

PSY 100A, Introduction to Psychology
Monday/Wednesday/Thursday
Time: 15:00 – 15:50

AJU Mission Statement

Learning and Scholarship: We believe in the principle of Torah – learning as an intellectual and inspirational endeavor – that embraces both academic scholarship and the efforts of all Jews to explore their shared heritage through the formal and informal study of Judaism and the other great civilizations of the world.

Culture: We acknowledge that Judaism is a flourishing civilization with a culture that is fundamental to modern Jewish identity. We strive to advance that culture by encouraging artistic endeavor in all of its many forms.

Ethics: We recognize that ethics is the language of Judaism and its most important link to the world at large.

Leadership: We understand that the future of Jewish life depends on the careful preparation of dedicated and impassioned individuals who are called to leadership.

Peoplehood: We are a pluralistic institution that embraces diversity within Judaism and values the contributions of all groups to the growth of Jewish Civilization.

Students with Disabilities

American Jewish University is committed to assisting our students with documented disabilities to have a successful career at AJU. Contact the Office of Student Affairs to request accommodations and begin the documentation process. (See Enhancing Accessibility and/or AJU website for complete policy.)

Standards of Academic Integrity

The Honor Code of American Jewish University was written by a committee of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and administrators. Under the Honor Code, students have a two-fold obligation: individually, they must not violate the code, and as a community, they are responsible to see that suspected violations are reported. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited, to the following definitions:

A. Examination Behavior: Unless expressly permitted by the instructor, the use of external assistance during an exam shall be considered academically dishonest. Inappropriate exam behavior includes but is not limited to: (1) communicating with anyone in any way during an exam, (2) copying material from another student's exam, (3) allowing a student to copy from one's exam, (4) using unauthorized notes, calculators, or other sources of unauthorized assistance.

B. Fabrication: Any intentional falsification, invention of data, or citation in an academic exercise will be considered to be academic dishonesty. Fabrication involves but is not limited to: (1) inventing or altering data for a laboratory experiment or field project, (2) padding a bibliography of a term paper or research paper with

sources one did not utilize, (3) resubmitting returned and corrected academic work under the pretense of grader evaluation error when, in fact, the work has been altered from its original form.

C. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the appropriation and subsequent passing off of another's ideas or words as one's own. If the words or ideas of another are used, acknowledgement of the original source must be made through recognized referencing practices. Use of another's ideas or words must be properly acknowledged as follows:

- (1) Direct Quotation: Any use of direct quotation must be acknowledged by footnote citation and by either quotation marks or proper indentation and spacing.
- (2) Paraphrase: If another's ideas are borrowed in whole or in part and are merely recast in the student's own words, proper acknowledgement must, nonetheless, be made. A footnote or proper internal citation must follow the paraphrased material.

D. Other Types of Academic Dishonesty: Other forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Submitting a paper written by or obtained from another person.
- (2) Using a paper or essay in more than one class without the instructors' expressed permission.
- (3) Obtaining a copy of an examination in advance without the knowledge and consent of the instructor.
- (4) Altering academic records outside of official institutional procedures.
- (5) Using another person to complete academic assignments such as homework, take-home exams or using another person posing as oneself to take classroom examinations.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course that will review the major topics of modern psychology. The goal is to give students a basic knowledge of psychological constructs and familiarize them with various areas of psychology that they may wish to study further in the future. The major topics covered will include a history of psychology, research approaches, the biological basis for behavior, consciousness, behaviorism, child development, social influences, personality, abnormal and clinical psychology.

This course also fulfills a non-lab science requirement. This is based on the study of research methods and discussions of the empirical basis for what is known about human behavior that is presented in this course.

Course Goals:

The following competencies will be acquired in this course. Students will:

1. know the major theorists in psychology,
2. learn some of the basic theories in psychology,
3. acquire the basic vocabulary necessary for the study of psychology,
4. understand the types of research used in psychology and the scientific basis for the research,
5. become familiar with a number of empirical data sets that describe and attempt to explain human behavior.

Course Requirements:

Assigned readings and consistent attendance.

Required Reading and Other Assignments:

Bernstein, D., Penner, L., Clarke-Stewart, A. and Roy, E., (2005). Psychology, 6th edition, New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Co.

Other readings as assigned in class

Assessment/Grading:

Grading will be based on four exams (20% each) and attendance and participation (20%). The exams will be composed of multiple-choice, true-false and short answer questions. There is also an optional extra credit essay assignment for students who wish to improve their grades. Note: all percentages are approximates. Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Should a student miss 20% or more of class sessions, he/she will be automatically withdrawn from the course and receive a W. To get an excused absence one must be ill and bring a doctor's note.

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Course Schedule:

- Topic 1: Introduction/Research Methods – Chapter 2
- Topic 2: Health, Stress, and Coping – Chapter 13
- Topic 3: Biology and Behavior – Chapter 3
- Topic 4: Consciousness: Sleep and Hypnosis; Drug Education – Chapter 9
- Topic 5: Conditioning and Learning; Operant Conditioning – Chapter 6
- Topic 6: History of Psychological Science – Chapter 1
- Topic 7: Memory – Chapter 7
- Topic 8: Intelligence – Chapter 10
- Topic 9: Human Development – Chapter 12
- Topic 10: Social Cognition – Chapter 17
- Topic 11: Social Influence – Chapter 18
- Topic 12: Personality – Chapter 14
- Topic 13: Motivation and Emotion – Chapter 11
- Topic 14: Psychological Disorders – Chapter 15
- Topic 15: Clinical Treatment – Chapter 16