

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**UG Course Syllabus**

**SOSC1969 Discovering Mind and Behavior (Summer 2025)**

3 Credits

**Instructor**

**Name:** Annie Shu

**Email:** [annieshu@ust.hk](mailto:annieshu@ust.hk)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Teaching Assistant**

**Name:** Kayee Wong

**Email:** [egkayee@ust.hk](mailto:egkayee@ust.hk)

**Office:** Rm 2359

**Office Hours:** By appointment

Vivien Pong

[vivienpong@ust.hk](mailto:vivienpong@ust.hk)

Vivian Ng

[vivianci@ust.hk](mailto:vivianci@ust.hk)

\*When contacting us by email, please **prefix the subject line** with the course code [SOSC1969-L2]. Use your university email account only.

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

**Lecture Time:** Mon, Wed, Fri 14:00 – 17:20

**Venue:** LTG

**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)**

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 well-being 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.

### Lecture Reflection (20%):

- In four lectures, students have to complete some questions to consolidate their understanding of the psychological concepts covered. Questions will be released on Canvas. More details will be announced in due course.

### Tutorial Reflection (15%):

- The course will include a variety of in-class activities throughout the semester. These activities are designed to engage students to evaluate on the empirical evidence of the key concepts covered. Students have to complete some questions during the tutorial sessions on Canvas. Topics and details of each tutorial will be announced in due course.

### Research Experience (5%):

- To provide student with the first-hand experience in psychological research, students are required to either (a) participate in a research study OR (b) complete a video exercise. In both (a) and (b), students have to answer some reflective questions afterwards. **Deadline: by 23:59 (HKT) of Aug 9, 2025.**

### Quizzes (20%\*3):

- Three quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz will include multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative (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 of the course contents.
- Please arrive on time for the quiz 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. Students should notify the teaching team (through email) about their absence by attaching the official medical certificate ***within 24 hours of the original exam date*** if they wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of short/essay questions.

## Summary

| Assessment Task     | Contribution to Overall Course Grade (%) | Due Date                |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Lecture Reflection  | 20%                                      | To be announced         |
| Tutorial Reflection | 15%                                      | 23/7, 1/8 and 8/8/2025  |
| Research Experience | 5%                                       | 9/8/2025 by 23:59 (HKT) |
| Quiz 1              | 20%                                      | 23/7/2025               |
| Quiz 2              | 20%                                      | 1/8/2025                |
| Quiz 3              | 20%                                      | 8/8/2025                |

## Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

| Assessed Tasks      | Mapped ILOs      | Explanation   |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| Lecture Reflection  | ILO1, ILO2       | This task assesses students' ability to understand the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in psychology (ILO1) and to critically reflect on the application of these psychological concepts to their real-life experience (ILO2).   |
| Tutorial Reflection | ILO2, ILO3       | This task assesses students' ability to reflect on the application of the key psychological concepts (ILO2) with the support of the research evidence (ILO3).   |
| Research Experience | ILO3             | This task provides student with the first-hand and real-life experience in how psychological research is conducted (ILO3). Students have options to choose from participating in a research study or reflecting on a video describing psychological research.                     |
| Quiz                | ILO1, ILO2, ILO3 | Quizzes are designed to assess students' understanding and familiarity of the fundamental knowledge, key concepts (ILO1), and how these concepts can be applied and related to social settings (ILO2), as well as the implications of the research findings in psychology (ILO3). |

## Final Grade Descriptors

| Grades | Short Description     | Elaboration on Grading Description   |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| A      | Excellent Performance | Demonstrates a deep understanding of the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in psychology. Familiarizes very well with the implications of the classical and contemporary findings in psychology. Exhibits exceptional critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in psychology. Reasonably applies the concepts to real-life setting with both practicality and innovation. |
| B      | Good Performance      | Shows good understanding of fundamental knowledge and key concepts in psychology. Familiarizes well with the implications of the classical and contemporary findings in psychology. Exhibits good critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in psychology. Applies the concepts to real-life setting with only practicality.  |

|   |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| C | Satisfactory Performance | Possesses adequate understanding of fundamental knowledge and key concepts in health psychology. Demonstrates satisfactory familiarity with the implications of the classical and contemporary findings in psychology, but with some misunderstandings. Shows satisfactory critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in psychology. Applies the concepts to real-life setting, but with limited practicality. |
| D | Marginal Pass            | Has very basic understanding of fundamental knowledge and key concepts in psychology. Shows minimal familiarity with the implications of classical and contemporary findings in psychology. Shows limited critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in psychology. Applies the concepts to real-life setting with minimal practicality.   |
| F | Fail                     | Demonstrates insufficient understanding of fundamental knowledge and key concepts in psychology. Lacks critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in psychology. Unable to apply the concepts to real-life setting and with no practicality.   |

### Course AI Policy

Use of GenAI in the writing assignment is permitted. Students have to sign a declaration and include the prompts requested.

### Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas normally within two weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include comments on strengths and areas for improvement. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

### Late Submission Policy

NO submission will be accepted after the deadline. Any unanticipated technical errors or submission errors would NOT be considered. This policy will be strictly enforced; NO exception will be made. To ensure that your efforts are reflected in the course grade, please make sure to do all your submission well before the deadline.

### Recommended Reading Resources

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

### 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 Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

## Teaching Schedule

| Week | Date          | Topic   | Recommended Chapters |
|------|---------------|---|----------------------|
| 1    | Jul 14        | [L1] Discovering Psychology                     | 1                    |
|      | Jul 16        | [L2] Research Methods in Psychology             | 2-3                  |
|      | Jul 18        | [L3] Psychology of Learning                     | 4                    |
| 2    | Jul 21        | [L4] Human Memory                               | 5-6                  |
|      | <b>Jul 23</b> | <b>Quiz 1 (L1 to L3)</b><br><b>[Tutorial 1]</b> |                      |
|      | Jul 25        | [L5] Human Development                          | 15-16                |
| 3    | Jul 28        | [L6] Personality                                | 18-19                |
|      | Jul 30        | [L7] Social and Collective Behaviors            | 21-25                |
|      | <b>Aug 1</b>  | <b>Quiz 2 (L4 to L6)</b><br><b>[Tutorial 2]</b> |                      |
| 4    | Aug 4         | [L8] Health Psychology                          | 26                   |
|      | Aug 6         | [L9] Psychological Disorders                    | 29, 31-33            |
|      | <b>Aug 8</b>  | <b>Quiz 3 (L7 to L9)</b><br><b>[Tutorial 3]</b> |                      |
|      | <i>Aug 9</i>  | <i>Research Experience by 23:59 (HKT)</i>       |                      |

### Other Notes

#### Interaction in Class

I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the teaching team and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participation in class discussions 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 slightly different from the displayed slides. I hope to encourage you to take your notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.

#### Communication

Expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10 am to 6 pm HKT. Do NOT leave your message on Canvas inbox.

