

PSY 2012 - GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Online Section

Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Shani Kerr (pronounced “Car”)

Class Meeting Time and Place: Meets Online

Office: Room 359, Psychology Building

Email: s.kerr@ufl.edu *

Instructor Online Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm, by appointment (email for appointment)

Graduate Teaching Assistant: TBD

**The best way to contact me is via CANVAS messenger or the email address above. Please allow 24-48 hrs. to respond to your emails during the weekdays. Emails sent on the weekend will be responded during the following weekdays. Please include PSY2012 in the subject line for easy track of communication.*

PSY2012 Online is part of the General Education State Course (S).



State Core Course Description

In this course, students will gain an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Topics may be drawn from historical and current perspectives in psychology.



Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites to take this course.



General Education Designation: Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)

Social Science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues. Social and Behavioral Sciences (S) is a sub-designation of Social Sciences at the University of Florida.

These courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

All General Education area objectives can be found [here](#).



Course Textbook

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Author: Lilienfeld, Lynn, & Namy

Title: Psychology: From Inquiry to Understanding (5th edition)

ISBN: UF ALL ACCESS

****Please note that this course will be participating in the UF All Access program. Login at the following website and opt-in to gain access to your UF All Access course materials: <https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/AllAccess>.**

UF All Access will provide you with your required materials digitally at a reduced price and the charge will be posted to your student account. This option will be available 1 week prior to the start of the semester and will end 3 weeks after the first day of class.**



Materials Fee: N/A

Course Goals



Course Objectives

1. To teach you the science behind psychology and how it differs from the media's interpretation.
2. To provide you with an introduction to the different areas within the field of psychology.
3. To teach you the concepts in the field and how to apply them.



State Core Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. identify basic psychological theories, terms, and principles from historical and current perspectives.
2. recognize real-world applications of psychological theories, terms, and principles.
3. recognize basic strategies used in psychological research.
4. draw logical conclusions about behavior and mental processes based on empirical evidence.



General Education Student Learning Outcomes

Category	Institutional Definition	Institutional SLO
Content	Content is knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology and methodologies used within the discipline.	Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the discipline.
Communication	Communication is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms.	Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline.
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.	Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. These will be accomplished through assignments and assessments given in this course.



Subject Area Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes.
2. Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.
3. Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.

Expectations

You are expected to attend class regularly and complete the readings and assignments listed in this syllabus. You are also expected to check your email regularly (at least once a day) and to visit eLearning (Canvas) on a regular basis. Students typically find that for each hour in class, at least two additional hours are required for preparation.

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

Formal attendance will not be taken in this course. However, there are a set number of points attached to “Ask the Audience” (ATA) activities that require your attendance in class. In order to earn credit for these activities, students must be physically present in class and the activities must be completed during our class period. Ask the Audience activities will be completed using iClicker software, which is accessible via a smartphone app or internet browser. A link to our course’s join code is included below.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid using cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected during discussion. As this is a large section with many students, please refrain from holding side conversations once lecture has begun.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Sexual Harassment & Disclosures of Sexual Violence

Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF's sexual harassment policy which can be found here: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/1-006/>. Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy.

As mandatory reporters, university employees (e.g., administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF's Title IX coordinator. Title IX violation includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic/intimate partner violence, etc. For assistance or to inform Title IX any incident(s) that may constitute a Title IX violation, please complete the Title IX Information Form here: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/report/> or email inform@titleix.ufl.edu, or call 352-2731094.

UF Policies on Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Exam proctoring. Although you are allowed to use your book and notes on the four exams in this class, they will be proctored through Honorlock. Proctoring ensures the integrity of our exams by verifying each exam taker's identity, and ensuring that students do not communicate with each other during the test.

A word about Honorlock, from Honorlock:

"Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7, and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam/microphone, your ID, and a stable internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and download the [Honorlock Chrome Extension](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

When you are ready to complete your assessment, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session through your webcam, microphone, and recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not

attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them through live chat on the [support page](#)[Links to an external site.](#) or within the exam itself. Some guides you should review are [Honorlock MSRs](#)[Links to an external site.](#), [Student FAQ](#)[Links to an external site.](#), [Honorlock Knowledge Base](#)[Links to an external site.](#), and [How to Use Honorlock](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Late work policy. All work for this class must be submitted by the due date. Exceptions to this policy will be considered only in cases of serious emergency. I strongly recommend that you complete your work early in the week to avoid missing the Sunday deadline.

Course Requirements

Assignments and Grading

Application Papers (18.9%). You will have 5 application papers that required you to think critically about the concepts and theories covered in the module. Each paper should be no longer than one double-spaced page and contain two paragraphs.

Chapter quizzes (46.2%). You will have 9 open-book/open-note chapter quizzes, each with 25 multiple-choice items. You may take the chapter quizzes as many times as you wish (you will get a different set of questions each time), and your highest score will be recorded in the grade book.

Discussion boards (13.2%). You will have 6 discussion boards where you discuss a relevant topic with a group of 15-20 classmates. Discussion participation will take place in two steps: In the first step, you will write a response to the discussion prompt. This response is due by 11:59pm on Thursday of the module week. By the end of the module (11:59pm on Sunday), you will respond to at least two classmates in your discussion group.

Research requirement (2.8%). The Department of Psychology requires all students enrolled in PSY2012 to engage in research-related activities, either as a participant in or consumer of research. You will be graded based on your completion of a particular number of research credits. Additional details and deadlines for meeting this requirement see the Homepage, scroll to the bottom and "hit" the blue box "Research Experience" for instructions. The Research Requirement will be available in the second week of the semester.

Exams (18.9%). We will have an exam during every third module, for a total of four exams worth 4.6% approximately each. Exams are non-cumulative, and will cover all material presented in the modules, including textbook chapters, enrichment lectures, required external videos, and required supplemental readings. Although exams in this class are open note/open book, we will use exam proctoring from Honorlock to verify your identity and that you do not communicate with others or record test questions during the test. (More information about Honorlock is provided in the Course Policies section below.) Exams must be taken within the five-day window preceding their due date. Missed exams will be taken during UF's final exam week (email Dr. Kerr for permission to do so). Exam windows run from 12pm Wednesday through 11:59pm on Sunday.

Grading Scale

Grade	Scale	Grade	Scale
A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	E	<60%

****Note:** A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit. Final total percentage points with a decimal value equal to or greater than .5 will be rounded to the next number. For further information about current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.**

Policy for Disputing a Grade

You will have one week (including weekends and holidays) after any course material grade has been posted to dispute your grade. The exception will be the last exam because there won't be enough time to complete disputes and turn grades in. Disputes will NOT be accepted after that date. If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute. For quizzes write out the question on the test and a paragraph explaining why your answer is correct with references to the material in the text for each question or writing assignment you are disputing. Then send a private email with this information to the instructor's email address.

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Dr. Julie Graber (jagraber@ufl.edu, (352) 273-2128). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office

(<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 352-3921261).

University Honesty Policy

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict

Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Study Skills

Important study habits that will help you succeed in this class include:

1. Reading all assigned pages by the date they are assigned,
2. Reading and studying the text before and after hearing the lectures on those topics, and
3. Studying and testing yourself in-depth on the days before each exam.

TENTATIVE FALL 2025 SCHEDULE

Module	Topic	Due Date for Graded Work	What is Due?
1	Psychology and Scientific Thinking: A Framework for Everyday Life	Sept 2	1. Course Orientation Quiz 2. Introduce Yourself to Your Discussion Group 3. Chapter 1 Quiz
2	Research Methods: Vital Safeguards Against Error	Sept 8	1. Chapter 2 Quiz 2. Module 2 Discussion Board
3	Biological Psychology: Bridging the Levels of Analysis	Sept 15	1. Application Paper 2. EXAM 1
4	Sensation and Perception: How We Sense and Conceptualize the World	Sept 22	1. Chapter 4 Quiz 2. Module 4 Discussion Board
5	Consciousness: Expanding the Boundaries of Psychological Inquiry	Sept 29	1. Chapter 5 Quiz 2. Application Paper
6	Learning: How Nurture Changes Us	Oct 6	1. Module 6 Discussion Board 2. EXAM 2
7	Memory: Constructing and Reconstructing Our Pasts	Oct 13	1. Chapter 7 Quiz 2. Application Paper
8	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence: Getting Inside Our Talking Heads	Oct 20	1. Chapter 8 Quiz 2. Module 8 Discussion Board 3. Application Paper
9	Human Development: How and Why We Change	Oct 27	1. EXAM 3 2. Module 9 Discussion Board
10	Social Psychology: How Others Affect Us	Nov 3	1. Chapter 12 Quiz 2. Module 12 Discussion Board
11	Personality: How We Become Who We Are	Nov 10	1. Chapter 13 Quiz

12	Psychological Disorders: When Adaptation Breaks Down	Nov 18	1. EXAM 4
13	Psychological and Biological Treatments: Helping People Change	Dec 1	1. Chapter 15 Quiz 2. Application Paper

No Classes: September 1 (Labor Day); October 17-18 (Homecoming); November 11 (Veterans Day); November 24-29 (Thanksgiving Break).

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online.

Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, [352392-1575](tel:352392-1575), or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call [352-3921575](tel:352-3921575) for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call [352-392-1161](tel:352-392-1161) for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call [352-392-1111](tel:352-392-1111) (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call [352-733-0111](tel:352-733-0111) or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call [352-273-4450](tel:352-273-4450).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.

- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Teaching Center](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).