

Welcome to PSYC 11762-006: General Psychology, Honors!
Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:15 PM to 3:30 PM
Kent Hall Room 145
Fall 2017

Instructor Information

Dr. Clarissa A. Thompson

- ❖ *Office hours and location:* 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays in 228 Kent Hall Addition; others by appointment
- ❖ *Office phone:* 330-672-3948 (Please call during office hours only.)
- ❖ *Email:* cthomp77@kent.edu (This is the best way to reach me.) Emails will be returned within 24 hours. Please indicate the course name in the subject of the email, include a greeting (e.g., "Hello, Dr. Thompson."), and sign your full name at the end of the email.

Course Overview

Psychology is everywhere and related to everything! In this course, you will learn about what underlies much of human behavior and thought processes including learning about how the brain works, how children's thoughts and behaviors are similar to or different from that of adults, what makes humans smart, what motivates human behavior and emotions, how other people can impact our behavior and thoughts, what shapes our personalities, and what differentiates normal from abnormal behavior and thoughts.

The course will sharpen many skills that you will find useful for other classes in your college career and in challenges you face in the "real world." Namely, you will be asked to think critically about class material by discussing and questioning the work of psychologists mentioned in the text and in the media. Your active participation during lecture, demonstrations, and classroom discussions will allow me to tailor the course to create a more fruitful learning environment.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe psychological theories, principles, and concepts relevant to the following topics: history and methods, physiology (biology of behavior, consciousness, perception), cognition (learning, thought, language), social, developmental, personality, and psychopathology and its treatment.
2. Articulate knowledge of classic as well as contemporary research in each of the major subfields of psychology.
3. Recognize diversity and individual differences and similarities in a variety of contexts.

Kent Core and Diversity Course

This course may be used to satisfy a Kent Core requirement. The Kent Core as a whole is intended to broaden intellectual perspectives, foster ethical and humanitarian values, and prepare students for responsible citizenship and productive careers.

This course may be used to satisfy the University Diversity requirement. Diversity courses provide opportunities for students to learn about such matters as the history, culture, values and notable achievements of people other than those of their own national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability, and social class. Diversity courses also provide opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences, and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.

Required Textbook

Please note that we are using the second edition of this textbook. All quizzes and exams will be drawn from this edition of the textbook, so it is strongly recommended that you purchase this version as opposed to earlier editions.

Cacioppo, J. T., & Freberg, L. (2016). *Discovering Psychology: The Science of Mind* (2nd ed.). Boston: Cengage.

Class Attendance

It is in your best interest to attend all class meetings. You'll get to hear an engaging lecture, watch intriguing video clips, participate in lively discussions with fellow students, and take part in active learning demonstrations that will illustrate difficult psychological concepts.

Grades

Your performance in the class will be evaluated on the basis of:

- ❖ 4 In-Class Exams (200 points total; 40% of the total grade)
- ❖ 15 Reading Comprehension Quizzes (150 points total; 30% of the total grade)
- ❖ Research Exposure (50 points total; 10% of the total grade)
- ❖ 1 Connection and Application Reflection Paper (100 points total; 20% of the total grade)

You will also have the opportunity of earning 2% extra credit in the course by completing up to 10 additional research exposure studies (1 point each).

Your final grades are based on the number of points earned out of a total of 500 mandatory points. *Grades will not be rounded or curved at the end of the semester! Plan ahead because I don't give out extra points at the end of the semester once all grades are finalized!*

Letter Grade	Point Range	
A	465	500
A-	450	464
B+	435	449
B	415	434
B-	400	414
C+	385	399
C	365	384
C-	350	364
D+	335	349
D	315	334
D-	300	314
F	299 and lower	

Exams

There will be 4 in-class exams for this course. The following topics will be covered on each exam (see Course Calendar):

Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5): 9/18/17

- Science of Mind, Measure of Mind, Biological Mind, and Perceiving Mind

Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9): 10/16/17

- Aware Mind, Feeling Mind, Adaptive Mind, and Knowing Mind

Exam 3 (Chapters 10, 11, & 12): 11/13/17

- Thinking Mind, Developing Mind, and Individual Mind

Exam 4 (Chapters 13, 14, 15, & 16): 12/6/17

- Connected Mind, Troubled Mind, Healing the Troubled Mind, and Healthy Mind

Each exam will consist of essay questions. The questions will require not only recognition of concepts, but will be designed to test comprehension and application of concepts, too. Material for the exams will be drawn directly from the assigned readings and from the in-class activities. You will have 60 minutes to complete each of the exams. There will be no make-up exams except as mandated by University policy for legitimate absences (e.g., illness, death in the family, religious observance, academic field trips, or approved athletic event). Students should contact the instructor via email prior to the scheduled exam if possible, or within 24 hours of missing the exam. If you can provide appropriate documentation for your absence, you will be permitted to take a make-up exam within one week of the regularly scheduled exam without a grade penalty. If you cannot provide appropriate documentation, you will receive a letter-grade penalty (10% deduction) on your make-up exam.

No student will be permitted to take an exam without a valid ID. If you forget your ID on an exam day, you may leave the exam room to retrieve your ID and finish the exam in the remaining time upon your return to the classroom. After the first student completes the exam, no other students will be permitted to start the exam. Please arrive early on exam days.

Reading Comprehension Quizzes

These quizzes are posted in our Blackboard course. You may take each of the quizzes once prior to 11:59 PM on the due date. There will be no make-up quizzes under any circumstances since you have such a wide window of time in which to complete the quizzes. Reading Comprehension Quizzes will be worth 10 points each. Keep in mind that these questions were drawn from a textbook publisher's test bank. If you see a question that is confusing or wrong in some way, please let me know. *Please keep in mind that you may consult your textbook, but not other students, while you are taking the quizzes. However, you should aim to complete the quizzes without aides in order to best prepare for the in-class exams. Think of the quizzes as practice for your exams!*

Connection and Application Reflection Paper (CAP)

The goal of this paper is to get you to synthesize all that you've learned during the semester and apply it to your current major and future career. The paper is worth 100 course points, and no late or emailed papers will be accepted under any circumstances since you have such a wide window of time in which to complete the writing assignment. Please stop by office hours if you would like to discuss your ideas for this essay. The formatting specifications and paper prompt are listed below.

- ❖ The length of the essay should be 3-4 typed, double-spaced pages with 1-inch margins. Please use either Times New Roman or Arial 12 pt. font. You should format your answer like an essay. No bullet points, please.
- ❖ The paper is due online by 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 14th. No late or emailed papers will be accepted.
- ❖ Turn in your CAP through the appropriately labeled Blackboard folder.
- ❖ Acceptable file formats are: MS Word file (.doc or .docx), text file (.txt), or rich text file (.rtf).
- ❖ On the first line of your CAP, please include your first and last name. No titles or any other pieces of information are required. Please do not take up excessive space to include the section number, my name, the course number, etc.
- ❖ If you consult a source other than the textbook, please include an internal citation in your paper and a separate references page. See <http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa> for APA guidelines on citing sources. Please turn in your own work, and give credit to outside resources that you consult. You may discuss the assignment with fellow classmates, but the work you turn in for a grade must be your own.
- ❖ Make sure you address ALL components of the essay for full credit.

CAP Paper Prompt: Psychology is All Around Us

As I mentioned at the very beginning of the semester, Psychology is all around us and involved in everything we do, think, and feel. *First*, tell me the most surprising new thing you learned about Psychology during this course and describe why this information was so surprising to you. *Second*, describe the ways in which what you've learned in this course will be relevant to your chosen major and future career. Please be specific in the examples you provide. Your examples should be drawn from at least two chapters covered in the textbook.

Research Exposure Program and Extra Credit

Throughout the semester, we will be discussing many findings of psychological research. But what might not be obvious is the fact that much of this research was conducted at top research universities like Kent State, with participants much like yourself. The descriptions of psychological research that appear in textbooks necessarily omit a great deal of information about what participants actually do in these studies, and what the experience is

really like. Serving as a research participant gives you a unique, behind-the-scenes look at how research is conducted.

All students taking General Psychology are required to earn 7 research participation points, which counts for 10% of your final grade. These 7 research participation points may be earned either through participation in research studies (conducted by researchers in the Department of Psychological Sciences after review by Kent State University's Institutional Review Board) or by writing brief reviews of research articles (see attached handout for details). Regardless of which option you choose, the goal is to supplement the broad coverage of many topics in class with experiences that will deepen your understanding of psychological research.

If you choose to participate in research studies, note that these are REAL studies that are being conducted by REAL researchers (for example, faculty projects and graduate student dissertation research). **Please take your participation seriously** – you are helping to promote a better understanding of human thought, emotion, and behavior. (Who knows – you may even participate in a study that gets published in a psychology journal and discussed in the next generation of General Psychology textbooks!) Be sure to use the research experience requirement to learn something about research in Psychology. After every research study, you will be told the purpose of the study. Take this opportunity to ask questions!! Ask why the researchers did what they did, what they expect to find, etc.!!! This is your opportunity to learn first-hand about how psychologists study behavior.

Also, it is very important to show up on time to any studies you sign up for! Not only will you help out the researchers – who have taken time to prepare for your appointment – but also you can **EARN BONUS RESEARCH PARTICIPATION POINTS** for showing up on time to all studies you sign up for (or, when necessary, by cancelling your appointment more than 24 hours in advance of the appointment time). **So please show up to all times you sign up for or cancel at least 24 hours in advance!**

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT!!!! If you do, there will probably not be enough experiments left to participate in. Read the attached packet about research participation very carefully for details about how the research participant pool operates and the alternative of doing research papers instead of participating in experiments.

You can earn up to 50 course points (about 7 points for each of 7 research credits) and 10 extra credit points (1 point for each of 10 extra research credits).

Course Expectations

I expect you to...

- ❖ *Be responsible:* Let me know if conflicts arise ahead of exam time, keep up with the readings and quizzes, pace your research participation, come to class on time, and leave when class is dismissed.
- ❖ *Participate:* Actively engage in discussions and demonstrations, ask questions and make relevant comments, email your questions or make a point to come to office hours.
- ❖ *Respect the diverse opinions, ideas, and backgrounds of the students in our classroom.*
- ❖ *Check your email and Blackboard often!* Keep in mind that this is a survey course, so lectures are meant to supplement the assigned readings!
- ❖ *Be aware of University policies on academic misconduct.*
- ❖ *Be considerate:* Turn off all cell phones so as not to disrupt the class in progress. Text messaging, sleeping, using the Internet for non-class purposes, excessive chatting, or doing homework during lecture will not be tolerated. Leave your laptop at home if it will be a distraction for you or for those around you!

In return I will...

- ❖ *Respect your opinions, ideas, and backgrounds.*
- ❖ *Be available to you via email, phone, or in person if you have questions or concerns.*
- ❖ *Be prompt with grading and posting grades to our course website.*

Academic Misconduct

University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at

http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779 and/or ask.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Academic Calendar and Registration Deadline

Important dates for the Fall 2017 semester can be found here: <https://www.kent.edu/registrar/fall-important-dates>. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

The official registration deadline for this course is **September 3, 2017**. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline. The course withdraw deadline is **November 5, 2017**.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Day	Topics	Chapter
Week 1	M	8/28/17	Science of Mind: Discipline of Psychology	Chapter 1
	W	8/30/17	Measure of Mind: Methods of Psychology	Chapter 2
Week 2	M	9/4/17	No Class: Labor Day	
	W	9/6/17	Biological Mind: Physical Basis of Behavior	Chapter 4
Week 3	M	9/11/17	Perceiving Mind: Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5
	W	9/13/17		
Week 4	M	9/18/17	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5
	W	9/20/17	Aware Mind: Elements of Consciousness	Chapter 6
Week 5	M	9/25/17	Feeling Mind: Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 7
	W	9/27/17	Adaptive Mind: Learning	Chapter 8
Week 6	M	10/2/17	No Class: Dr. Thompson @ Conference	
	W	10/4/17	Knowing Mind: Memory	Chapter 9
Week 7	M	10/9/17		
	W	10/11/17	No Class: Dr. Thompson @ Conference	
Week 8	M	10/16/17	Exam 2	Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9
	W	10/18/17	Thinking Mind: Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Chapter 10
Week 9	M	10/23/17		
	W	10/25/17	Developing Mind: Life Span Development	Chapter 11
Week 10	M	10/30/17		
	W	11/1/17	Individual Mind: Personality and the Self	Chapter 12
Week 11	M	11/6/17		
	W	11/8/17	Exam 3	Chapters 10, 11, & 12
Week 12	M	11/13/17		
	W	11/15/17	Connected Mind: Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Week 13	M	11/20/17		
	W	11/22/17	No Class: Thanksgiving	
Week 14	M	11/27/17	Troubled Mind: Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
	W	11/29/17	Healing the Troubled Mind: Therapy	Chapter 15
Week 15	M	12/4/17	Healthy Mind: Stress and Coping, Health	Chapter 16
	W	12/6/17	Exam 4	Chapters 13, 14, 15, & 16
Final	TH	12/14/17	CAP Submitted to Dropbox by 3:00 PM	

Assignment Due Dates

Due Date	Assignment
9/1/17	Chapter 1 Comprehension Quiz
9/1/17	Chapter 2 Comprehension Quiz
9/8/17	Chapter 4 Comprehension Quiz
9/15/17	Chapter 5 Comprehension Quiz
9/18/17	In-Class Exam 1
9/22/17	Chapter 6 Comprehension Quiz
9/29/17	Chapter 7 Comprehension Quiz
10/6/17	Chapter 8 Comprehension Quiz
10/13/17	Chapter 9 Comprehension Quiz
10/16/17	In-Class Exam 2
10/27/17	Chapter 10 Comprehension Quiz
11/3/17	Chapter 11 Comprehension Quiz
11/10/17	Chapter 12 Comprehension Quiz
11/13/17	In-Class Exam 3
11/27/17	Chapter 13 Comprehension Quiz
12/1/17	Chapter 14 Comprehension Quiz
12/1/17	Chapter 15 Comprehension Quiz
12/6/17	Chapter 16 Comprehension Quiz
12/6/17	In-Class Exam 4
12/14/17	CAP Reflection Paper

Please note that the information contained in this syllabus may be changed at the instructor's discretion.