

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC1960 Introduction to Psychology (L2)
Summer Semester, 2023

The Teaching Team

Instructor

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Consultation: By appointment

Teaching Assistants

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*When contacting us by email, please ***prefix the subject line*** of your message with the course code [SOSC1960-L2]. Use your university email account only.

Consultation: By appointment

Lecture Time: Mon, Wed, Fri 2:00 – 5:20pm (HKT)
Venue: Lecture Theatre E

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 the society.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. recognize some fundamental scientific concepts about human mind and behavior;
2. analyze human performance and wellbeing in various social settings with reference to these concepts; AND
3. explain how scientific research on human mind and behavior is conducted.

Recommended Reading Resources

Noba Project. (2022). *Discovering Psychology: A Brief Text*. <http://noba.to/3fzdhpnj>

Assessment Scheme	Weighting
Midterm Quiz	30%
Assignment 1 & 2	30%
Research Experience	10%
Final Quiz	30%

1. Midterm Quiz (30%)

- Midterm quiz will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz will include multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the quizzes. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- The quiz is scheduled on **Jul 28** and covers topics from **the first five lectures**.
- Please arrive on time for the quiz as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate **within 24 hours of the original exam date** if you wish to arrange for a make-up exam. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

2. Assignment 1 & 2 (15% x 2)

- Task: You are required to complete two assignments. The first assignment is about Memory and the second one is about Health Psychology. For each assignment, you have to write a maximum of 500 words to demonstrate your understanding of the topic.
- The guidelines for the assignments will be uploaded on Canvas in due course. Please read and follow the instructions carefully. **Deadline: Assignment 1 is due on Jul 29 and Assignment 2 is due on Aug 12.**

3. Research Experience (10%)

- To allow you to gain the first-hand experience in psychological research, you are required to complete the following **two** tasks:

Task 1. Participate in-class activities (5%)

- *There will be in-class activities and students are required to complete some surveys/exercises.*

Task 2. Either Research Study OR Video Exercise (5%)

- *Research Study:* Complete an experimental study as a participant.
OR
- *Video Exercise:* Watch a video about a research study and write a thought piece about it (within 200 to 300 words).
- **Research study or Video Exercise is due on Aug 14.**

4. Final Quiz (30%)

- Final quiz will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz will include multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be

included in the quiz. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.

- The final quiz is scheduled on **Aug 11** and covers topics from **the last five lectures**.
- Please arrive on time for the quiz as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate **within 24 hours of the original exam date** if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will **ONLY** be in the form of essay questions.

Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating or improper use of AI language model would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to the Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.



Some Other Notes

- **Interaction in class** – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participation in class discussion or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- **Lecture slides** – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your own notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- **Penalties** – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit and not using the assignment template. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- **Late submission** – Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. NO submissions will be accepted after 5pm HKT on the due date.
- **Communication** – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10am to 6pm HKT.
- **Your feedback** – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Chapters from Reading
1	Jul 17	What is Psychology?	--
	Jul 19	Research Methods in Psychology	1-2
	Jul 21	Psychology of Learning	7
2	Jul 24	Memory [Tutorial 1] Writing Workshop & Research Experience	8
	Jul 26	Sleep and Biological Rhythms	6
	Jul 28	Midterm Quiz [Tutorial 2] Sensation and Perception	
	Jul 29	<i>Assignment 1 Due at 12nn</i>	
3	Jul 31	Developmental Psychology	10-11
	Aug 2	Personality Psychology	12-13
	Aug 4	Social Psychology	14-18
4	Aug 7	Health Psychology	23-24
	Aug 9	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	19-22
	Aug 11	Final Quiz [Tutorial 3] Personality Test	
	Aug 12	<i>Assignment 2 Due at 12nn Research Study or Video Exercise Due</i>	