

NYU Washington, DC

Introduction to Psychology

PSYCH-UA 9001 Section: DC1

Instruction Mode: Blended

Mon & Wed 3:00 – 4:15 pm EST

Fall 2020

We know that you may be taking courses at multiple locations this semester. If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Go Local/Study Away student for this course site, please make sure that you've completed the online academic orientation via NYU Classes so you are aware of site-specific support structure, policies and procedures. **Please contact the site academic staff (dc.academics@nyu.edu)** if you have trouble accessing the NYU Classes site.

If you are attending in person, you will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol.

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Chynere Best, MS
- **Office Hours:** Mondays 12pm – 2pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm – 4pm virtually via Google Hangouts
- **Class**
- **Email:**

Course Information

- **Course number and section:** PSYCH-UA 9001 Section: DC1
- **Course Title:** Introduction to Psychology
- **Course Description:**
- **Class Day & Time:** Mondays & Wednesdays 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm
 - **Location:** Room 307
- **Instruction Mode:** Blended
- NYU DC [academic calendar](#)

Course Overview and Goals

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the fascinating science of psychology. The field of psychology is broad, encompassing a wide variety of topics and perspectives, from evolution to morality. The common goal of all psychological science is to understand how the mind and brain interface with the external world to shape behavior. This course is designed to provide you with a basis for thinking about psychological questions and with an overview of the different specialized areas of psychology that you might choose to study in more depth in the future.

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

- Identify basic concepts and research findings, and give examples of psychology's integrative themes.
- Apply psychological principles to everyday life.
- Draw appropriate, logical, and objective conclusions about behavior and mental processes from empirical evidence.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance & Participation

You are expected to attend class regularly in person and/or remote synchronously.

Students who are not enrolled in this course 100% remotely must attend at least 14 class sessions face to face. You may spread these face to face sessions out across the semester as you wish. I highly recommend attending in person for review sessions.

For in person class sessions, each student will choose a seat for the semester. Each student will be expected to sit in the same seat every time you are in class.

You are NOT required to turn your camera on during live class sessions. While I would love to see your face, do whatever creates the best learning environment for you! It is okay to have your camera turned off if that makes you more comfortable. Alternatively, if you have your camera on but need to turn it off temporarily, feel free to do so.

Regardless of how you are joining class, you are expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Class participation is worth 5% of your grade.

Assignment 1: Design a research study (Due: Sept 30th)

Design your own research study. You must describe the type of study you are conducting and your hypothesis. Identify and operationally define 1 independent variable and 1 dependent variable. Explain your sample and how you intend to recruit them and administer the study. Be sure to keep ethical guidelines in mind and describe how you will abide by these guidelines. Finally, give an explanation of the potential results if your hypothesis turned out to be non-significant. A grading rubric will be posted on NYU Classes for your reference.



Assignment 2: Learning Worksheet (Due: Oct 21st)

Complete the worksheet by reviewing various scenarios and identifying the factors associated with different concepts of the learning theories covered in class. The worksheet can be found in the Assignments tab on NYU Classes.

Assignment 3: Create Your Own Game (Due: Dec 9th)

In groups of 2-3 students, create your own version of a game to teach one of the topics covered during the last portion of the class. The groups and the topics will be assigned by the instructor. Your assignment can be based on a game that already exists but has been adapted for our class. You may not use a game that we have already played in class. Each group will give a 15-minute presentation in class during which they must describe the game and its rules before the class can actually play the game. A grading rubric will be posted on NYU Classes for your reference. This assignment tests your ability to identify basic concepts and give examples of psychology's integrative themes.

Research Participation

Much of the psychological science that we will discuss this term has been generated through empirical studies and experiments done at universities like this one. As a part of your education about psychology, it is important that you learn about the empirical process by which this knowledge has been gleaned. There are two ways for students in Introductory Psychology to satisfy the research requirement:

1. Participate as a subject in 2 experiments being conducted this semester by researchers in the Psychology Department. If you are under the age of 18, parental consent is required for all research participation. You can find the [parental consent form](http://psych.nyu.edu/research/parents.html) here: <http://psych.nyu.edu/research/parents.html>.
2. Read two published research articles that report the details of empirical studies and to write a two page critique of each. A list of research articles you can read and guidelines for writing your two page critique will be posted on the Classes page under Resources → Research Requirements on **November 23rd**. These papers are due no later than December 9th. **if you wish to write a critique to substitute for any of your research hours, you must notify me via email and the Coordinator of Psychology Research Subjects (brenda.woodford@nyu.edu) by November 13th.**

Tests & Quizzes

Three exams, each covering a different portion of the course materials (i.e., non-cumulative), will be given during the regular lecture time. Exams will consist of multiple choice and brief essay questions. Each exam will count for **20%** of your final grade. There will also be **an optional cumulative exam offered during the final exam period**. You may choose to take this exam and substitute the score for your lowest score on one of the midterm exams, or for an exam that you have to miss. Most students take this extra exam as many students want a bonus opportunity to



increase their grade, but it is ultimately your choice if you wish to take it. Note that the bonus cumulative exam *cannot* be rescheduled due to illness or any other reason—it is only offered once. Any requests for additional assignments or exam dates will be returned with a copy of this paragraph.

Test questions will aim to assess your understanding of the material and ability to apply it to new situations, rather than focusing on the memorization of facts or terms. Exams will cover both lecture and reading. **For this reason, attendance and note taking are essential.**

Exams will be conducted in person during class time. For students who are 100% remote or cannot take the exam in person due to quarantine, you must email me letting me know that you need to take the exam remotely and the reason by the end of the Review Session prior to that exam. (Example: 4:15 pm on Monday 28th September for Exam 1.)

For those taking the exam remotely, the exam will be emailed directly to you at the beginning of class. You must sign into Zoom and turn on your cameras so I can proctor the exam during class time. You will upload your completed exam to the Exam 1 submission portal under the Assignments tab in NYU classes.

Assigned Readings

We will use a [free online textbook](http://noba.to/zuaw6qft) available here: <http://noba.to/zuaw6qft>. The first time you enter the site, you will be prompted to create a free login. You can then read the individual chapters online or download each chapter or the entire book as a PDF. There are also hyperlinks to all the readings on the syllabus (see below). The PDF of the entire book is posted on the Classes site along with any additional readings. Visiting the textbook website will give you access to videos, practice questions, and other materials.

I encourage you to read the course material *before* the corresponding lecture. That way, the material covered in lecture will serve as a review, and you will be in a much better position to ask informed questions and to seek clarification on any confusing aspects of the material. There is not a complete overlap between the book and the lectures and you are expected to know both for the exams.

Website

The course Classes site will be used to post lecture slides, review sheets, course announcements, and student grades. Log in and you should see this course. The slides are available to assist with your note taking, but much information will be covered in class that is not available on the outlines. Reading the available lecture slides is NOT a substitute for attending class.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class participation	5%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	10%
Research Participation	5%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
A	4.00	93-100
A-	3.67	90-92
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D+	1.33	66-69
D	1.00	60-65
F	.00	Below 60

View Grades

Grades will be available on the NYU Classes site.

Course Schedule

Zoom link to join class sessions can be found in the Zoom section on [NYU Classes](#).

Link: <https://nyu.zoom.us/j/99979147678>

Topics, Meeting Patterns and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Wed-Sept- 2	Introductions Syllabus Review	Syllabus	
Monday, Sept 7	Labor Day – No Class		
Weds, Sept 9	Introduction to Psychology	Why Science? & The Roads Less Traveled	
Session 2 Mon-Sept-14	The Science of Psychology	Thinking Like a Psychological Scientist	



Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 3 Wed-Sept-16	Research Designs and Methods	Research Designs & Conducting Psychology research in the Real World & Statistical Thinking	
Session 4 Mon-Sept-21	Neurons	The Brain and Nervous System	
Session 5 Wed-Sept-23	The Brain and the Nervous System	The Brain and Nervous System	
Session 6 Mon-Sept- 28	Review		
Session 7 Wed-Sept- 30	Exam 1		Assignment 1: Design a Research Study
Session 8 Mon-Oct- 5	Sensation & Perception	Sensation and Perception & Vision	
Session 9 Wed -Oct- 7	Attention	Attention & Failures of Awareness: Inattentive Blindness	
Monday, Oct 12	Thinking	Judgment and Decision Making	
Session 11 Wed -Oct- 14	Development 1	Cognitive Development in Childhood & Attachment Through the Life Course & Social and Personality Development in Childhood	
Session 12 Mon -Oct- 19	Development 2	Adolescent Development & Emerging Adulthood	



Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 13 Wed -Oct- 21	Learning	Conditioning and Learning	
Session 14 Mon -Oct- 26	Memory 1	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)	
Session 15 Wed -Oct- 28	Memory 2	Forgetting and Amnesia	
Session 16 Mon -Nov- 2	Review		
Session 17 Wed -Nov- 4	Exam 2		
Session 18 Mon -Nov- 9	Social Cognition	Conformity and Obedience	
Wednesday Nov 11	Veteran's Day – No Class		
Session 19 Mon -Nov- 16	Groups	The Psychology of Groups	
Session 20 Wed -Nov- 18	Culture Prejudice	Culture & Prejudice, Discrimination and Stereotyping	Assignment 2: Learning Worksheet
Session 21 Mon -Nov- 23	Helping	Helping and Prosocial Behavior	
Session 22 Wed -Nov- 25	Personality	The Psychodynamic Perspective & Personality Traits	
Thurs, Nov 26-Fri, Nov 27	No Classes – Site Holiday		
Session 23 Mon -Nov- 30	Psychopathology (guest)	Therapeutic Orientations	
Session 24 Wed -Dec- 2	Psychological Disorders	Anxiety and Related Disorders & Mood Disorders	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 25 Mon -Dec- 7	Review		Assignment 3: Create your Own Game
Session 26 Wed -Dec- 9	Exam 3		Research Article Critiques
Tues, Dec 15 – Thurs, Dec 17	Finals Week		
Wednesday Dec 16	Cumulative Final		

Tests and Quizzes

- Exam 1 Wednesday Sept 30th
- Exam 2 Wednesday Nov 4th
- Exam 3 Wednesday Dec 9th
- Final Wednesday Dec 16th

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- [NYU DC: Introduction to Psychology Fall 2020](#)

Optional Textbooks & Materials

- None

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://its.nyu.edu/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://it.nyu.edu/service-desk) (nyu.edu/it/service-desk)

Course Policies

Hygiene/Physical Distancing policies

- Students will be assigned/choose a seat on the first day of class. For NYU COVID-19 Safety protocols, please use the same seat for the duration of the semester.

Attendance and Tardiness

Studying at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers or online through NYU Classes if the course is remote synchronous/blended, is expected promptly when class begins. Unexcused absences will affect students' semester participation grade. If you have scheduled a remote course immediately preceding/following an in-person class, you may want to discuss where at the Academic Center the remote course can be taken.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

Reporting Absences:

1. Report the absence to NYU DC Academics via the [online absence form](#).
2. Contact your instructor of the class(es) affected.
3. Follow up with NYU DC Academics (dc.academics@nyu.edu) to provide any necessary documentation regarding the absence.

Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported using the form above (this is a key step, but there may be other conditions—see below—such as providing documentation, as well).

You can use the online Absence Form to report absences for both medical and non-medical reasons (see below).

- Students should NOT approach their class instructor for an excused absence (you need to consult with a member of the Academics team instead). However, students should contact their class instructor to discuss catching up on missed work.
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to address any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Medical Absences:

- If you are unable to attend a class due to ill health, you must provide details of your illness and class(es) missed to NYUDC staff using the online Absence Form WITHIN 24 HOURS of your first missed class.
- Please do not use the form to report a medical emergency or to request urgent assistance. In a medical emergency, call 911 and ask for an ambulance. NYU DC staff are available and happy to offer additional support, whatever time of day, especially if you're hoping to make a doctor's appointment. If you would like to speak to a member of staff to request support with a medical problem, please call the NYU Washington, DC emergency phone.

Non-Medical Absences:

- If you have to miss class for an unavoidable, non-medical reason you must provide use the online Absence Form at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question.
- If in doubt about whether your reason might be approve-able, please speak to a member of the NYUDC Academics staff (dc.academics@nyu.edu).
- NYU DC adheres to the [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)



NYU DC staff carefully monitor student attendance and absence records. In most cases, full completion of the online Absence Form will be sufficient to excuse your absence. However, in certain circumstances (such as a missed examination/presentation or missing multiple days of class) you will need to provide additional information and arrange a meeting with a member of NYUDC academics team about your absence before it can be excused.

Classroom Etiquette/Expectations

Things to consider:

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.
- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you do.
- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary)
- If deemed necessary by the study away site (ie COVID related need), synchronous class sessions may be recorded and archived for other students to view. This will be announced at the beginning of class time.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class. Consider using the chat function or “raise hand” function in order to add your voice to class discussions especially if leaving the video on presents challenges.
- In communicating with the professor, please be proactive, polite and professional. All email correspondence should include a greeting. Please allow 24 - 48 hours for a response to your email.

Final Exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between final exams, please bring it to the attention of the site Academic representative as soon as this is known to facilitate alternate arrangements. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Late Assignment

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- 2) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
- 3) Written work during the semester that is submitted 2 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- 4) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
- 5) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
- 6) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days late without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

Incomplete Grade Policy

An “incomplete” is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of “incomplete,” present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of “incomplete” to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site’s academic office. The submitted form must include a deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the local Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging and Equity

NYU is committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values – in all their facets – are, as President Andrew Hamilton has said, “...not only important to cherish for their own sake, but because they are also vital for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities.” At NYU DC, we are committed to creating a learning environment that:

- fosters intellectual inquiry, research, and artistic practices that respectfully and rigorously take account of a wide range of opinions, perspectives, and experiences; and
- promotes an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and every member feels they have a rightful place, is welcome and respected, and is supported in their endeavors.

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center **as early as possible in the semester for assistance**. Accommodations for this course are managed through the site sponsoring the class once you request it.

Instructor Bio/About Your Instructor

Chynere Best is a doctoral candidate in developmental psychology at Howard University. Her research focuses on parent-adolescent communication about risk behaviors, particularly among members of the Caribbean diaspora. Ms. Best is from Trinidad and Tobago and received both her bachelor's and master's degrees also at Howard University. She is currently the lab coordinator for the Cultural Socialization Lab at Howard University which focuses on culture as a buffer for people of color who live in psychosocially toxic environments.