concepts and theories in psychology. In tutorials, you will engage in learning activities, including games, demos, video viewing, etc. These activities are designed to enhance your understanding of the course material. In addition, through writing exercises (thought pieces) and group discussions, you are invited to reflect on various issues introduced in the course.

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

There is no prerequisite for this course.

4. Contact Information of Teaching Members

Lecturer:	
Name:	Prof. Takeshi Hamamura
Office Location:	Sino Building 344
Telephone:	3163-4246
Email:	hamamura@psy.cuhk.edu.hk
Lecture Time & Venue:	Thursday 2:30-4:15, HYS G05
Office Hours:	Thursday 1-2
Homepage:	www.psy.cuhk.edu.hk/en/people/thamamura

Teaching Assistants:		
Name:	Hildie Leung	Wynne Chan
Office Location:	Sino Building 326B	Sino Building 326B
Telephone:	3163-4383	3163-4383
Email:	hleung@psy.cuhk.edu.hk	whwchan@psy.cuhk.edu.hk
Tutorial Time & Venue:	Tuesday 4:30-5:15 pm, HYS G01	Tuesday 4:30-5:15 pm, HYS G05
Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30-2:30	Tuesday 2:30-4:30

5. Course Content

Topics	Contents/fundamental concepts
1. Introduction	What is psychology and what is not psychology? Basic and applied research in psychology, history.
2. Research methods	How do psychologists conduct research?
3. Evolution and culture	What makes us similar and different from each other?
4. Brain	How is the nervous system organized? What do neurons and brains have to do with our behavior?
5. Learning	How do we learn? Different types of learning: classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and social learning.
6. Development	How do babies think? How do they come to think like adults? How do children learn to get along with others? How do they acquire language?
7. Sensation and perception	How do we receive stimulations from the environment? How do we understand and derive meaning from these stimulations?
8. Memory	What are the types of memory? How can we improve our memory?
9. Cognition	How do we solve problems? What are patterns and pitfalls in our thinking? How does culture shapes our thinking?
10. Motivation and emotion	What is motivation? What is emotion? Why do we experience emotions?
11. Personality	Different ways to understand personality: trait, psychodynamic, social-cognitive, and humanistic approaches.
12. Disorders	What are the types of psychological disorders? What are the symptoms and causes?
13. Social psychology	How do we influence others and how are we influenced by others?

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

Learning Outcomes:	Matching of learning goals:																										
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8. Learning Activities

	Interactive Lecture	Tutorial	Self-directed Study
Time per week	2 hours in-class Thursday: 2:30-4:15pm	1 hours in-class Tuesday: 4:30-5:15pm	3 hours out-of-class
Venue	HYS G05	HYS G01/05	Out of class
No. of sessions in total	13 lectures	10 tutorials	--
Attendance	Mandatory	Mandatory	--
Teaching Member(s)	Lecturer	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
Matching with learning outcomes (LO)	√ LO 1 √ LO 2	√ LO 1 √ LO 3	√ LO 1 √ LO 4

Three 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. **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" style="width: 100%;"> <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" style="width: 100%;"> <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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Assessment Scheme	Description	Weight	Matching with assessment mode (AS)
Quizzes	Multiple-choice questions covering the entire course. Quiz 1 (20%): Lectures 1-4 Quiz 2 (25%): Lectures 5-8 Quiz 3 (25%): Lectures 9-13	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:

- 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.

Thought pieces

Thought pieces are a brief essay (1 page, typed, double-spaced) in which you draw a connection between the course material and your life. For each of these thought pieces, you are asked to: **a)** identify a topic from the lecture/text, **b)** accurately define/introduce the topic, and **c)** provide an example from your life or the media. This is an opportunity for you to find connections between the research that you read about and the life that you experience. It is preferable that you attempt to find examples from your own life but examples from the media are acceptable.

Pretend that we (instructor and TAs) don't know as much as we do – treat your audience for this paper as someone who is unfamiliar with psychology. Have someone who isn't in the class read over it – do they understand the concept? If so, you've done well. If not, you may need some revisions.

Due Dates

- Thought piece 1 Choose a topic from Lectures 1-4 Due Oct. 2
Thought piece 2 Choose a topic from Lectures 5-8 Due Oct. 30
Thought piece 3 Choose a topic from Lectures 9-13 Due Nov. 27

Submit your thought pieces in the beginning of the class for these dates. Late submission will be penalized, 10% of the grade for each delayed day.

Grading

Thought pieces will be evaluated based on (a) clarity of writing (b) accuracy of your description, and (c) creativity and critical thinking demonstrated in your example.

A mark of **0** is given to a thought piece that isn't turned in or is so poor in quality that it doesn't merit points. **3** points will be awarded to a thought piece that is adequate but contains errors. **7** points (maximum) will be awarded to a thought piece that is excellent in quality, clear writing, accurate description, and the example clearly demonstrates your creativity and critical thinking.

10. 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 upon request.

11. Course Updates

CUForum (<https://cuforum.cuhk.edu.hk/>) will be adopted in this course for posting course notes, handouts, announcements, 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.

12. 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.

13. **Course schedule**

Date	Topic	Reading
4 Sep.	Lecture 1: Introduction	Chapter 1
9 Sep.	Tutorial 1: Introduction (<i>No tutorial on Sep. 2</i>)	
11 Sep.	Lecture 2: Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2
16 Sep.	Tutorial 2	
18 Sep.	Lecture 3: Evolution and Culture	(No reading for this week)
23 Sep.	Tutorial 3	
25 Sep.	Lecture 4: Brain	Chapter 3
30 Sep.	QUIZ 1 (Lecture Topics 1-4)	
2 Oct	Lecture 5: Learning, Thought Piece 1 due	Chapter 6
7 Oct.	Tutorial 4: Quiz 1 Review	
9 Oct.	Lecture 6: Development	Chapter 12
14 Oct.	Tutorial 5:	
16 Oct.	Lecture 7: Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
21 Oct.	Tutorial 6:	
23 Oct.	Lecture 8: Memory	Chapter 7
28 Oct.	QUIZ 2 (Lecture Topics 5-8):	
30 Oct.	Lecture 9: Cognition and Language, Thought Piece 2 Due	Chapter 8
4 Nov.	Tutorial 7: Quiz 2 Review	
6 Nov.	Lecture 10: Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10
11 Nov.	Tutorial 8	
13 Nov.	Lecture 11: Personality	Chapter 13
18 Nov.	Tutorial 9	
20 Nov.	Lecture 12: Disorders	Chapter 15
25 Nov.	Tutorial 10	
27 Nov.	Lecture 13: Social Psychology, Thought Piece 3 Due	Chapter 17
2 Dec.	QUIZ 3 (Lecture Topics 9-13)	

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.

(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