

PSY 2012 - GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
Section: 17735 (15E7)
Spring 2026

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

Class Meeting Time and Place: MWF 9:35am – 10:25am; Anderson Hall 0134.

Office: Room 359, Psychology Building

Email: s.kerr@ufl.edu *

Instructor Online Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm, by appointment (Please reserve via Calendly here: [Dr. Kerr's Office Hours Reservation](#)).

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 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.

Social and Behavioral Sciences (S): Social and Behavioral science 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 at <https://curriculum.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/general-education-subject-area-objectives/>.

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.

These goals will be met by quizzes, exams and writing assignments.

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.



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.

Academic Policies and Resources

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

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.

Course Requirements

Chapter Quizzes (70 points). There will be nine chapter quizzes during the semester. Quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of course material to date and to prepare you for the larger FINAL exam. Each quiz contains 10 multiple-choice **applied** questions with each question worth 1 point. The 2 lowest quiz grades will be dropped by the end of the semester; thus, only 7 quizzes will be included in your final grade. **Chapter Quizzes can be found on Canvas under the “Quizzes” tab.**

Writing Assignment (60 points): In this writing assignment you will draw on the psychological knowledge that you have learned, or will be learning, to design a mini-intervention project, implement it on **YOURSELF**, and reflect about your project outcomes. You will need to at least utilize the knowledge from Chapter 2 on research methods for data collection, display and summary, Chapter 6 on learning and behavior acquisition for intervention planning, and Chapter 11 on emotion and motivation for intervention planning and post-intervention reflection. However, you are encouraged to draw on other chapters and outside resources as applicable. **See Canvas under “Assignments” tab for more info.**

Discussion Posts (70 points): For these assignments, you will be required to watch a video (the link is located on Canvas in each Discussion). Please watch the video and post a reflective response to what was discussed in the talk/video. Your initial discussion post does not have to be long winded, but it must contribute to the conversation. Your discussion may take any form you like (e.g., a question, confusion, elaboration, disagreement). Your initial post should be around 4-5 sentences. Think of these as low stakes writing assignment to stimulate what we might do with each other in class if time permitted. You have good ideas. Share them.

Then, reply to one of your classmates' posts. The idea is to get the conversation going - you can answer someone's question (perhaps with an overlooked fact or with your own opinion, or maybe with a YouTube video?), disagree (civilly, of course), or expand on someone's initial post. Responses that are not sufficient, include "I agree" or "great point"; think deeply and further the conversation in a meaningful way.

A perfect initial discussion post will equal 6 points and a perfect response will equal 4 points, for a total of 10 points. There are 6 Discussion Posts, and they are applied knowledge from a chapter in the textbook. They will be made available when we begin the chapter in class; due dates for each post are listed in the tentative course schedule below. **Discussion Posts can be found under the “Discussion” tab on CANVAS.**

Exams (50 points). You will be given 50 minutes total for each exam with 25 items. The exams are multiple choice questions.

There will not be quiz/exam make-up opportunities unless there is an acceptable reason with evidence that is aligned with the UF absence policy (e.g., illness, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements, religious holidays, etc.). See the UF policy guidance on absences and make-up activities here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext>.

Approved Make-up quiz/exam should be completed within one week of the original quiz/exam date. In the situation of multiple exams on the same date, see here for guidance: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/examination-policies-reading-days/> There are no special exams, optional papers or catch-up projects to compensate for poor exam performance.

SONA Research Requirement (15 points): There is a Psychology Department requirement that all students enrolled in PSY 2012 participate in a research experience. The deadlines for this requirement will be posted on CANVAS. Completion of this requirement affects your course grade based on the amount of research credits you earn. DO NOT WAIT for until the last minute to complete this requirement. The longer you wait the harder it will be to get all the credits needed.

Grading Scale

Assignment	Points
Chapter Quizzes (7@10 points each)	70
Writing Assignment	60
Discussion Posts (8@10 points each)	80
Exams (2@25 points each)	50
Research Experience	15
Total	275

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 (jagrabер@ufl.edu, [\(352\) 273-2128](tel:(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](tel:352-392-1308)) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; [352-3921261](tel:352-3921261)).

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 SPRING 2026 TIMETABLE

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READING
Week 1	Welcome to PSY 2012!	
Week 2	Intro to Psych	Chapter 1 (pg. 1 – 42)
	Research Methods	Chapter 2 (pg. 43 – 85)
	Research Methods	Chapter 2 (pg. 43 – 85)
Week 3	Biological Psychology	Chapter 3 (pg. 86 – 128)
	Biological Psychology	Chapter 3 (pg. 86 – 128)
	Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Week 4	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4 (pg. 129 – 176)
	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4 (pg. 129 – 176)
	Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas	
Week 5	Consciousness	Chapter 5 (pg. 177 – 215)
	Consciousness	Chapter 5 (pg. 177 – 215)
	Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz due @11:59 pm on Canvas	
Week 6	Learning	Chapter 6 (pg. 216 – 255)
	Learning	Chapter 6 (pg. 216 -255)
	Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas; Mini-intervention planning for Writing Assignment due @11:59pm on Canvas	
Week 7	Memory	Chapter 7 (pg. 256 – 299)
	Memory	Chapter 7 (pg. 256 – 299)
	EXAM 1	
Week 8	Thinking, Language	Chapter 8 (pg. 300 – 318)

	Thinking, Language	Chapter 8 (pg. 300 -318)
Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas		
Week 9	Intelligence	Chapter 8 (pg. 318 – 353)
	Intelligence	Chapter 8 (pg. 318 – 353)
Week 10	Human Development	Chapter 9.1 and 9.2 (pg. 354 – 369)
	Human Development	Chapter 9.3 and 9.4 (pg. 370 – 394 and pg. 396 – 406)**
Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas		
Week 11	Emotion & Motivation	Chapter 10 (pg. 408 – 457)
	Emotion & Motivation	Chapter 10 (pg. 408 – 457)
Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas		
Week 12	Social	Chapter 12 (pg. 496 – 547)
	Social	Chapter 12 (pg. 496 – 547)
Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas		
Week 13	Personality	Chapter 13 (pg. 548 – 589)
	Personality	Chapter 13 (pg. 548 – 589)
Data Collection for Writing Assignment due @ 11:59pm on Canvas.		
Week 14	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14 (pg. 590 – 637)
	Psychological and Biological Treatments	Chapter 15 (pg. 638 – 679)
Discussion Posts and Chapter Quiz Due @ 11:59 pm on Canvas		

Week 15	EXAM REVIEW/CATCH UP (if needed)
	Research Requirement Option 1 and 2
	Writing Assignment: Mini-Intervention Project due @11:59pm on Canvas
	EXAM 2

No Classes: January 19 (MLK Day); March 14 -21 (Spring Break).

Note: Please read the assigned chapter and review any additional assigned materials before the specific class meetings. Course schedule is subject to change if the need arises. It is your responsibility to keep up with any change(s) by coming to class and staying updated. It is not feasible to cover all of the materials in the textbook during the class meetings. I will focus on major and important themes in the chapters, but students are responsible for all information covered in the text.

** A section of the textbook may contain concepts that do not comply with Florida Statutes covering content in General Education courses as determined by the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida. Those pages are not required reading, nor are there assignments associated with those concepts.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.
- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575), 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 (also available at <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>)

- 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.
- [Academic Resources](#): 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.](#)
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.
- Public Speaking Lab: (Dial Center, 501 Rolfs Hall). Offering online and in-person help developing, organizing, and practicing oral presentations. Contact email: publicspeakinglab@clas.ufl.edu.