

SOSC1960 Discovering Mind and Behavior (L1)

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 16:30-17:50 pm | Zoom

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/35910>.

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)
2 Feb	Introduction	4 Feb	Research methods
9 Feb	Memory	11 Feb	Memory
16 Feb	Learning	18 Feb	Learning
23 Feb	Sensation and perception	25 Feb	Sensation and perception
2 Mar	Development	*4 Mar	Development
9 Mar	Intelligence	11 Mar	Intelligence
16 Mar	Quiz 1	*18 Mar	<i>Paper assignment workshop & activity</i>
23 Mar	Personality	25 Mar	Personality
**30 Mar	Social Psychology	1 Apr	<i>Spring Break</i>
6 Apr	<i>Spring Break</i>	8 Apr	Social Psychology
13 Apr	States of consciousness	*15 Apr	States of consciousness
20 Apr	Psychological disorders	22 Apr	Psychological disorders
**27 Apr	Treatment of psychological disorders	*29 Apr	Treatment of psychological disorders
4 May	Health and well-being	6 May	Quiz 2

* **Discussions are due on March 5, March 19, April 16, and April 30 (all Fridays).**

** **Paper assignments are due on March 31 (Wednesday) and April 28 (Wednesday). See p. 3.**

Course content may change; any changes will be announced in class and on the course website.

Learning activities

1. **Lectures** ILOs #1, #2, #3
 - Lectures lay the foundation of your learning. They cover the fundamental concepts and reviews of past research studies and include class discussion (held through Zoom Chat/Polls), interactive activities, and videos.
 - 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.
 - If you cannot attend the Zoom lectures at the time they are given, videos/video links will be available on Canvas so that you can view them on your own; they will count as part of the course content.

2. **Class Participation via Canvas Discussions (20%)** ILOs #2, #3
 - 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 small group discussions and other activities to encourage participation and gauge your progress in class.
 - In addition to attending lecture classes, you are expected to participate in four Discussions (5% each; see pp. 1 and 3 for the deadlines) on the course Canvas website to share your understanding of the course material throughout the term. These Discussions will count towards your course grade.
 - For each Discussion, a prompt related to the course material will be posted 10 minutes after the END of class (18:00 pm); you will then be asked to post at least one response (each 200 words minimum) to the prompt by 18:00 pm of the next day (Hong Kong time).
 - More guidelines will be disseminated in due course.

3. **Research Experience (10%)** ILO #3
 - The two tasks for research experience (one Research Study, one Research Exercise) will be released once the add/drop period is over. They will be graded on pass/ fail basis. If you fail the task, you will be given some feedback and you can have ONE chance to rewrite with a one-point deduction.
 - The Research Study (5%) requires you to complete a real research study online as a participant and learn firsthand how it is conducted. You will then write a thought piece (100-300 words) about your experience.
 - The Research Exercise (5%) requires you to watch a video about a research study. You will then write a thought piece (100-300 words) about the study.
 - The Research Study and Exercise prompts will be released on February 18 at 12 noon and are due on February 26 at 12 noon (Hong Kong time) of the stated deadline (see p. 3).
 - Further guidelines for research experience will be disseminated in due course.

4. **Quizzes 1 and 2 (30%)** ILOs #1, #2
 - Quizzes assess your learning from the lectures, focusing on your basic conceptual understanding of the course material.
 - Everything covered in the class lectures (including video content) may be tested in the quizzes.
 - *Quiz 1* (15%) covers the following topics: Research Methods, Memory, Learning, Sensation & Perception, Development, and Intelligence
 - *Quiz 2* (15%) covers the following topics: Personality, Social Psychology, States of consciousness, Psychological Disorders, Treatment of Psychological Disorders, Health & Well-Being
 - Do arrive at the quiz sessions on time. No additional time will be given to late students.
 - Absentees will not be granted a make-up quiz, except in the case of critical medical conditions. Doctor's testimony must be provided on the day of the scheduled Quiz.
 - Both quizzes will be administered via Canvas Quizzes. You must sign on to Canvas in order to access and complete each Quiz.
 - More guidelines, including the format of the quizzes, will be disseminated in due course.

5. **Paper Assignments (10% + 30%)**

ILOs #1, #2

- The purpose of *Paper Assignment 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 Assignment 2* is for you to show your understanding of the course material by analyzing a described scenario (maximum 500 words).
- Please submit Paper Assignments 1 and 2 through the course website by 12 noon of the stated deadline (see pp. 1 and below).
- 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 which must be provided on the date the Paper Assignment is due.
- 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.

Summary of Assessment Scheme

Assessment Type	Grade %	Key Dates & Times
Class Participation (4 times)	20%	March 5, March 19, April 16, April 30
Research Experience	10%	February 18 – February 26
Quiz 1	15%	March 16
Quiz 2	15%	May 6
Paper Assignment 1	10%	March 31
Paper Assignment 2	30%	April 28

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>.

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.

Got more questions?

- Students can email either the instructor or the TAs with their questions; we will always aim to respond within 24 hours.
- We will set up a "Virtual Office Hours" Discussion on Canvas. Here, you can post your questions and concerns for the course; as with email, we will aim to post a response within 24 hours. You can also reference questions other students have posted in the Discussion.
- When it is safe to do so, if you do prefer to come to our offices, please remember to wear a mask!