Introduction to Psychology

Class code
PSYCH-UA 9001.001 Introduction to Psychology

Instructor Details
Dr Yulia Kovas
Office Hour: Please e-mail Dr Kovas to arrange an appointment.

Class Details
Fall 2013
Wednesday, 09.00-12.00
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None.

Class Description
Introduces and examines the core topics of research in Psychology. What is psychology? What are the methods used to study human behavior? What factors influence human behaviour? How do genetic and environmental factors influence human behaviour? Does human behaviour change in social situations? Can human thinking and behavior be empirically examined and predicted? What are the underlying neural substrates of thought and behaviour?

The format of this course will be lectures, presentations, research exercises, and class discussions.

Desired Outcomes
1. To acquire and be able to articulate a knowledge of the main sub-disciplines of psychology
2. To gain an understanding of the major methodological and theoretical approaches to understanding human thought and behavior
To foster a critical approach to evaluating psychological research and research from related disciplines.

Assessment Components
One short answer test, one research exercise, one oral presentation, one written assignment, one group project, a mock examination, and a final examination. The final grade will be determined by: (1) short answer test (5%); (2) research exercise critique (5%); (3) 10 minute (+ 5mins questions) oral presentation (10%); (4) group project (20%); (5) written assignment (20%); and (6) final examination with essay-type questions (40%). The short answer test will take place in session 4. The research exercise critique (1000-1200 words) is due in session 6. The date for the oral presentation will be arranged individually with each student, but will take place during the time-tabled class time (sessions 7-12). The written assignment (between 1200 and 1500 words) is due in at session 12. A mock examination will take place during session 13. The group project will commence in Week 5 and will develop in the following weeks; the write-up (1000-1200 words) and oral viva (group and individual) is due in Week 14. The final examination will take place in session 15.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.
Be as specific as possible about your expectations regarding student work

Assessment Expectations
Grade A: Mastery of theoretical and empirical literature and evidence of independent/critical thought/analysis.
Grade B: Basic understanding of theoretical and empirical literature

Grade C: Sufficient understanding but unsure of theoretical and empirical literature

Grade D: Poor attempt at grasping theoretical and empirical literature

Grade F: Fail

Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Attendance Policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester. See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness
1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

**Absence requests for non-illness reasons**

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

**Further information regarding absences**

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

**Late Submission of Work**

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a
penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.
Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

**Required Text(s)**

*or other editions (please make sure that you are reading the right chapter if using other editions)

The following additional journal articles are also required:

**Session 6**


**Session 11**

Plomin, R. & Spinath, F.M. (2002). Genetics and general cognitive ability (g).


**Session 13**

**Reading for Oral Presentations (Sessions 6-13)**
Each student will have one more required piece of reading (an article of their choice on the topic of the session in which the student is giving presentation). Students must agree the article with the tutor ahead of presentation. The date and topic of the presentation for each student will be agreed during the first 2 weeks.

**Reading for Group Projects (Sessions 6-14)**
Each student will have at least one more required piece of reading (a template article of their choice for their proposed group research project). Students must agree the article and the project with the tutor before the project can commence.
Another broad-based psychology text which you might want to refer to is:


The following textbook will be very helpful for sessions 9, 10, 11, and 12. Though not required, it is strongly recommended: Chamorro-Premuzic, T. (2007). Personality and individual differences. Oxford: Blackwell.

There is reading set from some more specialised textbooks which you may wish to consult (though these are NOT required)


*Students are encouraged to read at least one empirical paper from the last 3 years when preparing their assignments.*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Internet Research Guidelines</th>
<th>Students are strongly encouraged to use “Psychinfo” via the NYU electronic library: <a href="http://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/ISng.pl?current_tab=221">http://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/ISng.pl?current_tab=221</a></th>
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The oral presentation, group projects and written assignments should be based on journal articles, so psychinfo is very important.

It is recommended that students make use of the internet as a resource to guide their research, particularly for their presentation and written assignment. However it is important that resources such as Wikipedia, which are potentially unreliable, are used as direction toward primary source material in peer-reviewed journals. You will be able to access publications via electronic journal catalogue on NYUHome.

None.
Session 1  
**What is Psychology?** (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 1; Supplemental reading: None)  
September 4

Session 2  
**The Biological Basis of Behaviour** (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 4; Supplemental reading: Carlson (2005) chapters 2, 3, 4, & 5).  
September 11

Session 3  
**Sensation and Perception** (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 5; Supplemental reading: Bruce, Green & Georgeson (2000) chapters 1, 2 & 3).  
This session will be structured as follows:

9-10.00 Lecture  
10.00-10.15 Break  
10.15-10.30 Walking to the Wellcome Trust Building (15 minutes walk).  
10.30-11.00 Guided tour of the Medicine Today Exhibition  
11.00-11.45 Medicine Today and Medicine Man Exhibitions (Exploring, Task Completion)  
Students can stay after 12.00 to see the rest of the Wellcome Trust collection.

Session 4  
**Psychodynamic theories: Visit to Freud Museum (London)**  
September 25  
This session will be organised as follows:

09.00-09.30 Class discussion  
09.30-09.40 Short break  
09.40 Walk to the Underground and travel to the Museum  
10.15 till 11.30 Guided tour (Students can stay longer if they want)  
The students will have a list of questions that they will need to be prepared to answer in the following session, based on the visit.  
Self-study (guided by the list of questions provided by the professor before the Session).  
Additional reading to be provided via blackboard

Session 5  
October 2  
**Short answer test (35 minutes)**  
**Research Exercise**
**Session 6**  
October 9  

**Material for Discussion**

Students are required to read the following 3 articles and be prepared for discussion.


**Research Exercise Critique is due**

First Group Project Discussion and Planning, Literature Search for a Template paper (class and homework)

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**Session 7**  
October 16  

**Attention and Consciousness** (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 6; Supplemental reading: Eysenck & Keane (2005) chapter 5)

**Oral presentations**

Group Project Work (agreeing topic the topic, agreeing the template paper, planning the study)

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**Session 8**  
October 23  

**Motivation and Emotion** (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 11; Supplemental reading: Chamorro-Premuzic (2007) chapter 9)

**Oral presentations**

Group Project: Data Collection, Discussion.

Note that you should submit your Group Data to Dr Kovas by November 22

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**Session 9**  
October 25  

**Personality** (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 15; Supplemental reading: Chamorro-Premuzic (2007) chapters 2 & 3)

**Oral presentations**

Group Project: Data collection/Discussion.

Note that you are required to read additional papers for next class

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**Session 10**  
October 30  


**Material for Discussion**
Students are required to read the following articles and be prepared for discussion.


**Oral presentations**

**Session 11** Learning and Behaviour (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 7; Supplemental reading: Domjan (2003), chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5)

November 13

Group Project: Enter/collate the data, analyse the results, discussion. Data should be collected, collated, and sent to Dr Kovas by November 22. Please send the results in Excel file, use only numerical values. The results of the Analyses will be available on NYU classes by November 27.

**Session 12** Psychopathology (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 17 & 18; Supplemental reading: Chamorro-Premuzic (2007), chapter 4)

November 20

Written assignment due

Oral presentations

Group Projects: Interpret and discuss the results of the Group Project. Prepare for individual write-up.

**Session 13** Social Psychology (Core reading: Passer et al. (2009) chapter 14; Supplemental reading: None)

November 27

Material for Discussion

Students are required to read the following article and be prepared for discussion.


Mock Exam (45 minutes)

Group Project Individual Write-up submission NEXT WEEK

**Session 14** Summary, Revision, Exam Preparation (no reading assignment)

December 4

Group Project Presentations and viva (Please bring all relevant materials: consent forms, protocols, debrief information, stimuli, etc.)

Group Project Write-up submission

**Session 15**

Final exam (1.5 hours)
Classroom Etiquette

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies. Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.

Required Co-curricular Activities

1. Date: September 18
   
   **Venue:** Wellcome Trust Collection (10 minutes walk)
   
   **Meeting time:** Usual Class time
   
   **Meeting point:** Usual Class location

2. Date: September 25
   
   **Venue:** Freud Museum (40 minutes trip: walk, tube)
   
   **Meeting time:** Usual Class time
   
   **Meeting point:** Usual Class location. We will travel to the Museum by tube together.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

I will advertise any relevant events or lectures during class.

Your Instructor

Dr Kovas is a Reader in Genetics and Psychology at Goldsmiths College and a visiting lecturer at UCL, King’s, and New York Universities. Dr Kovas is the director of InLab (International Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Investigations into Individual Differences in Learning) at Goldsmiths College; the director of the Laboratory for Cognitive Investigations and Behavioural Genetics and Tomsk State University; and also co-directs the Russian-British Laboratory of Behavioural Genetics. Dr Kovas teaches Genetics and Psychology and supervises many BSc, MSc, PhD, and Post-doctoral students’ research in the UK and abroad. Dr Kovas’ current research projects include: investigations of genetic and environmental aetiology of individual differences in mathematical ability and disability; investigation of aetiology of covariation and comorbidity between different learning abilities and disabilities; cross-cultural studies of sources of variation in cognitive abilities, with a particular focus on numerical ability and mathematical achievement. Dr Kovas is also leading the genetically-sensitive mathematics research in the Twins Early Development Study (TEDS) at the SGDP Centre, King’s College, London. For further information on research and publications visit: http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/psychology/staff/kovas.php and www.inlab.co.uk