

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

SOSC1969 Discovering Mind and Behavior (Summer 2026, L1)

3 Credits

Instructor

Name: Annie Shu

Email: annieshu@ust.hk

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant

Name: Vivien Pong, Kayee Wong

Email: vivienpong@ust.hk, egkayee@ust.hk

Office Hours: By appointment

***When emailing us, please prefix the subject line with the course code [SOSC1969 Summer-L1]. Use your university email account only.**

Do NOT inbox your message on Canvas.

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

Venue: LTL (Jun 15) & LTB

**The lecture 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 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 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 Activity

- In-class activities will be conducted in several lectures. Some questions will be asked to consolidate students' understanding of the psychological concepts covered. Reflective questions will be involved too. More details will be provided in the first lecture. **No make-up can be provided for missing any of these activities.**

Research Experience

- 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 for (a): July 8, 2026; deadline for (b): July 10, 2026.** More details will be announced in the first lecture.

Quiz

- Three quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz will include multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative.
 - 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.
 - Covered topics of the quizzes are as follows:
 - Quiz 1: Discovering Psychology & Psychology of Learning
 - Quiz 2: Human Memory & Developmental Psychology
 - Quiz 3: Personality, Social Behaviors, Wellbeing I & Wellbeing II
- 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. 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.

Summary

Assessment Tasks	Contribution to Overall Course Grade (%)	Due Date
Lecture Activity	20%	TBA
Research Experience	5%	8/7/2026 or 10/7/2026
Quiz 1	20%	24/6/2026
Quiz 2	20%	3/7/2026
Quiz 3	35%	10/7/2026

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Tasks	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Lecture Activity	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).

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

The 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 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 your submission well before the deadline.

Recommended Reading Resources

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

Lecture Topic	Corresponding Units from the Noba Resources
Discovering Psychology	1, 2
Psychology of Learning	3
Human Memory	4
Developmental Psychology	7
Personality	8
Social Behaviors	9
Wellbeing I: Stress and Coping	10
Wellbeing II: Psychological Disorders	11

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
1	Jun 15	Discovering Psychology
	Jun 17	Psychology of Learning
	<i>Jun 19</i>	<i>Tuen Ng Festival</i>
2	Jun 22	Human Memory
	Jun 24	Quiz 1
		Developmental Psychology I: Developmental Issues
	Jun 26	Developmental Psychology II: Cognitive and Psychosocial Development
3	Jun 29	Personality
	<i>Jul 1</i>	<i>HKSAR Establishment Day</i>
	Jul 3	Quiz 2
		Social Behaviors
4	Jul 6	Wellbeing I: Stress and Coping
	Jul 8	Wellbeing II: Psychological Disorder
	Jul 10	Quiz 3 Video Exercise (optional)

Other Notes

Interaction in Class

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 inbox your message on Canvas.***