

**The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**Division of Social Science**  
**SOSC1960 Discovering Mind and Behavior (L2)**  
**Spring Semester, 2023**

|                     | <b>Lecturer</b>                                  | <b>Teaching Assistant</b>                            |                |
|---------------------|--|--|----------------|
|                     | Dr. Nicolson SIU                                 | Ms. Vivian Ng  | Ms. Kayee WONG |
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| <b>Consultation</b> | By appointment                                   | By appointment                                       | By appointment |

\*When contacting us by email, please ***prefix the subject line*** of your message with the course code [SOSC1960]. Use your university email account only.

**Lecture Time:** Wed & Fri 13:30-14:50pm (HKT)

**Venue:** TBC

### **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>

| <b>Assessment Scheme</b>    | <b>Weighting</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Mid-Term Quiz</b>        | 30%              |
| <b>Assignment 1 &amp; 2</b> | 30%              |
| <b>Research Experience</b>  | 10%              |
| <b>Final Quiz</b>           | 30%              |

### 1. Mid-Term Quiz (30%)

- Mid-Term Quiz will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The quiz will include multiple-choice questions only (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- The quiz is scheduled on **Mar 22** and covers topics from **Week 1 to 6**.
- 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 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 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.

### 2. Assignment 1 & 2 (15% x 2)

- Task: You are required to complete two assignments. The first assignment is about Learning and the second one is about Social Psychology. For each assignment, you have to write a maximum of 500 words to demonstrate your understanding of the topic.
- The guidelines for the assignments will be uploaded on Canvas in due course. Please read and follow the instructions carefully. Deadline: **Assignment 1 is due on Mar 10** and **Assignment 2 is due on May 3**.

### 3. Research Experience (10%)

- To allow you to gain first-hand experience in psychological research you are asked to complete either of the following **TWO** tasks,

#### Task 1 Participate in-class activities (5%)

- *There will be in-class activities and students are required to complete some surveys either before or after the classes.*

#### Task 2 Either Research Study OR Video Exercise (5%)

- *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).
- **Research study or Video Exercise is due on May 5.**

#### 4. Final Quiz (30%)

- Final quiz will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. The exam will include multiple-choice questions only and non-cumulative (The relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- The final quiz is scheduled on **May 5** and covers topics from **Week 7 to 12**.
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the exam. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- 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 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  | Readings |
|--------|--------|--|----------|
| 1.     | 3 Feb  | Discovering Psychology   | -        |
|        | 8 Feb  |  |          |
|        | 10 Feb |  |          |
| 2.     | 15 Feb | Psychology and Science   | 1 & 2    |
|        | 17 Feb | <b>[Tutorial]</b><br>Writing Workshop & Research Experience      | -        |
| 3.     | 22 Feb | Psychology of Learning   | 7        |
|        | 24 Feb |  |          |
| 4.     | 1 Mar  | Memory   | 8        |
|        | 3 Mar  |  |          |
| 5.     | 8 Mar  | Sensation & Perception<br><i>Assignment 1 Due &lt;10 Mar&gt;</i> | 4 & 5    |
|        | 10 Mar |  |          |
| 6.     | 15 Mar | Consciousness and Sleep  | 6        |
|        | 17 Mar |  |          |
| 7.     | 22 Mar | <b>Mid-Term Quiz</b>   | -        |
|        | 24 Mar | Developmental Psychology   | 10 & 11  |
| 29 Mar |        |  |          |
| 8.     | 31 Mar | Personality Psychology I   | 12       |
|        | 5 Apr  | <b>Ching Ming Festival (Holiday)</b>                             | -        |
| 9.     | 7 Apr  | <b>Mid-Term Break</b>  | -        |
|        | 12 Apr | Personality Psychology II  | 13       |
|        | 14 Apr | Social Psychology  | 14-18    |
| 19 Apr |        |  |          |
| 10.    | 21 Apr | Health Psychology  | 23-24    |
|        | 26 Apr |  |          |
| 11.    | 28 Apr | Abnormal Psychology<br><i>Assignment 2 Due &lt;3 May&gt;</i>     | 19-21    |
|        | 3 May  |  |          |
| 12.    | 5 May  | <b>Final Quiz</b><br><i>Research study or Video Exercise Due</i> |          |