

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC1969 Discovering Mind and Behavior
Summer Semester, 2024

	Lecturer	Teaching Assistant	
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Consultation	By appointment	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.

Lecture Time: Mon, Wed & Fri 2:00pm-5:20pm (HKT)

Venue: Lecture D

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)

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; AND
3. explain how scientific research on human mind and behavior is conducted.

Recommended Reading Resources

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

Assessment Scheme	Weighting
Writing Assignment	20%
Research Experience	5%
Tutorial Participation	15%
Quizzes	60%

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.
- **Deadline: July 8, 2024.**

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**.

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.

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.

Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to the Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

Course Communication Platform

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

Some Other Notes



- **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.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	17 Jun	Discovering Psychology
2	19 Jun	Psychology and Science
3	21 Jun	Psychology of Learning
4	24 Jun	Memory [Tutorial 1] Briefing of Research Experience & Writing Workshop
5	26 Jun	Sensation & Perception [Quiz 1]
6	28 Jun	Developmental Psychology
7	1 Jul	HKSAR Establishment Day (No class)
8	3 Jul	Social Psychology
9	5 Jul	[Quiz 2] [Tutorial 2] Sleep & Consciousness
10	8 Jul	Personality Psychology <Writing Assignment Due [8 Jul, 12noon]>
11	10 Jul	Abnormal Psychology
12	12 Jul	[Quiz 3] [Tutorial 3] Personality Assessment <Research study or Video Exercise Due>