The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Division of Social Science

Fall Semester, 2024

Course Title: Discovering Mind and Behavior

Course Code: SOSC1969

No. of Credits: 3

Pre-/co-requisites: Nil

Lecture Time: Mon & Wed 10:30-11:50pm (HKT)

Venue: Rm 2465, Lift 25-26

	Lecturer	**Teaching Assistant**
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Office Hours	By appointment	By appointment

*When contacting us by email, please _**prefix the subject line**_ of your message with the course code [SOSC1969]. Use your university email account only.

Course Description

This course introduces the fundamental scientific knowledge about human thinking and behavior processes and illustrates the relevance of this knowledge to the betterment of human performance and well-being in a wide variety of settings in the society.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. recognize some fundamental scientific concepts about human mind and behavior;
2. analyze human performance and wellbeing in various social settings with reference to these concepts; AND
3. explain how scientific research on human mind and behavior is conducted.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Writing Assignment	20%	20/11/2024*
Research Experience	5%	By 27/11/2024*
Tutorial Participation	15%	23/09/2024* 21/10/2024* 25/11/2024*
Quizzes	60%	2/10/2024* 23/10/2024* 25/11/2024*

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs
Writing Assignment	ILO1, ILO2
Research Experience	ILO1, ILO3
Tutorial Participation	ILO1, ILO2
Quizzes	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3

Grading Rubrics

1. Writing Assignment (20%)

• Task: You are required to complete a writing assignment about learning theories. You must write a maximum of 500 words to demonstrate your understanding of the topic.

• The guidelines for the assignment will be uploaded on Canvas in due course. Please read and follow the instructions carefully, or you risk marks deduction.

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	• The writing assignment demonstrates a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the key learning theories covered in the course. • The essay is exceptionally well-organized, with a clear and logical flow of ideas, and excellent use of headings, subheadings, and transitions to enhance readability.
B	Good Performance	• The writing assignment demonstrates a solid understanding of the key learning theories covered in the course. • The essay is well-organized, with a clear flow of ideas, and effective use of headings, subheadings, and transitions.
C	Satisfactory Performance	• The writing assignment demonstrates a basic understanding of the key learning theories covered in the course. • The essay is somewhat organized, with a reasonably clear flow of ideas, but the use of headings, subheadings, and transitions could be improved.

D	Marginal Pass	• The writing assignment demonstrates a limited understanding of the key learning theories covered in the course. • The essay is poorly organized, with a lack of clear structure and ineffective use of headings, subheadings, and transitions.
F	Fail	• The writing assignment demonstrates a significant lack of understanding of the key learning theories covered in the course. • The essay is poorly organized, with no clear structure or effective use of headings, subheadings, and transitions.

2. Research Experience (5%)

• To allow you to gain first-hand experience in psychological research you are required to complete the following task,

Research Study OR Video Exercise

• Research Study: Complete an experimental study as a participant and write a thought piece about your experience (within 200 to 300 words).

• Video Exercise: Watch a video about a research study and write a thought piece about it (within 200 to 300 words).

• Further information about Research study or Video Exercise will be provided in Tutorial 1.

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
P	Pass	• The student has attended the research study/ video exercise session.
F	Failure	• The student has not attended any of the required research experience.

3. Tutorial Participation (15%)

• The course will include a variety of in-class activities throughout the semester. These activities are designed to engage students and reinforce the key concepts being covered. Students will be required to complete surveys and exercises during the designated tutorial sections.

• Tutorial Section 1

It will focus on the APA (American Psychological Association) academic writing style. This section will provide guidance on properly structuring papers, citing sources, and formatting references according to APA guidelines. Mastering APA format is an essential skill for academic writing in many disciplines.

• Tutorial Section 2

The topic of sleep and chronotype will be explored. This section will explore the importance of sleep hygiene, how chronotype affects daily functioning, and strategies for optimizing sleep patterns.

• Tutorial Section 3

It will address the topic of personality. Students will have the opportunity to engage in self-reflection exercises and assessments to gain a deeper understanding of their own personality traits, preferences, and behavioral tendencies. This self-knowledge can be valuable in various aspects of personal and professional development.

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
P	Pass	• The student has attended all the tutorial sections and completed the tutorial assignments.
F	Failure	• The student has not attended any of the tutorial sections

4. Quizzes (60%)

• 3 Quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quizzes will include multiple-choice questions only (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).

• Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the quizzes. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.

• Please arrive on time for the quizzes as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.

• No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate within 24 hours of the original quiz date if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions or oral exam.

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	• Student demonstrates a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the course material covered in the quiz. • Student answers almost all multiple-choice questions correctly, showcasing their ability to apply concepts, analyze information, and make informed decisions. • Responses indicate the student has gone beyond the basic requirements and has a deep, nuanced grasp of the subject matter.
B	Good Performance	• Student displays a strong understanding of the course material covered in the quiz. • Student answers the majority of multiple-choice questions correctly, demonstrating a solid grasp of the key concepts and principles. • Responses indicate the student has a well-rounded comprehension of the subject matter, with only minor lapses or areas that could be improved.
C	Satisfactory Performance	• Student exhibits a satisfactory understanding of the course material covered in the quiz. • Student answers a portion of the multiple-choice questions correctly, demonstrating a basic familiarity with the subject matter.

		• Responses indicate the student has grasped the fundamental concepts, but may struggle with more complex or nuanced aspects of the material.
D	Marginal Pass	• Student shows a limited understanding of the course material covered in the quiz. • Student answers fewer than half of the multiple-choice questions correctly, indicating significant gaps in their knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter. • Responses suggest the student has difficulty applying concepts and may need additional support or intervention to improve their performance.
F	Fail	• Student demonstrates a lack of understanding of the course material covered in the quiz. • Student answers the majority of multiple-choice questions incorrectly, indicating a significant deficiency in their knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter. • Responses suggest the student has not engaged with the material or has fundamental misunderstandings that need to be addressed.

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of subject matter, expertise in problem-solving, and significant creativity in thinking. Exhibits a high capacity for scholarship and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	EShows good knowledge and understanding of the main subject matter, competence in problem-solving, and the ability to analyze and evaluate issues. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.]
C	Satisfactory Performance	[Example: Possesses adequate knowledge of core subject matter, competence in dealing with familiar problems, and some capacity for analysis and critical thinking. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.]
D	Marginal Pass	[Example: Has threshold knowledge of core subject matter, potential to achieve key professional skills, and the ability to make basic judgments. Benefits from the course and has the potential to develop in the discipline.]
F	Fail	[Example: Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the subject matter and lacks the necessary problem-solving skills. Shows limited ability to think critically or analytically and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for professional practice or development in the discipline.]

Course AI Policy

Students are allowed to use AI-powered tools and models for tasks such as research, brainstorming, and proofreading, provided that the final work submitted is their own. Students must disclose the use of any AI-powered tools or models in their work. This includes acknowledging the use of AI-powered assistants, such as chatbots, for research or ideation purposes.

Communication and Feedback

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.

Some Other Notes

*Do **NOT** leave messages in the CANVAS inbox.*

- *Interaction in class* – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participation in class discussion or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- *Lecture slides* – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your own notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- *Penalties* – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- *Late submission* – Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. No submissions will be accepted after 5pm HKT on the due date.
- *Communication* – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10am to 6pm HKT.
- *Your feedback* – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

Required Texts and Materials

Noba Project. (2022). *Discovering Psychology: A Brief Text.* http://noba.to/3fzdhpnj

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to Academic

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	2 Sep	Discovering Psychology
	4 Sep	Psychology and Science
2	9 Sep	
	11 Sep	Psychology of Learning
3	16 Sep	
	18 Sep	**[Holiday] Mid-Autumn Festival**
4	23 Sep	**[Tutorial 1]** Briefing of Research Experience & Writing Workshop
	25 Sep	Memory
5	30 Sep	
	2 Oct	**Quiz 1**
6	7 Oct	Sensation and Perception
	9 Oct	
7	14 Oct	Biological Rhythm
	16 Oct	
8	21 Oct	**[Tutorial 2]** Sleep & Consciousness
	23 Oct	**Quiz 2**
9	28 Oct	Social Psychology
	30 Oct	
10	4 Nov	Developmental Psychology
	6 Nov	
11	11 Nov	Personality Psychology
	13 Nov	
12	18 Nov	Abnormal Psychology
	20 Nov	
13	25 Nov	**[Tutorial 3]** Personality Assessment
	27 Nov	**Quiz 3**