

PSYC 0001-001: Introduction to Experimental Psychology

Fall 2023 Tues/Thurs 1:45-3:15pm Meyerson Hall Auditorium (B1) University of Pennsylvania

Instructor: Prof. Anna Jenkins, Ph.D. Office: Solomon Labs, Rm. D9A
Office hours: announced on the course website Zoom ID: 951 6181 4788 (passcode: start)

Course Coordinator: Lauren Mitteer MitteerL@email.chop.edu

Teaching Assistants (TAs):

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Course Website: <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1740620>

Course Overview

Welcome! This course provides an introduction to the fascinating science of the mind, brain, and behavior – that is, an introduction to *psychological science*. Psychology is a marvelously rich field, encompassing a wide variety of topics from memory distortions to morality. In this course, you will be introduced both to the *content* of psychological science (how do minds perceive, experience, and interact with the world around them?) and to the *process* of psychological science (how can we use the scientific method to answer these questions?). Across the semester, we will emphasize fundamental principles and foundational research findings as well as the current frontiers of scientific understanding.

The course is divided into four parts. Each part contains lectures by Prof. Jenkins, a guest lecture on a related special topic (two in part three!), a lab, a quiz, and an exam. You will also need to complete three research credits throughout the term. These components of the course are designed for complementary purposes to maximize your learning.

Required Materials

Textbook: Phelps, Berkman, & Gazzaniga (2022). *Psychological Science* (7th edition). Either the physical version or the e-book is acceptable. The assigned readings, assignments, and exams will be based on the 7th edition; purchasing a different edition is not recommended.

To assist with course-related expenses, 10 copies of the required text are available in the Library's course reserves. Note that you will still need an access code for ZAPS and InQuizitive.

ZAPS Labs and InQuizitive. ZAPS and InQuizitive are online tools associated with the textbook. These are free when you purchase any version of the 7th edition from the bookstore. You will need your own access code to complete required assignments for this course. If you buy a used book, you can purchase access to ZAPS and InQuizitive separately from the publisher: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/psychsci7>. If you need assistance, contact Lauren Mitteer.

Poll Everywhere. You will use Poll Everywhere to respond to questions in class. Please set up an account *using your Penn email address* (it's free), and register for this class here:

https://pollev.com/jenkins/register?group_key=DjwSkyxLZJJhpiaaomlww7s6Y

In class, you can respond at [PollEv.com/jenkins](https://pollev.com/jenkins) when a poll is active.

Course Calendar

Last day to add a course is **Sep 12th** Last day to drop is **Oct 9th** Last day to withdraw is **Nov 6th**

Class #	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	Aug 29	Introduction to psychological science	Ch1 & 2 (skim)	<i>Get to know the syllabus</i>
2	Aug 31	The physical stuff of your brain	Ch3	
3	Sep 5	Sensation and perception I	Start Ch5	
4	Sep 7	Sensation and perception II	Finish Ch5	
5	Sep 12	Emotion and motivation	Ch 10	ZAPS Lab 1 due today
6	Sep 14	Neurocriminology (<i>Guest: Adrian Raine</i>)	Review	InQuizitive 1 due 9/18
-	Sep 19	Exam #1	--	
7	Sep 21	Learning	Ch6	
8	Sep 26	Memory I	Start Ch7	
9	Sep 28	Memory II	Finish Ch7	
10	Oct 3	Consciousness and the self	Ch13:523-533; start Ch4	ZAPS Lab 2 due today
11	Oct 5	Cognitive enhancement (<i>Guest: Roy Hamilton</i>)	Finish Ch 4	InQuizitive 2 due 10/9
-	Oct 10	Exam #2	--	
-	Oct 12	No class - Fall Term Break	--	
12	Oct 17	Language	Ch8:315-324	
13	Oct 19	Lang cont'd, Social thought and behavior I	Start Ch12	
14	Oct 24	Social thought and behavior II	Finish Ch12	
15	Oct 26	Conspiracy theories (<i>Guest: Dolores Albarracin</i>)	--	
16	Oct 31	Development I	Start Ch9	
17	Nov 2	Development II	Finish Ch9	ZAPS Lab 3 due today
18	Nov 7	Neuroplasticity (<i>Guest: Allyson Mackey</i>)	Review	InQuizitive 3 due 11/8
-	Nov 9	Exam #3	--	
19	Nov 14	Personality	Ch13: 494-523	
20	Nov 16	Intelligence, individual differences, decisions	Ch8:282-312	
21	Nov 21	Virtual lecture*	--	
-	Nov 23	No class -Thanksgiving	--	
22	Nov 28	Disorders of mind I	Ch14	
23	Nov 30	Disorders of mind II	Ch15 (skim)	
24	Dec 5	Sleep and mental health (<i>Guest: Phil Gehrman</i>)	Review	ZAPS Lab 4 due today
25	Dec 7	Conclusion	--	InQuizitive 4 due 12/11

Dec, TBD Final Exam (cumulative)

The final exam schedule is set by the Registrar and subject to change:
<https://srfs.upenn.edu/registration-catalog-calendar/final-exams>

* In the interest of offering you flexibility around Thanksgiving, there is no in-person class meeting on Tuesday, Nov 21st. Instead, you will be asked to watch a virtual lecture (available on the course website) at a time of your choosing.

When to do what:

Readings. We recommend that you complete the assigned reading just *after* the associated lecture, but you are welcome to adopt any reading scheme that works well for you.

Lab and Quiz assignments. These must be submitted no later than 9pm on each due date. We recommend starting each ZAPS Lab at least two days before the deadline.

Research credit assignments. All 3 credits must be complete by 9pm on Dec. 13th. We recommend completing one credit each in September, October and November, but you are free to devise your own schedule.

Assessment

Exams (70% of course grade)

There will be **four exams** during the semester: three in-class exams that take the place of a lecture (non-cumulative) and one in-person exam during finals period (cumulative). Exams cover material from the required readings, labs, quizzes, and lectures (including guest lectures). Most of the material on each exam will have been covered in the lectures (around 80%). To facilitate your preparation for exams, guest lectures take place during the last class meeting before each exam (except for the final), and they have minimal or no readings. More exam information, including study tips, is available on the course website (*Files* section).

Exams 1-3. The first three exams will take place during class on Sept 19, Oct 10, and Nov 9. These exams are not cumulative; they cover the material in the associated section of the course. Of these three exams, your lowest grade will be dropped, i.e., it will not count toward your final course grade. The remaining two exams will count for 20% each. You cannot make up or reschedule Exams 1-3 except as noted below*. If you miss one of these exams, it will count as your lowest exam grade and be dropped. If you miss two, one of them will remain a grade of zero. If you anticipate missing more than one exam, you probably do not want to take this course. * *In the event that participation in varsity athletics requires you to travel on the afternoon of Thursday Nov 9th, contact course coordinator Lauren Mitteer and cc Prof. Jenkins no later than Oct 19th.*

Final exam. The final exam is cumulative. This exam score cannot be dropped, and it counts for 30% of your course grade. The timing of final exam is set by the Registrar and subject to change: <https://srfs.upenn.edu/registration-catalog-calendar/final-exams>. If extreme and unavoidable circumstances cause you to miss the final exam (e.g., major illness or injury, death in the family), you could be eligible for a make-up exam after the final exam date. Note that you will be required to document the circumstances, and the alternative times we can offer might not be ideal for you. If this happens, let us know *as soon as possible* that you will miss the exam. Penn also makes exceptions when a student has three finals scheduled for the same day. If this occurs and PSYC 0001 is the middle exam, you may be able to postpone taking the final. Tell the course coordinator about this as soon as possible but no later than Dec. 2nd. We are categorically unable to offer alternative final exam times due to travel. Do not schedule travel away from Penn during finals period.

Concerns about exam questions. Exams are designed to assess how well you have mastered the course material. You can expect them to be challenging for that reason. We go to considerable lengths to provide a fair assessment of your mastery, but if you believe a question on an exam is *unfair* (as opposed to simply difficult), then during the exam you should (i) submit what you think is the best available answer to the question and (ii) write the rationale for your objection in the designated space on the exam. If your objection shows that the question is unfair, you might get credit or partial credit. You might also provoke the exclusion of the question for everyone in the class. (Note that both kinds of adjustments occur rarely.) You are welcome to visit your TA during office hours to view and go over your exam after grades are released.

Online Labs and Quizzes (21% of course grade)

ZAPS Labs and Responses (15% of course grade). There are four ZAPS lab assignments. For each, you will submit brief written responses. It is your responsibility to complete the labs and submit your responses to the questions on Canvas by the deadline. To get credit, you must complete *both* the ZAPS Lab itself *and* the written response by the deadline. Lab completion is registered automatically online. Written submissions without lab completion will receive a zero. The *lowest two* of your four scores will be dropped. Each of the remaining two labs is worth 7.5% of your course grade.

InQuizitive (6% of course grade). To make the most of this course (and earn the best possible grade), you should engage with the material continuously across the semester, reviewing and integrating ideas as you go. InQuizitive is a vehicle for that kind of engagement *with the material in your textbook*. The quizzes adapt to your knowledge and provide response-specific feedback on your answers. For our purposes, your grade for each quiz will be based solely on whether or not you completed the required number of questions; you will not be graded on your score. You are responsible for completing each quiz by its deadline. The lowest two of your four scores will be dropped. Each of the remaining two quizzes is worth 3% of your final grade. Engaging fully with the quizzes is likely to boost your performance in the course more generally. Note, however, that they cover only some of the material that will be on the exams. Material covered in lectures but not in the textbook will *not* appear in InQuizitive; you are still responsible for it.

Research Credit (9% of course grade)

One of the goals of this course is to familiarize you with how psychological scientists generate knowledge. Each of three required research credits may be earned **either by** (a) participating in psychology studies or (b) writing a review of a research article. You may complete the three credits in any combination of (a) and/or (b). Feel free to complete the research requirement on your own schedule throughout the semester, but all three credits must be complete by December 13th at 9pm (extensions are not possible). We recommend completing one credit each in September, October, and November. See the course website for more information.

Study Participation. *1 SONA credit = 1 research credit.* Participation is scheduled through SONA (<https://upenn.sona-systems.com>), also called the "psychology subject pool". The total number of credits you earn will be sent to us at the end of the semester. SONA lists the number of credits for each study (e.g., 0.5, 1.25; this corresponds to the hours the study is expected to take). Note that some studies offer less than one credit; be sure to keep track of your *credits* to get to 3 total. Sometimes it takes a few days for credits to post. If credit has not registered on SONA one week after you did a study, contact the researcher directly.

Research Article Review. *1 article review = 1 research credit.* Write a short (1-2 pages, single-spaced, 1.5 in margins) review of a research article published in a scientific journal. Describe the research question, possible answers to that question, the method used to study it, the results, and the inferences that you think can be drawn from the study. Possible articles are available on Canvas; you may also propose an article to your TA.

Course Grades

Your final score for the course is the weighted sum of your scores on the assessments:

Assessment	Percentage	
EXAMS	70%	
Exams 1-3 (lowest score is dropped; 2 count) Two counted exams: 20% each	40%	
Final Exam	30%	
LABS & QUIZZES (ONLINE)	21%	
ZAPS Labs and Responses (lowest 2 scores are dropped; 2 count) Two counted labs/responses: 7.5% each	15%	
InQuizitive Quizzes (lowest 2 scores are dropped; 2 count) Two counted quizzes: 3% each	6%	
RESEARCH CREDIT	9%	
Study participation and/or Article Reviews (any combo) Three credits total: 3% each	9%	
	Total:	100%

Rounding. Final course scores ending in .5 or higher will be rounded up to the next whole number. This applies only to your overall score for the course, not to exam or assignment scores. For example, a 92.5 for the course would be rounded up to 93, whereas a 92.4 would not. Keep in mind that a few points can make the difference between grades (e.g., between an A- and a B+; between a B- and C+). Some students rediscover this fact late and wish they had taken certain course elements more seriously. We encourage you to plan ahead.

Grade cutoffs. Final letter grades for the course will be determined as follows: if at least 20% of students in the course have a final course score of 93 or higher, 93 and above will be an A. If not, we will scoot the A cutoff downward, one point at a time, until 20% of students have an A or until the minimum score needed for an A is 85 (whichever happens first).

The starting position for the full grade scale is:

A 93↑ | A- 89-92 | B+ 86-88 | B 81-85 | B- 78-80 | C+ 75-77 | C 70-74 | C- 67-69 | D 60-66 | F 59↓
Any shift of the A cutoff affects the full grade scale uniformly. For example, if the cutoff for an A shifts down two points to become 91, the cutoff for a B also shifts down two points and becomes 79. Shifts occur only in a helpful direction (if your final course score is 93, you cannot do worse than an A). In the past, the shift has been minimal: a couple of points at most.

Grade disputes. Any disputes about grades on exams or assignments must be made within a week of receiving the grade. Final course grades are not negotiable. The grade you earn from your assessments is the grade that will appear on CIT. All requests for higher grades will be denied. Granting these requests is unfair to other students and undermines the value of educational assessment.

Other Policies

Attendance

You are strongly encouraged to attend every class! We cover a large amount of material quickly, and lectures will often cover material that is not in the textbook. In general, students who attend class regularly get higher grades than students who do not. The lectures for this course will take place in person, except in specific instances noted on the course schedule and/or announced on the course website. *The class cannot be taken virtually.* However, attendance itself will not be part of your course grade. If you must miss class, I suggest arranging to get notes and from someone who was present, and, if possible, going over the lecture slides with that person. You also need to report all absences through the Course Absence Report System. If you anticipate missing more than 5 days, contact CaseNET. Please also note that attendance is limited to students enrolled in this course (and, during the first 2 weeks of class, those hoping to enroll if space becomes available). Anyone else must obtain advance permission from Prof. Jenkins or Lauren Mitteer to attend on a specific day.

Deadlines

Assignment due dates have been chosen carefully so as to avoid interference with holidays and other festivities as much as possible. In an effort to help your final grade reflect your performance on your best days (rather than your worst ones), we will drop your lowest two ZAPS scores and your lowest two InQuizitive scores from your final grade (as well as your lowest exam score of exams 1-3). We recommend that you complete all four labs and all four quizzes on schedule; however, up to two late or unsubmitted labs (same for quizzes) will simply be counted as one of your “lowest scores” and will not be part of your grade for the class. Accordingly, for all assignments, deadlines are final; there are no extensions. Submitting work on time is your responsibility. Note that if you miss early assignments while “shopping” for courses, you will not get credit for those assignments; see <http://www.college.upenn.edu/registration-process>

Course materials

Lecture slides will be made available on the course website in PDF format after the relevant class and before the relevant exam. Video clips and other media shown during lectures will not necessarily be included. Lecture slides will be minimally informative if you do not attend the lecture itself; they are not a replacement for attending class.

All course materials used in this class are copyrighted. *Lecture slides are provided as a courtesy to students for educational use within the course only.* Course materials (including, but not limited to, lecture content and exam questions) may not be duplicated or distributed to anyone without advance written permission from the instructor. Students may not sell course-related notes/materials, nor may they seek employment as a “note taker” for the course except via Penn’s Student Disability Services; these activities may result in charges filed against both the student and the persons/organizations employing the student.

Masks

Per university policy, students and faculty are not required to wear masks in class. You are welcome to wear one if you choose, and you are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or stay home if you think you may be contagious. Please respect the mask-wearing decisions of others.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with Penn's Code of Academic Integrity. It is your responsibility to ensure that your behavior does not violate this code, which prohibits "activities that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance". More info. Is available here: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity>

All exams must be completed by you, by yourself. All written assignments must be your own, original work. Always cite the source of a finding or idea that is someone else's (including another student's), and always describe the findings and ideas you cite in a way that reflects your own thoughts. If a direct quote is necessary, use quotation marks and include the relevant page number(s) in your citation. You are welcome to use ChatGPT as a source (but keep in mind that it might tell you something incorrect). Like any other source, it must be cited. Unlike for other sources, you need to include a footnote listing prompt(s) used and response(s) generated. Plagiarized or improperly cited work will be subject to severe penalties (within the course) and disciplinary action (beyond the course). Suspicious activity during exams may result in a zero and will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct. Please be careful. If you have a question about whether something constitutes a breach of academic integrity, please consult your TA.

Getting Help

If you have an administrative, scheduling, or technical issue, or questions about course accommodations, contact course coordinator Lauren Mitteer: MitteerL@email.chop.edu *Otherwise, your TA is your first point of contact.* If you have a question not addressed by the syllabus and you're not sure what to do, start with your TA. If you have a question about course material, please post it to the discussion section on Canvas. Questions will be answered as quickly as possible, and the accumulated set of questions and responses will serve as a reference for everyone.

Prof. Jenkins (pronouns: she/her). The best way to communicate with me is by visiting office hours (some in person, some via zoom), announced on the course website. I'll be delighted to talk with you! If you need to contact me in writing, email me at acjenk@sas.upenn.edu (*not* through Canvas) and include PSYC-0001-001 in your subject line. (If you don't, there is a good chance that I will not see your message.) Although I make answering your emails a priority, in a course of this size, responding to every message often becomes impractical. It's likely that I will forward your email to a TA or Lauren Mitteer to ensure that it is answered in a timely fashion.

If you have questions about:

Course content (Textbook, lecture, or guest lecture content)	---->	Post to Canvas Discussions or visit office hours
Day-to-day matters (Grading, personal course concerns)	---->	Contact your TA
Course structure, administrative issues (Online assignments, exam schedule, course materials, special accommodations)	---->	Contact Lauren Mitteer (course coordinator): MitteerL@email.chop.edu
SONA research credit	---->	If credit does not appear on SONA after 5 days, contact the researcher. For problems with your account, email sona-admin@psych.upenn.edu

Campus Resources

HELP Line (24/7)

The HELP Line is a phone service that connects callers with the many health and wellness resources at Penn, including CAPS, Student Health Service, Student Intervention Services, Public Safety, and others. You may call for yourself or on behalf of a friend or acquaintance. Calls will be answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by Division of Public Safety professionals trained in mental health referrals by staff from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). If you or someone you know needs help, please call the HELP Line at **215-898-HELP**.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS offers confidential, free professional mental health services. The goal is to assist students in their adjustment to university life and help them take full advantage of the academic and social environment at Penn. Students can learn to manage personal problems and situational crises effectively, learn strategies to cope with academic stress, and develop self-awareness, personal responsibility, and skills for life-long learning.

Online scheduling: <https://uapps.vpul.upenn.edu/capsform/>

Phone: 215-898-7021

Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu (please do not email for an appointment)

Website: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>

Address: 3624 Market Street, First Floor West, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2615

If you are experiencing an emergency that cannot wait until the next day's office hours, please call the main number (215-898-7021) and press # 1.

CaseNet

CaseNet is an academic support team in the College Office charged with providing a centralized response to all College students in academic difficulty (www.college.upenn.edu/casenet). CaseNet can be reached at col-casenet@groups.sas.upenn.edu or by calling 215-898-6341.

Cases referred to CaseNet include:

- Students who are ill or otherwise prevented from attending class for more than five days.
- Students in serious academic difficulty.
- Students who are hospitalized or who have other kinds of acute problems (victim of crime, etc.) that interrupt their normal schedule.
- Students who are experiencing personal or family concerns significant enough to interfere with their academic work or to impinge on those around them, including a death in the family.

Frequently-Asked Questions

Here are the answers to some questions that might arise for you during the semester.

Can I have an extension on an assignment?

Sorry, no. Instead, the course is designed to minimize the impact of the downs of life on your course grade. For the labs and quizzes, each of you gets two “free passes”, with no questions asked (see Assignments). This means that if you can’t complete an InQuizitive assignment on time and you accidentally submit your English essay in place of a ZAPS Lab, all of that simply disappears as though it never occurred. Your grade is based on assessments from your better days.

The reason we designed the course policies this way is that most everyone experiences something in a given semester that makes it challenging to keep it all together. This policy acknowledges that fact while removing from the decision process (i) the role of our own subjective judgment about which students should receive special accommodations and (ii) the role of students' varying willingness to ask for such accommodations. We hope you understand how this promotes fairness for everyone.

Can I reschedule or make up Exam 1, Exam 2, or Exam 3?

Probably not, but there is an exception.

For reasons both practical and pedagogical, we are generally unable to offer alternative exam dates. Instead, we designed our course policies so that if you are unable to take one of the exams, the effect on your grade will be minimal. In fact, it will not affect your grade at all! If you miss one of these exams, it will count as your lowest exam score and be dropped from your course grade.

If participation in varsity athletics requires you to travel for competition on the afternoon of Thursday Nov 9th and you wish to take Exam 3, contact course coordinator Lauren Mitteer and cc Prof. Jenkins no later than Sept 12th. We may be able to offer you an alternative exam on the morning of the original exam date, prior to your departure. We are able to offer at most one alternative exam time.

Can I reschedule or make up the final exam?

Probably not, but there are two exceptions.

If extreme and unavoidable circumstances on the exam date cause you to miss the final exam (e.g., major illness or injury, death in the family), you could be eligible for a make-up exam at the start of the next semester. Note that you will be required to document the circumstances, and the alternative times we can offer might not be ideal for you. If this happens, let us know *as swiftly as you can*.

Penn also makes exceptions when a student has three finals scheduled for the same day. If this occurs and PSYC 0001 is in the middle, you may be able to postpone taking the final exam. If this is true for you, let Lauren know as soon as possible but no later than Dec. 2nd.

Per College policy, we are categorically unable to offer alternative final exam dates due to travel.

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*This syllabus is subject to change.
Changes will be announced on the course website and/or over email.*