Overview of the Course.

The field of psychology seeks to explain the complexities of human behavior and cognition. Our goal is to show you the breadth of what psychology has to offer and how the different areas of psychology fit together as a science.

Your three professors for this course approach psychology from an experimental point of view, but each of us studies different aspects of the field and uses different research methods. Because of these differences, we will often examine topics from multiple perspectives. In this way, we hope to illustrate that while psychology covers diverse topics, these topics are not completely distinct, but rather integrate to make up the general field.

As we explore the exciting realm of human behavior and cognition, bear in mind that it is likely that we will uncover even more questions than answers. We hope that this will lead to interesting debate and discussion and that, ultimately, you will see the world in a new way.

Course Objectives.

This course contributes substantially to the overall curricular objectives of the majors offered through the Department of Psychology, as described in the Arts and Sciences Learning Objectives. By taking this course students will:

1. Understand core psychological concepts and processes.

2. Critically examine theories and empirical findings across subfields of psychology.

3. Compare, contrast, and synthesize empirical and theoretical perspectives related to the study of behavior and thought using evidence-based reasoning.

4. Apply theoretical models of behavior and thought to real life settings and skills (e.g., clinical, educational, organizational context).
Assignments and Grading

Assignments.

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester. There will be no final exam during finals period.

Missing one of these exams will cost you a huge number of points towards your final grade, so set two alarm clocks and schedule a wake-up call if you need it.

If you have questions or problems related to exam grading or the final grades for the course, please contact your TA for assistance. Professor Maddox will address any questions or problems that are not resolved by the TAs.

Writing Assignment: The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to apply your knowledge of psychological science to the real world in a creative way. Details concerning this assignment will be provided later in the semester. The writing assignment will be graded on a 20-point scale; any writing assignment turned in after its due date will be penalized 1 point (out of 20) for each day it is late.

If you have questions or problems related to the writing assignment, please contact your TA for assistance. Professor Urry will address any questions or problems that are not resolved by the TAs.

Nota bene: The dates for the exams and the writing assignment are listed at the end of this syllabus—mark them in your calendars right now! Neither make-ups nor extensions will be given except for unavoidable emergency circumstances that are fully documented (i.e., with official correspondence from a physician or a Dean).

Required Textbook.

- We recommend also purchasing this textbook’s DSM 5 Update (ISBN: 9780393937824)
- We will place copies of the textbook on reserve for 3-hour in-house use at Tisch Library.

Final Course Grade.

Your grade for the course will be based on three exams (worth 30% each) and one writing assignment (worth 10%). These assignments are addressed at the left. There is also an experimental requirement, which is addressed on the next page.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:
A+ 97-100%, A 93-96.9%, A- 90-92.9%, B+ 87-89.9%, B 83-86.9%, B- 80-82.9%, C+ 77-79.9%, C 73-76.9%, C- 70-72.9%, D+ 67-69.9%, D 63-66.9%, D- 60-62.9%, F 59.9% and below. Final course percentages will not be rounded up.

If you are unsatisfied with the grading of an exam or the writing assignment, please first discuss the issue with your TA. If discussion with your TA does not resolve the concern, you may submit a request for reconsideration of grading by email to the appropriate professor. Indicate your rationale for the request and (if applicable) a textbook page # or lecture date as supporting evidence. The appropriate professor is identified in the Assignments panel to the left. Requests for reconsideration may be made no earlier than 24 hours and no later than 2 weeks after the grade was posted on Trunk.
The Experimental Requirement.

In order to help you better understand the field of psychology as a science, you are asked to fulfill an experimental research requirement.

This requirement involves either of the following:

1. Contributing to research as a “participant” in 6 hours of ongoing experiments conducted by members of the Psychology Department (typically 1-2 hours for each experiment)

   or

2. Writing a 7-page research paper on a pre-approved topic.

A separate handout outlining the specifics of this requirement will be posted on Trunk. Failure to complete this part of the course will result in an incomplete grade for the semester.

If you have questions or problems related to the experimental requirement, please contact your TA. **Professor Thomas** will address any questions or problems that are not resolved by the TAs.

**Professor Thomas** will also provide the final approval of paper topics and handle all questions concerning the paper option should you opt for it instead of participating in experiments.

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**Communication:** As you may know, there are two sections of PSY 1, one right after the other. This means that it may not be possible for us to handle your questions right before or after class. We encourage you to take advantage of our office hours if you have questions about the lecture and reading material.

Please feel free to use email to arrange alternate meeting times and for other administrative matters. However, please do not use email for questions about material you have missed or need clarification on; seek notes from a classmate or use office hours for these purposes. Also please note that we cannot promise instant turn-around to email messages!

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**Trunk:** You are responsible for all information that is posted on the course Trunk site or that is sent by email from that site. You are therefore advised to visit the site and check your email regularly. Please be sure your email address is correct on Trunk: [http://trunk.tufts.edu](http://trunk.tufts.edu).

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*Well, you don't look like an experimental psychologist to me.*
The Teaching Team

Keith Maddox, Ph.D.
228 Psychology Building
617-627-2563
keith.maddox@tufts.edu
Office Hours: By appointment; request times at http://www.doodle.com/maddprof

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Erin Warren
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Office Hours: Wednesday 11am-noon or by appointment

Ana Carvalho
Teaching Assistant, Section B
125 Psychology Building
774-563-1137
ana.carvalho@tufts.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, 6:30-7:30

The Psychology Building
490 Boston Avenue
Medford, MA 02155

http://campusmaps.tufts.edu/medford/#fid=m021
Social contract.

By deciding to take this class, you enter into a social contract with the teaching team.

- We promise to be enthusiastic, organized, and fair.
- You promise to take the course seriously and complete all assignments with integrity.

We consider cheating and other academic dishonesty to be a violation of this contract as well as a personal insult.

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. If you are unclear as to what constitutes academic dishonesty at any time, ask us directly. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the academic integrity guidelines posted on the Student Affairs website at [http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/publications](http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/publications).

Turnitin.com.

As part of this course, we may utilize Turnitin.com in the Trunk learning management system to help determine the originality of your work. Turnitin.com is an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of websites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. When papers are submitted to Turnitin.com, the service will retain a copy of the submitted work in the Turnitin.com database for the sole purpose of detecting plagiarism in future submitted works. Students retain copyright on their original course work. For more information, see Turnitin.com or review Tufts’ Academic Integrity handbook at [http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/publications](http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/publications).
# Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

We reserve the right to modify the content and timing of scheduled topics, readings, and assignments as needed. Changes will be posted on Trunk. Readings noted for a particular day should be read before coming to class that day. The initials in parentheses next to each topic indicate which professor(s) will be teaching/proctoring that day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading (covered on date assigned)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues Sept 2</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course (KM, HU, AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<td>Thu Sept 4</td>
<td>Research Methods (KM) SONA</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tues Sept 9</td>
<td>Biology and Behavior (HU)</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Sept 11</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception (AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tue Sept 16</td>
<td>The Psychology of Studying (KM, HU, AT)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Thu Sept 18</td>
<td>Learning (AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tue Sept 23</td>
<td>Attention and Memory (AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu Sept 25</td>
<td>Attention and Memory continued (AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tue Sept 30</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (AT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu Oct 2</td>
<td>Thinking and Intelligence (AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tues Oct 7</td>
<td>Consciousness (AT)</td>
<td>Ch. 5 (181 – 194; 205 – 219)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Oct 9</td>
<td>Psychology and the Media (KM, HU, AT)</td>
<td><strong>Writing Assignment assigned.</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tue Oct 14</td>
<td>Human Development (KM)</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Oct 16</td>
<td>Human Development continued (KM)</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tue Oct 21</td>
<td>Emotion (HU)</td>
<td>Ch. 10 (pp. 421 – 440)</td>
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<td>Thu Oct 23</td>
<td>Motivation (HU)</td>
<td>Ch. 10 (pp. 440 – 467)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Tue Oct 28</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 (KM)</strong></td>
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<td>Thu Oct 30</td>
<td>Health and Well-being (HU)</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tues Nov 4</td>
<td>Social Psychology (KM)</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<td>Thu Nov 6</td>
<td>Social Psychology continued (KM)</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Tues Nov 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day – No Class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Nov 13</td>
<td>Perspectives on Stereotype Threat (KM, HU, AT)</td>
<td><strong>Writing Assignment due.</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Tues Nov 18</td>
<td>Personality (KM)</td>
<td>Ch. 13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Nov 20</td>
<td>Psychological Disorders (HU)</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Tues Nov 25</td>
<td>Treatment of Psychological Disorders (HU)</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Nov 27</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving – No Class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tues Dec 2</td>
<td>Psychology and the Real World (KM, HU, AT)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thu Dec 4</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3 (HU)</strong></td>
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