

Introduction to Psychology (PSY 120)

Who is my professor?

Dr. Joshua Foster (Ph.D., Social Psychology, University of Georgia, 2005)

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Office hours: by appointment

Is there a class website?

www.joshuadfoster.com/slides120

What do I need to buy for this class?

Textbook: Brown, Foster, & Gordon (2010). *Psychology: A work in progress*. [You do not need to purchase the clicker for this class.]

The book is in online format. There are two ways to purchase this book:

1. Go to [<http://webcom8.grtxle.com/index.cfm?cu=intropsychology>] and click “purchase an access code now.” It will ask you for billing information and you will receive a code that will grant you access to the book. The book costs \$100.00 if you purchase it this way.
2. Purchase an access card from the University bookstore. The card will have an access code printed on it that will grant you access to the book. The book costs \$120.00 if you purchase it this way.

Although the book is online, you can print pages from it if you prefer to read offline.

What am I going to learn in this class?

You’re going to get a brief and general overview of psychology’s major concepts. For many of you this will be your only formal exposure to psychology as a scientific discipline. I hope that you will be able to carry on an intellectual discussion about psychology (e.g., be able to cite facts to back up your points) after finishing this course.

How will I be graded?

Your final grade will be computed based on the following percentages.

Midterm exam	45%
Final exam	55%

Grading scale:	90-100% = A
	80-89% = B
	70-79% = C
	60-69% = D
	59% and below = F

Midterm and Final Exams

Exams will be in multiple-choice/true-false format (i.e., scantron), about 150 questions long, and will cover material from lectures and the book (you must read the book to do well on the exams). The final exam is worth more than the midterm exam because students usually do better later in the semester.

This should help most students. Makeup exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances. If you miss an exam, you should have a really good reason and be able to prove it.

Is there anything else I need to do for the class?

You must also complete the subject pool requirement. See end of syllabus for more details. This is important. If you don't do it an entire letter grade will be taken off your FINAL grade in the class (i.e., the highest grade you'll be able to get in the class is a 90%).

Do I have to come to class?

No, but attendance is the best predictor of grades in my classes. Students who attend all of the classes almost always do better than students who miss classes.

Are there any extra-credit options?

There are no official extra-credit options. It is possible that an extra-credit point or two may be offered at some point during the semester, but don't count on it.

What if I have to miss class?

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the material from your fellow students—*not from me*. Do not ask me to give you lecture notes or go over what you missed in class.

Will lecture slides be posted on the website?

Yes, but don't consider them a substitute for coming to class. There may be some differences between what is posted online and what is shown in class (e.g., late changes to slides may not appear online).

What is the policy on cheating?

It is not allowed. *Anyone suspected of cheating will receive an F in the course* and possibly be reported to the University. If you do not accept this policy then you should drop this course.

What if I have a disability?

If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Special Student Services. (OSSS is located in Room 270 of the Student Center (460-7212)).

Tentative semester calendar

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Chapter
1	31-May	T	Introduction/Methods	1
	1-Jun	W		
	2-Jun	R	Psychobiology	2
	3-Jun	F		
2	6-Jun	M	Nature Nurture	3
	7-Jun	T		
	8-Jun	W	Sensation Perception	5
	9-Jun	R		
	10-Jun	F		
3	13-Jun	M	Midterm Exam	1,2,3,5
	14-Jun	T	Learning	7
	15-Jun	W		
	16-Jun	R	Abnormal	11
	17-Jun	F		
4	20-Jun	M	Emotion	Handout
	21-Jun	T		
	22-Jun	W	Social	12
	23-Jun	R		
	24-Jun	F		
5	27-Jun	M	Final Exam	7,11,12,handout

Handout and copies of lecture slides can be downloaded at www.joshuadfoster.com/slides120.html

Subject Pool Requirement

The Psychology Department incorporates a research participation component into each PSY 120 course. This is comparable to a laboratory section of introductory courses in other sciences. You may satisfy this requirement by either (a) participating in psychological research being conducted at USA or (b) writing summaries of articles that describe previously conducted research. You may also do a combination of the two.

You will get credits for doing this and **you must earn 7 credits by MONDAY JUNE 27 at 5:00PM** or else 10% will be deducted from your final course grade (i.e., the highest grade you will be able to get is a 90%). I will explain below how you can determine how many credits you have earned.

Registering for the Subject Pool

Regardless how you choose to fulfill this requirement, you must first register for the subject pool. To do this:

- (a) Go to the "subject pool" website at <http://usapsychology.sona-systems.com> (note: there is no "www").
- (b) Click the "Request an account here" link on the left.
- (c) Fill out all fields. Use an email address that you use regularly and that you know works. The system will use this email address to send you your password and for future contacts. Make sure that you select my class (Foster). Otherwise you will be registered for someone else's class.
- (d) You will get an email shortly with your password. Go back to the main page and enter your User ID and password to log on to the subject pool.
- (e) To complete registration, you must do the subject pool pretest survey. This will take about 30 minutes to do so budget your time accordingly. You will get 1 credit for doing this survey. Once you complete this, you will be officially registered for the subject pool.

YOU MUST REGISTER (AND COMPLETE THE PRETEST SURVEY) BY FRIDAY, JUNE 3 at 5:00PM. If you do not, you will need to do an additional 2 credits of research participation (9 total).

Participating in Psychological Research

Most students choose to fulfill the bulk of their requirement by participating in psychological research being conducted at USA.

- (a) Your first step will involve finding studies that seem interesting to you and signing up for them. Do this by logging on to the subject pool website and looking at available studies. Note that the number of studies available will fluctuate (sometimes dramatically) throughout the semester. To avoid missing out on studies you are advised to check the website frequently.
- (b) Different studies will be worth different numbers of credits, although in general 1 credit = 30 minutes of time. Therefore, a study that takes one-hour to complete will generally be worth 2 credits. The value of each study will be clearly listed, so you will know how many credits you are getting before you sign up for a study.

- (c) If you do not show up for a study, or fail to cancel your participation for a study by the required deadline, you will receive a 1 credit penalty for 1 credit studies or a maximum of 2 credits penalty for 2 or more credit studies. To avoid missing appointments, write down the date, time, name, and location of the study and bring this with you to the study (there are many studies going on at once, and people will not be able to help you locate a study without this information).
- (d) Once you complete a study you will be given credit shortly thereafter. Check the website to make sure that you get credit for participation.
- (e) **Students who are under 19 years old** must get their parents to sign the parental consent form (www.usouthal.edu/psychology/docs/blanketconsentform.pdf). Bring a copy of it to each study that you participate in (you will give this to the researcher so don't bring the original). **DO NOT FAX THE FORM TO THE NUMBER LISTED ON THE CONSENT FORM.** *You will not be able to participate in most studies without this form.*

Writing Article Summaries

Alternatively, you may choose to write papers that summarize articles that describe previously conducted research. The articles must be at least 3 pages long. Good places to find articles are Psychology Today Magazine and Skeptic Magazine.

- (a) For every 1-page typed (250 words) paper that you turn in, you will receive 1 credit. Each summary must cover a separate article that you have read. It is your choice which article(s) you read and summarize. For each paper that you turn in, you must type the name of the article that you are writing about.
- (b) Papers will be assessed in terms of length and quality. Papers that do not meet a minimum standard will be rejected. Turn in papers early so that you will have time should you need to rewrite any of them. When you turn in papers, your professor will read them and issue you credit through the subject pool website (if the papers meet the minimum standards).