GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY I
PSYC 1100 sec 035 & 050 & 080, Fall 2026
Lecture: MCHU 102
sec 035 Tue Thu 5:00-5:50
sec 050 Mon Wed 3:35-4:25
sec 080 Mon Wed 4:40-5:30
Lab sec 036L-092L: as scheduled (see reverse)
in SHH 438 or ARJ 139

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This course is an introduction to psychology as a natural science. The Lecture part of the course examines conceptual issues and the biological, behavioral, and cognitive approaches to some central topics, e.g., neuropsychology, learning theory, human memory, sensory processes, and perception. The Lab introduces concepts in research methodology and science literacy as they pertain to psychology and is independent of the Lecture material; it has its own assignments and quizzes as determined by the Lab Teaching Assistant.
Academic misconduct (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) is a violation of the University of Connecticut Student Conduct Code at https://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-preamble/; policies on such are at https://community.uconn.edu/student-undergraduate-faq/.

OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK
OpenStax *Psychology* (2nd edition): Open Educational Resource (OER), free to read online, free downloadable pdf available online: https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e

READING
Various readings posted on HuskyCT

GRADING (Note: Exams are In-Person, In-Class, using HuskyCT and Respondus LockDown Browser)

Exam 1:	week 7: WED 10/14/26 (sec 050 & 080); THU 10/15/26 (sec 035)	30 points
Exam 2 (Non-Cumulative):	week 11: WED 11/11/26 (sec 050 & 080); THU 11/12/26 (sec 035)	30 points
Exam 3 (Non-Cumulative Final):	1-3 PM TUE 12/15/26 (sec 080) *	
	1-3 PM MON 12/14/26 (sec 050) *	
	6-8 PM SAT 12/19/26 (sec 035) *	
	* subject to change (TBA BY THE REGISTRAR)	30 points
Lab:		30 points
Research / Science Literacy Component:	5 extra credit points allowed, after initial required 5 credits completed	
TOTAL:		120 points

LECTURE is in MCHU 102, at the times listed above for your lecture section.

LAB: ATTENDANCE AT LAB SECTIONS IS MANDATORY FOR EVERY PSYC 1100 STUDENT. PSYC 1100 is a 3 credit class, meeting hours per week; two of those hours are Lecture and the third is Lab. THE LAB GRADE COUNTS FOR 25% OF THE COURSE GRADE. This means that if you skip the Lab you could score perfectly on all three exams and still only receive 75% of the points for the course. Lab meetings for PSYC 1100 sections 036L-092L are in SHH 438 or ARJ 139 at the times stated in the course schedule. All students should know their Lab section number, meeting time, and teaching assistant's name. LABS BEGIN MON 9/14/26.

RESEARCH / SCIENCE LITERACY COMPONENT and EXPERIMENT PARTICIPANT POOL:
There is a large amount of ongoing psychological research in the department which depends largely upon General Psychology students as participants. Researchers include faculty, graduate students, and other undergraduate students. The traditional mechanism that has been in place for many decades nationwide is to allow introductory psychology students to earn part of their course credit through participation in experiments. Benefits to the science of Psychology are obvious; benefits to the student include exposure to research in specific areas of Psychology and insight into the general nature of psychological research. Information about experiments (time, place, duration, description, experimenter's name, etc.) is posted on the Sona Participant Pool experiment sign-up page, https://uconnpsych.sona-systems.com, which is also where you make appointments to participate in the studies you choose. Refer to https://psychology.uconn.edu/participant-pool/ for details of participation procedures and instructions for how to log in to the Sona page. Experiments this semester run from Monday 8/31/26 through Wednesday 12/9/26. All experiment participation must be completed during that time, and any credit accounting errors must be detected and corrected absolutely no later than Friday 12/11/26. Credit totals will be posted on the Sona web site on Monday 12/14/26. Specific policies for PSYC 1100 lecture sections 035, 050, and 080 are as follows:

(continued...)

Each 1/2 hour of experiment participation counts for 1 experiment participation credit. All experiments are at least 1 credit; some are only 1 but some may be more depending on the amount of time required to participate.

5 experiment participation credits (2.5 hours) are REQUIRED of each student to maintain the total points accumulated for the course from exams and Lab. These credits count ONLY as points to be LOST from the final point total for the course, if they are not completed. For example, a student who earns 20 points on exam 1, 20 points on exam 2, 20 points on exam 3, and 20 points in Lab (each out of 30 possible) has a total of 80 points out of 120 possible points; with 5 experiment credits the student maintains that score, but with only 4 credits (1 short) the total score would drop to 79, with 3 credits (2 short) it drops to 78, and with 0 credits (5 short) it drops to 75.

Up to 5 additional experiment participation credits (2.5 hours) may be earned as EXTRA CREDIT, once the required 5 credits have been completed; this is the only form of extra credit offered in this course. These extra credits count ONLY as points to be ADDED to the total points accumulated for the course; they are not required, and failing to do them will not affect your grade. For example, a student who earns 20 points on exam 1, 20 points on exam 2, 20 points on exam 3, and 20 points in lab and has completed the required 5 experiment participation credits has a total of 80 points; with 1 extra credit the total becomes 81, and with the maximum of 5 extra credits (i.e. 10 credits total, including the required 5) it becomes 85. Note that the difference between 80 points and 85 points out of 120 could be the difference between, say, a D+ and a C- as a course grade. (Actual course letter grade cutoffs will be determined before adding any extra credits, so that no one is penalized for not earning extra credit.)

Participation in experiments is strictly voluntary. For students not wishing to participate in experiments, alternate assignments will be available, requiring about the same amount of time as the experiment credits and playing the same role in grade calculation as described above for the 5 initial credits and 5 extra credits. The alternate assignment options will be posted on a HuskyCT site called "Fall 26 Psyc 1100 Research Literacy Alternate Assignment", which will appear among your other HuskyCT sites in week 10 of the semester on Monday 11/2/26, and is separate from the HuskyCT sites for the Lecture and the Lab. ANY COMBINATION of experiment participation credits and alternate assignment credits is allowed, with their combined total being used to assess points to be deducted or added as described above.

Once you make an experiment appointment you MUST keep it, or cancel with at least 24 hours notice; the Participant Pool web page allows cancellations only until the 24-hour point is reached! If you miss TWO appointments with less than 24 hours notice, the system will automatically disqualify you from further participation in experiments and won't allow you to sign up for any more. Then the alternate assignments will be the only option for earning credits. (But really, keeping appointments is a fairly basic responsibility that you can probably manage okay!)

All questions about experiment participation procedures and issues should be addressed to **uconnpsychologyparticipantpool@gmail.com** (scroll down to "Contact Us" for email link)—NOT to the instructor who will not have the answer you seek. Be sure to first consult the web page https://psychology.uconn.edu/participant-pool/ where you'll find most questions have already been answered!

COURSE OUTLINE: Topics & readings in OpenStax *Psychology* (2nd edition); see posted readings on HuskyCT

INTRODUCTION
The Science of Psychology: History, Philosophy, and Definitions of Psychology [Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology]

BIOLOGY
Neural Bases of Behavior [Chapter 3 Biopsychology]
A) neural basis: reflex, nerve impulse, action potential, communication by neurotransmitters
B) brain basis: nervous system structure, localization of function, disorders, lateralization

BEHAVIOR
Learning: The Changing Organism's Adaptation to the Changing World [Chapter 6 Learning]
A) classical and operant conditioning: concepts, procedures, and experimental phenomena
B) biological constraints: belongingness
C) cognitive learning: contingency in classical conditioning, learned helplessness, latent learning

MIND
Memory: Preserving the Past [Chapter 8 Memory]
A) types of memory: short-term/long-term, episodic/generic, explicit/implicit, declarative/procedural
B) encoding and retrieval

Sensory Processes: Experiencing the World [Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception]
A) light and sensory mechanisms in the eye
B) psychophysics

Perception: Knowing the World [Chapter 5 Sensation and Perception]
A) empiricist approach to depth perception: Helmholtz
B) nativist approach to form perception: Gestalt Psychology
C) ecological approach: Gibson

PORTIONS OF THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE UPDATED