

SOSC1960-L2: Introduction to Psychology (Spring 2026)

Course Syllabus

The Teaching Team

Instructor

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Consultation: By appointment

Teaching Assistants

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Consultation: By appointment

Lecture Information

Lecture Time: Mon, Wed 10:30-11:50am

Venue: Rm 2407, Lift 17-18 (126)

Note: When contacting us by email, please prefix the subject line with [SOSC1960-L2]. Use your university email account only. Do not send messages via Canvas. Lectures will not be recorded.

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 society.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected 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
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. For late assignment submissions, there will be a deduction of 5% for every hour they are overdue.

Assessment Components

1. Class Attendance and Discussion Participation (10% + 4%)

In-class participation is evaluated in two ways:

- **Attendance Taking:** Throughout the semester, attendance will be conducted through iPRS (Please [refer to this guide to download the app](#) before our first lecture). Each attendance will evenly contribute to your final score, accumulating 10% total.
- **Discussion Participation (5%):** The marks for discussion participation will be assessed according to intellectual contribution, group discussion skills, and communication of ideas.

2. Research Experience (2%)

To gain first-hand experience in psychological research, you are required to participate in a psychological research study as a participant or read research articles and write reflections on them. To receive full marks, you may participate in any psychology-related experiments and accumulate at least 2-hours accumulated participation time. Please submit the proof of your participation/acknowledgement from the labs to the TAs on or before 23:59 May 31. Alternatively, you can write 2 brief reports (400 words each) on articles from psychology journals or a combination of both (i.e., 1-hour experiment and 1 brief report). You must be 18 or older to participate in psychological studies. If you are under 18, you must complete the brief reports instead.

3. Discussion reflection (9%)

After each Discussion session (please refer to the Teaching Schedule), students have to submit a short reflection that summarizes what they have learned during the discussion (Word Limit: 150 words) before the beginning of the next lesson (i.e., 10:30am on the following Monday).

4. Group Project (35%)

This group project centers on a specific set of psychological myths and common beliefs. Each group, consisting of 3-4 students, is required to submit a group summary report (5%. Word Limit 400 words. Due 23:59 March 25) and a video recorded presentation (10%. Maximum 5 minutes. Due 23:59 April 29). The teaching team will select the best 3 presentations for Group Project Showcase on May 4, and each group will get 1 bonus point towards the final mark.

In addition, each group member will submit an individual essay separately (20%. Due 23:59 May 18). Please refer to Group Project Info for details.

5. Quiz 1 (20%)

- **Format:** Multiple-choice questions only, non-cumulative
- **Date:** March 18
- **Coverage:** Lectures from Week 1 to 5

6. Quiz 2 (20%)

- **Format:** Multiple-choice questions only, non-cumulative
- **Date:** May 6
- **Coverage:** Lectures from Week 6 to 13

7. In-class Kahoot (Bonus Points)

Starting from Week 4, we will have a Kahoot review session with 10 multiple choice questions on Wednesdays (Please refer to the Teaching Schedule). The top 3 scorers will get bonus points towards their final mark (1 mark for 1st place, and 0.5 marks for 2nd and 3rd place). A practice Kahoot with only 5 questions will be provided in Week 2.

Assessment Summary Table

Assessment Task	Contribution (%)	Course ILOs
Class Participation	14%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3
Research Experience	2%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3
Discussion Reflection	9%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3
Group Project	35%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3
Quiz 1	20%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3
Quiz 2	20%	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3

Final Grade Descriptors

Each assessment is designed to assess students' knowledge of a combination of different course objectives. Students' final grade will be given according to the following criteria:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance (total mark 80+)	Students demonstrate consistent evidence of achieving the course objectives and substantial originality in identifying issues and in generating, analyzing, and communicating arguments.
B	Good Performance (total mark 70~79)	Students demonstrate frequent evidence of achieving the course objectives and originality in defining and analyzing issues and in creating solutions.
C	Satisfactory Performance (total mark 60~69)	Students demonstrate evidence of achieving the course objectives, but some important parts are omitted, e.g., misunderstanding of the materials, or lack of critical thinking, etc.

D	Marginal Pass (total mark 50~59)	Students barely demonstrate evidence of achieving the course objectives; have assembled the bare minimum of information, poorly digested, and not well organized in presentation.
F	Fail (total mark < 50)	Students fail to achieve the course objectives and demonstrate faulty understanding of the fundamental concepts.

Course AI Policy

We will be in line with the university policy on the use of GenAI tools such as ChatGPT. Such tools should be used with care, ensuring sufficient student input, to achieve the best learning experience and outcomes. Moreover, usage of these tools needs to be explicitly acknowledged in the References sections of assignments, whenever they have been used. Failure to do so will count as improper referencing or may even constitute plagiarism.

Communication and Feedback

Please note that we will not return any submitted reports or exam papers. Students can get individual feedback about the exams and reports by arrangement with the instructor/tutor. Students will be notified when marks are available online.

Resubmission Policy

All written assignments must be submitted online on Canvas; **no email submission will be accepted**. For late submissions, for whatever reason, there will be a deduction of 5% for every hour they are overdue. No resubmission is allowed after the deadline. Note that medical conditions do not warrant an extension of the deadline. Technical issues will be considered only if there is an official announcement from Canvas saying that the system is unavailable at the deadline. Thus, please try to finish and submit the coursework as early as possible.

Any dispute on marks you receive on a written assignment or quiz must be made within one week after the marks are available. A review meeting will be arranged among the teaching team, and the decision from the review meeting will be final.

Make-up Policy

No make-up will be given for any assignment/quiz missed. However, if a medical certificate is provided for the absence within 24 hours, a make-up quiz may be considered.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to HKUST's academic integrity policy and maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance for academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Required Texts and Materials

Noba Project. (2023). *Introduction to Psychology*. <http://noba.to/7hymnvpc>

Student Feedback

Your opinions about the course are valuable for improvement. Feel free to discuss course content with the instructor. A course evaluation will be held at the end of the course.