

**PSY 0010: Introduction to Psychology**

Spring, 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-10:45 AM; 120 Lawrence Hall

Class# 11768

**Professor:** Marc Coutanche (“ku-tawsh”), Ph.D.

**Office:** 646, Learning, Research and Development Center (3939 O’Hara Street) [opposite Benedum Hall]

**Email:** pittintropsych@gmail.com

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Schneider, Joshua

**Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:** Jasmine Issa, Jacob Sampson, Madison Schratz, Brooke Vulcano

Welcome to Intro Psych! We all hope that you will learn a lot and enjoy the journey as we explore the fascinating field of psychology. Your instructor and teaching assistants are here to help you, so please consider us a resource. Below is an outline of what you can expect from this class and your instructors, and your responsibilities as a student. It is very important that you read and fully understand the course syllabus.

**Office hours:**

You do not need an appointment to see us during office hours, although you may need to wait while we talk to other students. Additional office hours can be arranged by appointment. Appointments must be made in person. *After* class is usually a good time to ask brief questions or schedule appointments; before class is less ideal because we will be setting-up the class.

Together, we have office hours distributed throughout the week:

Monday	1pm – 2pm	Brooke	LRDC (3939 O’Hara St.), 650
Tuesday	12:45pm – 1:45pm	Jake	LRDC, 650
Wednesday	11am – 12pm	Marc	LRDC, 646
Thursday	11am – 12pm	Josh	Dept. of Psych (210 S. Bouquet St.), 3323 <i>Except for after each exam: LRDC, 650</i>
Thursday	3pm – 4pm	Jasmine	LRDC, 650
Friday	10am – 11am	Madison	LRDC, 650

In past courses, students who have attended office hours prior to exams have shown great improvement in their exam grades (up to two letter grades!). Please consider doing this if you are having difficulty in this course.

**CourseWeb site:**

This course has a CourseWeb page. You can access the page through the Pitt Portal at my.pitt.edu or directly at courseweb.pitt.edu. This course will be listed under “My courses” if you are officially registered (please allow 24 hours after your registration for the course to appear). Please check the course website regularly for announcements and other important information, especially if you miss class. Please ask for help if you have any problems accessing the site.

**Required textbook:**

Experience Psychology, 3e, 2016 by Laura King

Students have a choice of whether to use the loose-leaf version or “Connect” - the Smartbook version (“a pre-highlighted, interactive eBook that guides you through chapters and gives you review questions as you read”).

Option 1: Purchase the textbook or textbook and “Connect” access code from the University bookstore. The publisher has provided a discount for the book specific to the University of Pittsburgh bookstore on 5<sup>th</sup> ave.

Option 2: Purchase Connect smartbook online with credit/debit card (<http://connect.mheducation.com/class/m-coutanche>)

**Either way, when you wish to access the digital materials, you should use this course-specific website address: <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/m-coutanche>**

You do not need to bring your book to class.

Note: Students who have a different edition of the book will be held personally responsible for determining which material is different from the current edition.

**Attendance and other policies:**

Attendance is not mandatory and will not be taken. However, being in class regularly will help you do well in this course – the class will not simply be a presentation of what is in your textbook (new material will be presented). Additionally, we will do extra-credit exercises that will help you to apply your knowledge of psychology, thereby enhancing your learning. Students who are not in lecture should contact a fellow student to determine missed information, such as lecture notes. It is not possible to get this information from the TA or instructor. In preparing for exams, you will be responsible for all material presented in class.

The class slides will be made available on CourseWeb. I will make every effort to ensure that you have adequate time to take notes during the class; please tell me if I move too quickly. Class notes will **not** be made available because taking your own notes has been shown to help learners remember and understand new material. Taking notes is important because the PowerPoint presentations do not contain all relevant information.

We understand that students may sometimes need to arrive late for class or leave early. Please attempt to do this with minimal disruption for the benefit of your fellow students. If you anticipate needing to arrive late or leave early on a regular basis, please inform me. If late arrivals or early departures begin to cause too much disruption, this policy may be revised. I will end class approximately 1-2 minutes early to allow you to pack up before going to your next class. Please do not make noise by packing up before I formally end class because this will disrupt your fellow students and me.

Asking relevant questions during class is *strongly* encouraged. Please raise your hand if you have a comment or question and share it with your classmates. I will restate questions using the microphone so that all students will be included in the discussion.

**Please turn off or silence** your cell phone when you enter the classroom. Talking or other disruptive behavior (including cell phone use, text messaging, or emailing) during class will not be tolerated because it will reduce the other students’ and the instructor’s ability to concentrate. Computers may be used to take notes, but please do not keep them open during video viewing because they make it more difficult to view the screen. At the discretion of the instructor, disruptive students will be penalized points toward their final grade.

**Contacting the instructor or teaching assistants:**

We have a course email address ([pittintropsy@pitt.edu](mailto:pittintropsy@pitt.edu)). We will check this address regularly; therefore, you will most likely receive fast responses to email correspondence sent to this address. However, you should allow at least 24 - 48 hours to be sure that you will get a response, especially prior to exams. Please use the course email address for all correspondence, rather than individual email addresses. Emails sent to our individual addresses will either not be responded to or will be replied to with a request that you re-send the

message to the proper email address – so sending individual e-mails will not get a faster response. The exception is if you have a personal issue that you prefer to communicate exclusively with the instructor about. In this case, you can come to Marc's office hour or e-mail him directly.

### **Emailing guidelines:**

1. Please sign all emails with your full name.
2. Please do not ask questions prior to the exam that would require us to fully explain some of the exam material. It *is* appropriate to ask something like "I am confused about the difference between the X model and the Y model. I think that the X model is the one with this, and the Y model is the one with that. Is this right?". However, it *is not* appropriate to ask something like "What is the X model?" because we cannot completely summarize material via email that was covered in the text or in class. In these types of communications, it is typically best to give us your understanding of the material so that we know where there may be a misunderstanding. Generally speaking, it is best to come to office hours to go over the material before the exam, rather than relying on email; email is best used for brief clarification questions.
3. Please read this syllabus and check the information on the CourseWeb site prior to contacting us with questions. Many of your questions can be answered in this way. If you ask a question that can be answered by checking either of these sources, we will respond to your email by asking you to check them. Also, be sure to use the index at the back of your textbook to find topics in the text.

### **Earning your grade:**

The purpose of grading is to evaluate students' understanding of material presented in classes, movies, demonstrations, and readings. In a large class such as this, the most practical way to assess this understanding is with objective, multiple-choice exams. To the extent possible, these exams will be designed to assess understanding and the ability to apply concepts (rather than just memorization). There will also be in-class assignments, which can offer additional points (see below). Finally, your grade from your recitation section (see recitation syllabus for more information) will factor into your score (details below).

### **Exams:**

There will be 4 multiple-choice exams; 3 during the semester, and a 4<sup>th</sup> during the University-appointed final exam period. Each exam is worth 100 points; the final is optional and can be used to replace a lower grade on another exam. Taking the final cannot lower your grade.

The exams held during the semester will NOT be cumulative. The final will be cumulative. Sample questions will be made available prior to each exam. Arrive on time for exams. Late-arriving students may not be allowed to take exams. Late arrivers will never be allowed to take an exam if any students have already completed the exam and left the classroom. Exams will cover:

- Class material (which might not always be in the book)
- Book material (which might not always be covered in class)

The class session prior to each exam will be an optional review session. In this session, your TAs will cover topics or answer questions that you are having difficulty with. To benefit from this session, it is important that you consider topics and questions that you would like answered in advance of the session. Students are encouraged to e-mail topics to the class e-mail address in advance of each session, or to bring questions with them.

The last exam is an optional cumulative exam and will be held during the university-appointed final exam period in our regular classroom. **The university has scheduled our final exam for Wed Apr 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 3:50pm.**

Be sure to bring a #2 pencil with eraser to all exams. These will not be provided, but we will bring a sharpener. **Also bring your Pitt ID to every exam.** Cell phones, MP3 players, and other electronic devices (including dictionaries) are never permitted during exams, so please do not bring these, or turn them off before entering the

room. If you need help understanding an exam question, please ask. You can ask brief clarification questions but it is not appropriate to ask questions that require us to completely explain or define a topic or concept.

Adjustments of the final exam time will be given only for students with exam conflicts (more than three exams in the same day during finals week) as requested by university guidelines. In this case, the alternative exam will be different from the regular exam, and will be given no more than 24 hours from its scheduled time. No other changes to the final exam time can be made because of university guidelines and fairness to all students.

If you anticipate a problem with being present for the final exam at its assigned time, you forfeit your right to use that exam to replace a prior grade, including a missed exam (see below). No exceptions to this policy will be made. If you will not be able to attend, I will try to help you get into another section of this class during the add/drop period.

Makeups: The course design (where you can drop one exam) is chosen to allow for illness or other events, so no make-up exams will be given in this course. Students who miss an exam should use the optional cumulative final exam to replace the missing grade. Even if you do not anticipate missing an exam, you should not schedule travel prior to the final exam because that is the only time you may take the final.

### **Assignments:**

Psychological studies have shown that people remember information better when they use it in some way. To promote learning through application and experience, we will have a variety of assignments related to the course material. These assignments will be completed in class. These assignments are all optional, however the more assignments you do, the better your grade will be! Students will have the chance to add up to 5% (of the final grade) through these in-class assignments. Because assignments are closely linked to in-class material, *they cannot be made up under any circumstances*. You have 10 days after the posting of an assignment score to report any problems with your score (e.g., a missing score or a lower score than expected). After that time, all assignments will be recycled and no changes will be possible.

### **Recitations:**

Your recitation Instructor's syllabus will describe how your recitation grade is calculated. This part of the course is worth 25% of the final grade. Please direct questions about this to your recitation instructor.

### **Course grades will be based on percentage scores:**

As = 90 – 100 (90 - 92 = A-; 93 - 96 = A; 97 - 100 = A+)

Bs = 80 – 89

Cs = 70 – 79

Ds = 60 – 69

F = 59 and below

You can calculate your final course grade by summing the following:

- i) The average of your top 3 exams x 0.75
- ii) Your recitation percentage x 0.25
- iii) Number of extra-credit assignments completed x 0.5%

The research requirement (below) is required to avoid an “incomplete” but otherwise does not affect your grade.

### **Research requirement:**

All students in this course are required by the Department of Psychology to complete a 4-hour research requirement. You may complete this requirement in two ways. The first option is to participate in experiments. One hour of participation counts as one hour of your requirement. The second option is to write brief reviews of psychology research papers. Each paper counts as one hour of your requirement. You can combine experiments

and papers to reach your 4-hour requirement. **We do not control this part of the class. Please contact [subjpool@pitt.edu](mailto:subjpool@pitt.edu) with any questions.**

If you do not complete 4 research hours by the end of the term, you will receive an incomplete grade and have to complete the requirement within one year (see <http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/archive/2011/undergrad/6b-cas-a.htm>). Note that incomplete grades can affect your standing at the university and your ability to receive financial aid. If you receive an incomplete, the Psych Research Project Coordinator, Dr. Halechko, will have a grade change form on file for you, which will be turned in after you have notified her that you have completed your requirement. If you earn an incomplete, see: <http://www.pitt.edu/~subjpool/incomplete.html>.

To sign up for experiments:

- Sign up for experiments at <http://pitt.sona-systems.com>. This web site will open in the first week of classes and will close on the last day of classes.
- You should receive an email at your Pitt email address with your signup information during the first week of classes. If you add the class late, you will be added at the end of the add/drop period. If you do not receive an email indicating your signup but wish to sign up for experiments, you may join yourself or contact Dr. Halechko at [subjpool@pitt.edu](mailto:subjpool@pitt.edu).
- Please make certain that you meet the requirements of the experiment before signing up. The requirements for each experiment are listed on the web site.
- ***Please attend all scheduled appointments.*** Many experiments require extensive preparation. If you need to cancel, please do so with as much lead time as possible as a courtesy to the experimenter.
- Please note that if you do not show up for two scheduled appointments and do not cancel ahead of time, you will no longer be allowed to sign up for experiments and will instead have to complete your hours using the paper option.
- You should check the web site often for research opportunities. However, please note that some experiments will not become available until later in the semester. If you are worried about finding enough experiments in time, you may consider writing a paper instead (see below).
- We suggest that you not sign up for experiments that conflict with your class time. If you cannot find another time that works for you, please contact the experimenter to see if you can find a mutually agreeable time that would not require you to miss class.

To write research papers:

- Go to this web site for additional information about possible readings: <http://www.pitt.edu/~subjpool/papers.html>.
- Write a paper that follows the guidelines listed on the website.
- Go to <http://turnitin.com> and enroll for the appropriate class. The class number and password are available on this website: <http://www.pitt.edu/~subjpool/papers.html>.
- Submit your papers to Turnitin. Note that this software checks for plagiarism, so be certain that all of the information is written in your own words. If you are not sure what this entails, please see <http://plagiarism.org>.
- Note that to have your paper(s) graded in time to count for your final grade, your paper must be turned in by midnight one week before the last day of classes.

If you have any questions or concerns about this requirement, please contact the **Psych Research Project Coordinator, Dr. Halechko**, at [subjpool@pitt.edu](mailto:subjpool@pitt.edu).

### **Research and teaching assistantships:**

For information about the kinds of research that students are able to get involved in as research assistants (typically once they have completed 12 credits of Psychology courses), go to the Psychology advising web site at: <http://www.psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/experiential-learning/directed-research>. Similar assistantships

are also available to get teaching experience, like the undergraduate teaching assistants in this class: <http://www.psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/experiential-learning/undergraduate-teaching-assistant-experience>.

**Academic integrity:**

All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty. Any student engaged in cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty would be subject to disciplinary action. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity at <http://provost.pitt.edu/faculty-resources/academic-integrity-freedom/academic-integrity-guidelines>. This may include, but is not limited to the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating the University Policy.

**CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS COURSE**

Cheating includes but is not limited to: looking at the exam of a fellow student, a text, or a study guide, writing information on note cards, your body, your desk, a cell phone, or your clothing to look at during an exam. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators. It is also cheating if you help another student with an exam. Plagiarism includes copying the work of another student and showing your work to another student. In this course, a student who is found cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F for the course and will be reported to the Dean. Please do not do anything that would make me or the exam proctors suspect that you are cheating! Additional information regarding cheating will be given during the semester. It is also considered cheating if you turn in an in-class assignment with another student's name on it, and both students will be subject to the penalties outlined above.

**Disability services:**

If you require special accommodations or classroom modifications, please notify both the instructor and Disability Resources and Services by the end of the first week of the term. The office of Disability Resources and Services is located in 140 William Pitt Union (412-648- 7890 [voice or TDD]), and their website is at: <http://www.drs.pitt.edu/>. If you have a physical, learning, or emotional disability, please let me know as early as you can so that I can accommodate you. **Arrangements for disability exams must be made through the DRS office a minimum of one week before the in-class exam date.**

**Accessibility:**

Blackboard is ADA Compliant and has fully implemented the final accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Please note that, due to the flexibility provided in this product, it is possible for some material to inadvertently fall outside of these guidelines.

**Copyright notice:**

These materials and those presented during class may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See Library of Congress Copyright Office and the University Copyright Policy.

**Statement on classroom recording:**

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

**Courtesy**

You are expected to arrive to class on time and inform your instructor if you must leave early regularly. Keep in mind that it is generally unacceptable to leave class early. Courteous behavior includes staying on-task during the class, respecting the opinions of others, and coming to class prepared. Additionally, you are expected to use professional language in class and in written communication (including email). Papers and emails that are written in an unprofessional manner (i.e., grammatically incorrect, typos, misspellings, overly informal) are considered unacceptable.

**Diversity and inclusion:**

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming and inclusive environment for every other member of the class.

**Student assistance and counseling:**

Everyone feels overwhelmed by the challenges of being a student at times. We are here to help you. If you have any issues that you would like to discuss with the instructor or a TA in confidence, please schedule an appointment. Please note that we are not counselors but can direct you to a place where you can get help. If you need someone to talk to at any point, there are several on-campus resources.

One option is the University Counseling Center (a free, confidential service). They can be reached at 412-648-7930, and are located at 334 William Pitt Union (after hours call 412-624-2121).

Another option is the Psychology Department's Clinical Psychology Center (see <http://www.pitt.edu/~clinic/>). They can be reached at 412-624-8822.

Sexual assault services are given at the Sexual Assault Services Center, which is located at 334 William Pitt Union (phone: 412-648-7930; after hours call: 412-648-7856).

For emergency psychiatric care, please go to the nearest emergency room, or the Diagnostic Evaluation Center at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic at 3811 O'Hara St. They can be reached at 412-624-1000.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

The class schedule is subject to change - updates will be announced during the semester in class and on CourseWeb. Please make every effort to complete the assigned reading prior to class. Research shows that students understand new information better when they have a framework for understanding. Reading the chapter will provide a good framework for understanding the information presented during class.

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading
Tues Jan 9	Introduction to the course	Syllabus
Thurs Jan 11	The Science of Psychology	1
Tues Jan 16	Research Methods	1
Thurs Jan 18	The Brain (part 1)	2
Tues Jan 23	The Brain (part 2)	2
Thurs Jan 25	Sensation and Perception	3

Tues Jan 30	Consciousness and Attention	4
Thurs Feb 1	Review for Exam 1	
Tues Feb 6	EXAM 1	
Thurs Feb 8	Learning	5
Tues Feb 13	Memory	6
Thurs Feb 15	Thinking and Intelligence	7
Tues Feb 20	Language	7
Thurs Feb 22	Development	8
Tues Feb 27	Aging	8
Thurs Mar 1	Sleep	sleep pages in ch. 4
Tues Mar 6	SPRING BREAK	
Thurs Mar 8		
Tues Mar 13	Review for Exam 2	
Thurs Mar 15	EXAM 2	
Tues Mar 20	Motivation and Emotion	9
Thurs Mar 22	Personality	10
Tues Mar 27	Psychological Disorders (guest lecturer)	12
Thurs Mar 29	Therapies	13
Tues Apr 3	Health Psychology	14
Thurs Apr 5	Social Psychology	11
Tues Apr 10	To be decided by class	2 distributed articles
Thurs Apr 12	Implications for Society	2 distributed articles
Tues Apr 17	Review for Exam 3	
Thurs Apr 19	EXAM 3	
<b>Wed Apr 25</b> 2 – 3:50pm	<b>FINAL EXAM (note different time)</b> <b>Final is optional: see exam text above for details</b>	