

SOSC1960 Discovering Mind and Behavior (L1)

Wednesdays & Fridays | 1:30 – 2:50 pm | CYTG010

Instructor	Teaching Assistant
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Course description

This course introduces the fundamental scientific knowledge about human thinking and behavior processes, and illustrates the relevance of this knowledge to the betterment of human performance and well-being in a wide variety of settings in society (e.g., education, business, healthcare). This course is suitable for students who want to acquire basic understanding of psychology, and is a prerequisite for those who want to study psychology further.

Intended learning outcomes (ILOs)

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. recognize some fundamental knowledge about human thinking and behavior processes
2. analyze human thinking and behavior with reference to psychological concepts
3. explain how psychology research is conducted, and appreciate the scientific basis of psychology

Course communication platform

Announcements, dissemination of supplementary course materials, and submission of several assignments will be made through the course Canvas website: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/13482>.

Textbook

Feldman, R.S. (2017). *Understanding Psychology*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education.
 (alternative textbook) Feldman, R.S. (2013). *Psychology and Your Life*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Although neither textbook is required, several copies will be held on reserve in the library. You are encouraged to use the Library Toolbox for your reference, accessible via course website.

Lecture schedule

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
1 Sept	Introduction	6 Sept	Research methods
8 Feb	Memory	13 Sept	Memory
15 Feb	Learning	20 Sept	Learning
22 Feb	Sensation and perception	27 Sept	Sensation and perception
29 Sept	Examination 1	4 Oct	Development
6 Oct	Intelligence	11 Oct	Intelligence
13 Oct	<i>Paper assignment workshop</i>	*18 Oct	<i>Paper assignment activity</i>
20 Oct	Personality	25 Oct	Personality
27 Oct	Social Psychology	1 Nov	Social Psychology
3 Nov	Examination 2	8 Nov	States of consciousness
10 Nov	States of consciousness	15 Nov	Psychological disorders
*17 Nov	Psychological disorders	22 Nov	Treatment of psychological disorders
24 Nov	Treatment of psychological disorders	29 Nov	Health and well-being
TBD	Examination 3		

*** Paper assignments are due on October 17 (Tuesday) and November 16, 2017 (Thursday). See p. 2. Course content may change; any changes will be announced in class and on the course website.**

Academic integrity

The University is a community designed for scholarship, one in which academic integrity and honesty are critical values. As a student of UST, you are expected to understand and follow the Academic Honor Code: <http://tl.ust.hk/integrity/honor.html>.

Teaching approach

- Lectures lay the foundation of your learning. They cover the fundamental concepts, involving discussion, interactive activities, videos, surveys, analyses of daily experiences, and reviews of past research studies. For each topic, additional research articles, videos, and news reports that complement the lectures may be recommended.
- Examinations and a paper assignment consolidate your learning. The exams focus on your basic conceptual understanding, while the paper focuses on your ability to apply this understanding.
- Participation in research studies or exercises will help you understand how psychology research is conducted. Psychological knowledge is advanced through empirical research involving human participants.

Learning activities and assessments

1. **Lectures** ILOs #1, #2, #3
 - Lectures provide information you will need to complete the course successfully. Past studies have shown that lecture attendance and participation facilitate learning and predict course grades.
 - Your participation in the course is essential to building a positive, productive learning atmosphere, and will help facilitate your own learning as well. We will use group discussions and activities to encourage participation and gauge your progress in class.
2. **Examinations (20% + 20% + 20%)** ILOs #1, #2
 - Each examination covers the following topics:
 - *Exam 1*: Research Methods, Memory, Learning, Sensation and Perception (20%)
 - *Exam 2*: Development, Intelligence, Personality, Social Psychology (20%)
 - *Exam 3*: States of consciousness, Psychological Disorders, Treatment of Psychological Disorders, Health and Well-Being (20%)
 - Everything covered in the lectures may be tested on the exams, but not supplementary material that is only on the course website. Exams 1 and 2 will be held during class, and Exam 3 will be arranged by ARRO. All three exams include multiple-choice questions only.
 - Do arrive at the exam sessions on time. No additional time will be given to students who arrive late.
 - Absentees will not be granted a make-up exam, except in the case of critical medical conditions. Doctor's testimony must be provided. The make-up exam will consist of essay questions only.
 - More guidelines will be disseminated in due course.
3. **Paper Assignment (2% + 8% + 20%)** ILO #1, #2
 - The paper assignment consists of three parts:
 - *Part 1*: completion of a "Test Your Mindset" online quiz (2%)
 - *Part 2*: participation of an in-class paper assignment activity (8%)
 - *Part 3*: submission of an individual paper (20%)
 - Parts 1 and 2 are designed to ensure your understanding of the material from the paper assignment workshop (October 13) and to prepare you for writing the individual paper.
 - Part 3 will consist of one question. You will analyze the topic described and write a response (maximum 800 words).
 - Please submit Part 1 and Part 3 of the paper assignment through the course website by 12 noon of the stated deadline (see p. 1). Part 2 will be completed in class on October 18, 2017.
 - Submission for Part 3 is subject to a grace-period policy: Submissions will be accepted until 5 pm on the deadline day without penalty. Submissions after this grace period will be subject to a heavy penalty, except in the case of critical medical conditions with a doctor's testimony.

- Be sure to submit original work. Do not copy other current or past students' works. Your paper will be subject to digital plagiarism detection through www.turnitin.com. Suspected cases may be reported to the school administration. A confirmed case will be subject to a penalty ranging from a reprimand to a failing grade.
 - More guidelines, including the grading rubric, will be disseminated in due course.
4. **Research participation (10%)** ILO #3
- Research participation will be managed by the SONA system. After the add/drop deadline, you will receive an email that provides you with guidelines for SONA account registration. You will then periodically receive notification emails about the new studies or exercises available. Use your SONA account to sign up for these studies or exercises. You will gain 10% for participating in 3 units (30-minute study or 30-minute exercise per unit). If you choose to participate in studies, your responses in these studies will be kept strictly confidential and used for research purpose only.
 - If you have taken part in some psychological studies in HKUST before (because you have taken another 1000-level psychology course or because you have taken part in paid studies), you may not be eligible for some of the new studies (because these studies substantially overlap the past studies you have completed). In this situation, you need sign up for the research exercises.
 - Further guidelines for research participation will be disseminated in due course.

Course feedback

Your opinions are very much valued. Two course feedback sessions, one in the middle and the other (the standard university SFQ) at the end of the course, will be conducted. We also encourage you to speak with the teaching team directly about any concerns or questions you may have about the course.