

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**Division of Social Science**  
**SOSC1960 Introduction to Psychology (L1)**  
**Fall Semester, 2023**

**The Teaching Team**

***Instructor***

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Consultation: By appointment

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Consultation: By appointment

**Lecture Time:** Tue, Thu 09:00-10:20am (HKT)  
**Venue:** Lecture Theatre G

\*When contacting us by email, please ***prefix the subject line*** of your message with the course code [SOSC1960-L1]. 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)**

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

<b>Assessment Scheme</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Midterm Quiz	30%
Integrative Essay	25%
Tutorial Reflection	10%
Research Experience	5%
Final Quiz	30%

### 1. Midterm Quiz (30%)

- Midterm quiz 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 in the course contents.
- The quiz is scheduled on **Oct 12** and covers lectures from **Week 1 to 5**.
- 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 quizzes 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 exam date* if you wish to arrange for a make-up exam. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

### 2. Integrative Essay (25%)

- The essay will be centered around a specific problem about human mind and behaviors. You will learn how to systematically search scientific literature for relevant materials, critically read and evaluate scientific evidence, and apply what you have learned from your literature review to develop recommendations related to the problem. The project will be broken down into three manageable steps. For each step, you will receive guidance through a workshop, and your understanding will be assessed. This project is aimed to help you develop skills that will be valuable for your continued and lifelong learning of psychology.
- There will be multiple submission deadlines for this essay. Please refer to the teaching schedule on p. 4.

### 3. Research Experience (5%)

- To allow you to gain the first-hand experience in psychological research, you are required to complete some tasks and write a reflection on them. Details will be announced in due course.

### 4. Tutorial Reflection (10%)

- Two tutorials will be held on **Oct 10** and **Nov 28**. There will be brief discussions about some topics related to psychology. You are required to reflect on the discussions, complete some activities and submit a short reflection in the tutorials.
- Your reflection will be graded on a pass or fail (e.g., errors in submission, incomplete submission) basis.

### 5. Final Quiz (30%)

- Final quiz 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 quiz. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- The final quiz is scheduled on **Nov 30** and covers lectures from **Week 7 to 12**.
- 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 quizzes 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 exam date*** if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

### 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	Chapters from Reading
1	Sept 5	Introduction	1
	Sept 7	Research Methods in Psychology	2-3
2	Sept 12		
	Sept 14	Psychology of Learning	4
3	Sept 19	<i>Writing Workshop I</i>	
	Sept 21		
4	Sept 26	Human Memory	5
	Sept 28		
5	Oct 3	Sleep and Biological Rhythms	10
	Oct 5		
6	<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>[Tutorial 1] Sensation and Perception</b>	
	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Midterm Quiz (from Week 1 to 5)</b>	
7	Oct 17	<i>Writing Workshop II</i>	
	Oct 19	Human Development	18-19
Oct 24			
8	Oct 26	Mental Health I: Stress	26
	Oct 31		
9	Nov 2	<i>Writing Workshop III</i>	
	Nov 7	Mental Health II: Psychological Issues and Treatments	29, 31-33
Nov 9			
11	Nov 14	Social and Collective Behaviors	21-25
	Nov 16		
12	Nov 21	Personality	15-16
	Nov 23		
13	<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>[Tutorial 2] Personality Test</b>	
	<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Final Quiz (from Week 7 to 12)</b>	

### Deadlines for Submission

Date	Task
Oct 4	Integrative Essay – Part 1
Oct 30	Integrative Essay – Part 2
Nov 24	Integrative Essay – Part 3