

SOSC1960 Discovering Mind and Behavior (L1)

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 12:00-13:20 pm | Room 2464

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., business, product design, education, and healthcare). The 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/26016>.

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 (Tuesday)	Date	Topic (Thursday)
3 Sept	Introduction	5 Sept	Research methods
10 Sept	Memory	12 Sept	Memory
17 Sept	Learning	19 Sept	Learning
24 Sept	Sensation and perception	26 Sept	Sensation and perception
1 Oct	<i>National Day</i>	3 Oct	Development
8 Oct	Development	10 Oct	Intelligence
*15 Oct	Intelligence	17 Oct	Examination 1
22 Oct	<i>Paper assignment workshop & activity</i>	24 Oct	Personality
29 Oct	Personality	31 Oct	Social Psychology
5 Nov	Social Psychology	7 Nov	States of consciousness
12 Nov	States of consciousness	14 Nov	Psychological disorders
*19 Nov	Psychological disorders	21 Nov	Treatment of psychological disorders
26 Nov	Treatment of psychological disorders	28 Nov	Health and well-being
TBD	Examination 2		

*** Paper assignments are due on October 14 (Monday) and November 18 (Monday). 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://ugadmin.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 paper assignments consolidate your learning. The exams focus on your basic conceptual understanding, while the papers focus 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 (30% + 30%)** ILOs #1, #2
 - *Exam 1* covers the following topics: Research Methods, Memory, Learning, Sensation & Perception, Development, and Intelligence
 - *Exam 2* covers the following topics: Personality, Social Psychology, States of consciousness, Psychological Disorders, Treatment of Psychological Disorders, Health & Well-Being
 - Everything covered in the lectures may be tested on the exams, but not supplementary material that is only on the course website or only in the textbook. Exam 1 will be held during class, and Exam 2 will be arranged by ARRO. Both exams include multiple-choice questions (MCQ) 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 Assignments (10% + 20%)** ILO #1, #2
 - The purpose of *Paper 1* is to help you apply what we have learned thus far to yourself, as well as to learn how to write and critique a psychology paper (maximum 400 words).
 - The purpose of *Paper 2* is for you to show your understanding of the course material by analyzing a described scenario (maximum 500 words).
 - Please submit Papers 1 and 2 through the course website by 12 noon of the stated deadline (p. 1).
 - Submissions for both papers are 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 Experience (10%)**

ILO #3

- Research experience 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 experience 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.