



# PSY 460 Advanced Topics in Psychology

Winter 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course offers an in-depth exploration of contemporary and specialized areas within the field of psychology. This course is designed to provide students with a unique opportunity to delve into emerging and cutting-edge topics that may not be covered in standard psychology curriculum. The content of this course may vary from one offering to the next, as it adapts to the dynamic nature of psychological research and emerging trends in the field.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a deep and comprehensive understanding of the selected special topic within the field of psychology
2. Enhance their critical thinking skills by engaging in rigorous analysis and evaluation of research literature, theories, and real-world issues pertaining to the special topic
3. Communicate effectively, both in writing and verbally, through assignments that may include research papers, presentations, and class discussions
4. Gain an interdisciplinary perspective by exploring how psychology intersects with other fields, such as biology, sociology, economics, or technology
5. Learn how to apply the knowledge gained in the course to practical contexts

## **PREREQUISITES**

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology

## **GRADING**



Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Project	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Robert Libby, Patricia A. Libby, *Financial Accounting*, 7th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2011.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: What Is Psychology? Topic 2: Contemporary Psychology Topic 3: Thinking Critically With Psychological Science Topic 4: The Biology of Mind <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1



Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind Topic 6: Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity Topic 7: Developing Through the Life Span Topic 8: Sensation and Perception <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#2 Project
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Learning Topic 10: Memory Topic 11: Thinking and Language Topic 12: Intelligence <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#1 Project
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Belonging, and Achievement Topic 14: Emotions, Stress, and Health Topic 15: Social Psychology Topic 16: Personality <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#2 Project due
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Psychological Disorders Topic 18: Therapy Topic 19: Career Fields in Psychology Topic 20: Psychology at Work <b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

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1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning



and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

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- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

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The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

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Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.