

Psychology 105-001: Psychology as a Science and Profession

Spring, 2020

MWF 3:35pm-4:25pm

Location: 112 Kern Grad Building

Instructor: Melissa Plaufcan, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
Email: Please email me through Canvas or at mrp23@psu.edu.
Office: 406 Moore Bldg.
Office Hours: Schedule at <https://drplaufcan.youcanbook.me>
(Times typically available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

Graduate TAs

Contact your graduate TA with questions about course content, assignments, make-up exam scheduling, and help with reviewing missed material, and study strategies/study help.

Graduate TA: Thomas Crow, M.A. (This is your TA if your last name starts with **A through L**)

Email: tkc5097@psu.edu

Office: 359 Moore

Office Hours: Please schedule at <https://tcrow.youcanbook.me> (Times typically available Wednesdays and Thursdays) or by appointment

Graduate TA: Amanda Moeller (This is your TA if your last name starts with **M through Z**)

Email: anm332@psu.edu

Office: 608 Moore

Office Hours: 12-2pm Mondays or by appointment

Undergraduate TAs

Undergraduate TAs are available to help with study strategies, study/review help, help with course assignments, and questions about course content.

Undergraduate TA: Hannah Patton

Email: hmp5269@psu.edu

Office Hours: email for availability

Undergraduate TA: Kayleigh White

Email: knw5232@psu.edu

Office Hours: email for availability

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Baker, D. B., & Benjamin, L. T. (2014). *From séance to science: A history of the profession of psychology in America*. Akron, OH: The University of Akron Press.

Available online: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/pensu/detail.action?docID=3121137>

Helms, J. L., & Rogers, D. T. (2015). *Majoring in psychology: Achieving your educational and career goals*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Available: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/pensu/detail.action?docID=1982917>

Stanovich, K. E. (2012). *How to think straight about psychology (10th edition)*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

- You can purchase the 10th or 11th edition
- Additional readings, if assigned, will be posted in the Canvas files (Landrum and Davis chapters).

PREREQUISITE COURSES: PSYCH 100

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Psych 105 is a unique course consisting of three main areas: a review and critical analysis of psychology's history, an overview of potential career pathways for psychology majors, and a survey of science and general psychological research approaches. Please note that you should not be in this course if you have not yet taken or are currently enrolled in Psych 100. Although this course will count towards the psychology minor, it is not recommended for most psychology minors. Also note that this course will not satisfy a GE requirement, but instead count as an elective credit for students not majoring/minoring in psychology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To demonstrate an understanding of the history of psychology, and to place contemporary psychology in context
- To explore various bachelor's-level career options for psychology majors and to become familiar with navigating the career world
- To explore various graduate level career paths and information related to graduate school both in psychology and related fields such as mental health counseling
- To reflect on your own career goals and apply the information from this class to your own life
- To increase awareness of common myths and misconceptions about psychology, and then combat and overcome such myths and misconceptions by learning legitimate information about the field
- To demonstrate an understanding of common research methodology, and being an informed and critical consumer of social science scholarship and information in general
- To become familiar with professional issues related to being a psychologist such as licensure and ethical principles

COURSE INFORMATION:

Class Attendance and Participation

Effective learning involves a partnership between the students and the instructor. I will

- Work to inspire your interest in and excitement about the field of psychology
- Provide learning materials, lectures, and activities
- Stimulate and lead discussions and classroom interaction
- Assess student learning through assignments and exams

In turn, to maximize your success in this class, you are encouraged to

- Read assigned materials prior to class
- Attend every class session and participate in classroom discussions and activities
- Prepare and turn in assignments on time
- Study for and complete exams at the scheduled times
- Meet with the instructor and/or TA for assistance as needed

You are responsible for all of the material in the assigned readings and the information presented in class. Not all of the information from the readings will be covered in class; however, please feel free to ask questions about the readings as needed. Please attend all class sessions because you are responsible for all information presented in class, including classroom exercises, film clips, and changes in assignment and exam dates. **If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate. Class notes will not be provided by the instructor or the TA.** However, if you would like to review your notes and ask questions about missed material, you may schedule an appointment with me or the TA. You are NOT permitted to use the Canvas class list to request notes.

Canvas

Canvas will be an essential resource throughout this course because the syllabus, announcements, assignments, lecture outlines, schedule changes, and grades will be posted there. You will be responsible for checking your Canvas account regularly.

Respect

Mutual respect among instructors, students, and peers is essential in ensuring an effective and enjoyable learning environment. There will undoubtedly be differing viewpoints during classroom discussions, and I encourage this. Be respectful of ideas that may be different from your own; we all come from different backgrounds and experiences.

Personal Reactions

In this course, you will engage in self-reflection about your future and career goals, and this may provoke stress and anxiety in some students. In addition, if you are struggling with mental health concerns, help is available. The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is located on the 5th floor of the Student Health Center. Visit <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/> or call (814) 863-0395 to find out more about available services. In a mental health crisis, you can contact Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400 and the Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

COURSE EVALUATION:

Exams (320 points)

There will be 3 in-class exams (80 points each), and a non-cumulative final exam (80 points) designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of material covered in class (including lectures, videos, and handouts) and assigned readings. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice questions.

Make-up exams: If you need to miss class on an exam date due to a pre-planned event (e.g., PSU event participation, religious holiday), please let me know **within the first 2 weeks** of the semester. If you miss an exam due to a legitimate university-approved, unexpected event (severe illness, accident, death in the family), notification prior to the exam is preferred. Make-up exams will be given only for extreme circumstances. Your TA will provide a date/time within one week of the missed exam for make-up exams, which may be given in a different format (e.g., fill in the blank and/or essay exam) than the in-class exams. Missed exams may be subject to a **late penalty** (up to 20% per day) and will be determined on a case by case basis.

You may be asked to show photo identification before being permitted to sit for course examinations. Please bring photo ID to all exams.

Assignments (92 points)

Evelyn Hooker: Myth Buster Assignment (15 points)

This assignment will give you the opportunity to read a Time Capsule article from the APA's Monitor on Psychology magazine about the work of Evelyn Hooker. You will then write a reaction paper applying the components of science discussed in lecture. Additional details are provided in Canvas. This assignment must be submitted via Canvas no later than Wednesday, February 5 by 11:59pm.

Career Research Assignment (15 points)

This assignment will give you the opportunity to engage in career exploration by researching the career of your choice. Additional details are provided in Canvas. This assignment must be submitted via Canvas no later than Wednesday, February 26 by 11:59pm.

Job Ad Assignment (15 points)

This paper will involve finding a job advertisement posted in the past year and addressing questions about the duties and requirements of this position, as well as applying what you have learned in this course to develop a plan. You must attach a pdf or link of the job advertisement in order to receive credit. Additional details are provided in Canvas. This assignment must be submitted via Canvas no later than Wednesday, March 25 by 11:59pm.

APA Style Quiz (20 points)

This multiple-choice quiz will give you the opportunity to apply what you have learned about APA style. Additional details are provided in Canvas. This assignment must be submitted via Canvas no later than Monday, April 6 by 11:59pm.

Psychological Research in the Media (15 points)

This assignment will give you the opportunity to critically evaluate an article from the popular media that covers psychological research. You will apply what we have learned in the course to be a skeptical consumer of media. Additional details are provided in Canvas. This assignment must be submitted via Canvas no later than Friday, April 24 by 11:59pm.

Research Participation Requirement (12 points)

All Psych 105 students are required to participate in 6 total hours/credits of research studies, with 2 points per hour/credit for a total of **12 points**. Please review the Subject Pool information and Subject Pool FAQ for student research participation to determine how to fulfill this course requirement:

<http://psych.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/subject-pool>

First, you will create a Subject Pool account (<http://pennstate.sona-systems.com/>), and then you will need to make appointments with researchers to participate and earn course credit. When you log-in, click on "VIEW AVAILABLE STUDIES." Click on the name or the "Timeslots Available" box for the study you want to learn more about. Please pay attention to the information about eligibility. Not everyone is eligible to participate in every study. Read the information about the study carefully. If you are interested in participating, click on "View Time Slots for This Study." Click on the sign-up box for the time you want.

Important: New studies are added often. It is important to log-in to the Subject Pool website and check frequently for available spots. Spots fill-up very quickly. Seriously, keep the tab open when you are on your computer and refresh often to see if new studies are added.

Once you have fulfilled the required 6 hours of research participation, you may participate in 2 additional hours for extra credit (2 points per hour= 4 points total). In addition, if you complete 6 or more hours without an "unexcused absence," you will earn 4 points of extra credit. So, if you complete 8 hours of research and have 0 "unexcused absences" you can earn a total of 8 points of extra credit toward your final grade.

Please contact the subject pool administrator with questions or problems: psychsonaupwc@psu.edu

Extra Credit

As noted above, you can earn extra credit toward your final grade by completing additional research hours and by having 0 "no-shows" in the research subject pool. I will also periodically offer opportunities to earn extra credit via Canvas. You may earn up to a maximum of **10 points of extra credit**, which will be included in your total points to determine your final grade. While more than 10 points of extra credit will be available in the course, I can only count 10 points of extra credit from all sources toward your final grade. Late extra credit assignments will not be accepted.

Submission of Assignments and Late Work Policy

You are encouraged to submit assignments early. All assignments are submitted via Canvas, and will not be accepted via email. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of up to 20% of the total points of the assignment. An additional 10% of the total points will be deducted for each 24-hour period (including weekends) that an assignment is turned in after the

day it is due, unless the student has made arrangements for an extension prior to the due date. Generally, assignments are not accepted more than 1 week late.

Grading Policy

If you are unhappy with the grading of any assignment or exam in the course, please submit the concern/issue in writing to me or the TA within 2 weeks of receiving feedback on the assignment. Once we have reviewed this concern, we will meet with you to review the grading issue. Grades will not be rounded up at the end of the semester.

Course Grades

Grading Scale	
Grade	
A	93% to 100%
A-	90% to 92.99%
B+	87% to 89.99%
B	83% to 86.99%
B-	80% to 82.99%
C+	77% to 79.99%
C	70% to 76.99%
D	60% to 69.99%
F	< 60%

Exams	Total Points	Total %
Exam 1	80	19.5%
Exam 2	80	19.5%
Exam 3	80	19.5%
Final Exam	80	19.5%
EXAM TOTAL	320	78%
Assignments		
Evelyn Hooker: Myth Buster	15	3.5%
Career Research Assignment	15	3.5%
Job Ad Assignment	15	3.5%
APA Style Quiz	20	5%
Psychological Research in the Media	15	3.5%
Research Participation (6)	12	3%
Assignments TOTAL	92	22%

TOTAL: 412 points 100%

PROTECTION OF MATERIALS

Class materials, including lecture outlines, articles and other items, are protected. You may not publish, post, or sell this work electronically or in any other form without the permission of the instructor. Violations may result in academic or disciplinary sanctions. Please see me if you have any questions about this policy.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University Statement of Academic Integrity (Policy 49-20)

Definition and expectations: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania

State University and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Examples of dishonesty include behaviors such as cheating on exams or quizzes by copying from or collaborating with others, plagiarizing (representing someone else's work as your own), fabricating information from citations, accessing class materials during exams (e.g., notes on cell phone), and giving or receiving information about homework responses or exams to or from other students. Any instance of dishonesty will be dealt with by academic sanctions and reported to the university's Judicial Affairs Office for possible further disciplinary action.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for accommodation in this course, please contact the Office for Disability Services. For further information about policies, rights, and responsibilities related to disability accommodation go to <http://equity.psu.edu/student-disability-resources>. If you have an accommodation letter, please meet with me or the T.A. as soon as possible to discuss the accommodations and how we can best support your learning. If you need test related accommodations, it is your responsibility to contact the T. A. at least 1 week prior to exam dates to make arrangements.

MANDATED REPORTING STATEMENT

Penn State's policies require me, as a faculty member, to share information about incidents of sex-based discrimination and harassment (discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and retaliation) with Penn State's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators, regardless of whether the incidents are stated to me in person or shared by students as part of their coursework. For more information regarding the University's policies and procedures for responding to reports of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct, please visit <http://titleix.psu.edu>.

Additionally, I am required to make a report on any reasonable suspicion of child abuse in accordance with the [Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law](#).

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the <http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/>.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Abbreviation Guide for Readings: B&B= Baker and Benjamin, From Séance to Science
 H&R= Helms & Rogers, Majoring in Psychology
 Stan= Stanovich, How to Think Straight About Psychology
 L&D= Landrum and Davis chapter (available in Canvas)

Topic	Readings	Assignments
Introduction/Syllabus Beginnings of Psychology	B&B Ch. 1	

Clinical/Counseling Psychology	B&B Ch. 2, 5 and H&R Ch. 10	January 20 MLK Jr. Day (No class) Celebrate Diversity.
School Psychology	B&B Ch 3 and H&R 11	Evelyn Hooker: Myth Buster Assignment due by Wednesday February 5 by 11:59pm
EXAM 1 Wednesday, February 12		
I/O Psychology	B&B Ch 4 and H&R Ch 9	
Sport/Health and Forensic Psych	H&R 12, 13, 15	
Careers in Research (Experimental, Developmental, Social, Cognitive, and Biopsychology)	H&R 8	Career Research Assignment due by Wednesday February 26 by 11:59pm
EXAM 2 Wednesday, March 4		
Careers with a BA	H&R 5	Spring Break March 9-13 (No classes)
Graduate School	H&R 6, 7	Job Ad assignment due by Wednesday March 25 by 11:59pm
APA Style Primer	L & D 10 (Canvas)	APA style quiz due Monday April 6 by 11:59pm
Psychology as a Science	Stan 1, 4, 12	
EXAM 3 Wednesday, April 8		
Progression of Science	Stan 2 and 8	
Research Methods	Stan 3, 10, 11	
Issues of Cause and Control	Stan 5, 6, 7	
Ethics in Psychology	L & D 12 (Canvas)	Psych. Research in the Media assignment due by Friday April 24 by 11:59pm
EXAM 4 (final exam) TBA Finals Week: May 4-8		

IMPORTANT DATES

- Regular drop deadline: January 18
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes): January 20
- Final exam conflict filing period: February 17 – March 8
- Spring Break (no classes): March 8-14
- Late drop deadline: April 10
- Last day of class: May 1
- Final Exams: May 4-8

Please note: I may need to make changes to this syllabus, but I will inform you of all changes.