

**ELEMENTARY PSYCHOLOGY -- PSY 120**  
Purdue University - Department of Psychological Sciences  
SUMMER 2023

**Location:** Online/asynchronous

**Instructor:** Melissa Packer West/Instructor West

**E-mail:** mpacker@purdue.edu

**Course Duration:** June 12th, 2023, to July 9th, 2023

**Office Hours:** Virtual via Zoom; by appointment.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Elementary Psychology is a course that reviews the primary psychological topics, theories, and approaches to the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. Psychology is a diverse field that studies everything from biology and learning development to emotions and social interaction. This is an introductory course, and we will only be able to survey as many topics as is feasible in 4 weeks. However, this course should prepare you well to pursue more specific, advanced courses in our department. This course is called *Elementary Psychology* instead of *Introductory Psychology* or *General Psychology* because it takes a developmental perspective on psychology. Understanding how humans develop over time is essential to understanding mental processes and behavior.

**READING MATERIAL & COURSE ONLINE PLATFORM:**

TopHat (Course ID: 309666) @ <https://app.tophat.com/e/309666>, an active online learning platform, will be used as BOTH a Classroom Response System & eTextbook and covers the readings, lectures, quizzes, & discussions. TopHat is the MAIN Course platform and can be accessed through the app or browser on virtually any connected device (smartphone, tablet, computer). TopHat is the only resource you will need to succeed in this course. (Note: the textbook, which is *A Psychology Primer* by George Hollich, is EMBEDDED into TopHat). Brightspace @ <https://purdue.brightspace.com> is simply for class announcements and final grades. You should have received an email invitation from me with a link that will take you to a webpage to purchase the eTextbook (\$48.60) and access to TopHat (\$30 for the subscription). Email me if you have any difficulty accessing these.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Be sure to check your email regularly, as I may use it to contact you regarding class updates, syllabus changes, or clarifications to assignments. **To ensure that you receive course announcements from Brightspace, please update your Brightspace notifications/communication settings.** When contacting me via email, please include "PSY 120" in the subject line and keep in mind that these are professional communications and should be treated as such (i.e., write with the level of formality and respect you would use if speaking to me in person). I am happy to answer questions you may have that are not already answered in this syllabus. In most cases you should expect a response within 2 **business** days. In other words, emailing with a question a few hours before an assignment is due is not likely to yield the response you're hoping for. Questions that warrant somewhat lengthy responses (e.g., questions about concepts from the learning material, depending on what they are) will likely need to be addressed during a Zoom office hour rather than over email.

**LEARNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

In this course, you will discover the science of the mind and:

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the research methods and careers in psychology, including the scientific method, correlational and experimental studies, and related factors in research design.
- Exhibit a fundamental understanding of the biological basis of behavior, including gene-environment relations, epigenetic development, effects of hormones, nutrition, sleep, and the basic functions and parts of the nervous system.
- Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of cognitive basis of behavior, including sensation and perception, motor learning, language, categorization, and memory.
- Identify characteristics of individual differences including intelligence testing, types of cognitive biases, educational psychology and the development of academic skills, emotions, personality, and types of attachment.

- Describe how to apply classical and operant conditioning to change behavior, and explore other factors related to habit formation and motivation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how social and cultural context impacts individual behavior, attitudes, identity, and morality.
- Recognize the symptoms, classifications, and treatments for psychological disorders. Note: the intention of this course is NOT for you to master the art of diagnosing or treating mental illness.

Lectures and assigned readings are designed to be *complementary, not redundant*. Information from the reading material is foundational, so the lectures will proceed assuming you already have a basic understanding of the concepts covered.

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

**\*\*\*All assignments for a given week are due on Sunday nights by 11:59 pm. Course material for a given week will be made available at the beginning of each week.** See course schedule below.

Graded assignments and point breakdowns are as follows:

Final Letter Grades are on a 10% scale: A > 90%, B > 80%, etc.

The course (and each chapter) has the following grades and weighting:

**20% - Readings:** Completing the textbook questions and discussions. These are graded based on participation, meaning, you get full points for completing them.

**30% - Lecture Discussion Questions\*:** Answering these short essay questions and engaging in class discussion. These are graded mostly based on participation, partly on quality.

**50% - Quizzes:** Questions are multiple choice and serve to ensure you have learned key concepts. Studies show that such quizzing will help you remember the material better than simply re-reading. The quizzes will not be timed, will be open book/notes/lecture, and will allow 2 attempts. The questions will vary in style (e.g., multiple-choice, true/false); there will be no essay questions.

**\*Lecture Participation Note:** In order to earn high points for lecture discussion questions, you must post both on-time and make a significant contribution to class discussion. Typically, these discussion posts are at least 5-6 sentences and include outside references. Maximum participation is awarded to the most prolific and active posters from a given chapter. Their posts tend to run for several paragraphs and include explanation of and elaboration on outside links. It is best if those links are for research articles (as opposed to blogs and other non-empirical sources). Don't worry, though- even if your post isn't one of these top posts for the week; those who make an honest effort will get the majority of points.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Chapters/Topics</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Other Assignments</b>
1	Week of 6/12/23	<i>(1) Introduction to the course</i> <i>(2) Ch 1 Research Methods</i> <i>(3) Ch 2 Genes and the Environment</i> <i>(4) Ch 5 Neuroscience</i>	-Read course syllabus & eTextbook chapters Introduction, 1, 2, and 5. -Complete reading questions, lecture participation questions, and quizzes for chapters 1, 2, and 5 (The Introduction ch. does not have assignments). <b>-Due 6/18/23 by 11:59PM.</b>
2	Week of 6/19/23	<i>(1) Ch 3 Prenatal Development, Birth, and the Newborn</i> <i>(2) Ch 4 Hormones, Sleep, and Nutrition</i> <i>(3) Ch 6 Sensation and Perception</i> <i>(4) Ch 7 Language and Categorization</i>	-Read eTextbook chapters 3, 4, 6, & 7. -Complete reading questions, lecture participation questions, and quizzes for chapters 3, 4, 6, & 7. <b>-Due 6/25/23 by 11:59PM.</b>
3	Week of 6/26/23	<i>(1) Ch 8 Educational Psychology</i> <i>(2) Ch 9 Intelligence and Testing</i> <i>(3) Ch 10 Memory and Academic Skills</i>	-Read eTextbook chapters 8-11. -Complete reading questions, lecture participation questions, and quizzes for chapters 8-11.

		<i>(4) Ch 11 Emotions, Temperament, Personality, and Attachment</i>	<b>-Due 7/2/23 by 11:59PM.</b>
4	Week of 7/3/23	<i>(1) Ch 12 Learning and Motivation (2) Ch 13 Self-Concept, Identity, and Morality (3) Ch 14 Social Psychology (4) Ch 15 Culture &amp; Mental Illness</i>	-Read eTextbook chapters 12-15. -Complete reading questions, lecture participation questions, and quizzes for chapters 12-15. <b>-Due 7/9/23 by 11:59PM.</b>

\*\*\*Schedule/syllabus subject to change.

### CLASS POLICIES:

**Mental Health/Wellness:** I hope that this course will provide you with valuable *academic* knowledge of psychological difficulties that may help you in your future careers in the health profession. **This course is not intended to teach you how to solve your own or someone else’s psychological difficulties. If you are experiencing a problem, I encourage you to contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (494-6995), which provides psychotherapy to students enrolled at Purdue University.** You are allowed to participate in several free therapy sessions. After your free sessions are complete, you may use your insurance plan for reduced-cost services.

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack. Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the Office of the Dean of Students. Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc., sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell. Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is free and can be done on BoilerConnect.

**Attendance Policy:** This is an asynchronous online course with no class meetings at specific times. Being “present” in this course means participating remotely and completing work assigned in a given week. This work is required to help you meet the course learning outcomes, and the time you spend on it counts toward the course contact hours and your course grade.

**Accessibility:** I want to enable everyone to participate fully in the course. Purdue University is required to respond to the needs of the students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 through the provision of auxiliary aids and services that allow a student with a disability to fully access and participate in the programs, services, and activities at Purdue University. Reasonable accommodations will be made for anyone with a disability that may require some modification of class requirements. Students must contact the Disability Resource Center (Rm. 830 Earnest C. Young Hall Building, 494-1247), **obtain an Instructor Accommodation Letter, and ensure that the letter is shared with me via the MyPurdue online portal at the beginning of the course or prior to the course start date.** The letter will specify what course accommodations are judged reasonable. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.purdue.edu/drc>) of an impairment/condition that may require accommodations.

**Academic Integrity:** Students must pursue their academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Given the online format, it is very easy to copy someone else’s ideas and not give them credit. Avoiding plagiarism is all about distinguishing (for you and the class) where the ideas originate. When in doubt, cite! Any student who does not give credit for ideas or materials taken from another source (books, periodicals, speeches, or the writings of other students) is guilty of plagiarism. Incidents of academic misconduct in this course will be addressed by the course instructor and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular quiz/exam, and at the instructor’s discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered. For more information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to Purdue’s student guide for academic integrity: <https://www.purdue.edu/odos/welcome/academic-integrity/>

**Use of Copyrighted Materials: *A quick note from the lawyers...***

*From Student Conduct Regulations, Item J: ([http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student\\_conduct/misc.html](http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student_conduct/misc.html))*

“Among the materials that may be protected by copyright law are the lectures, notes, and other material presented in class or as part of the course. Always assume the materials presented by an instructor are protected by copyright unless the instructor has stated otherwise. Students enrolled in, and authorized visitors to, Purdue University courses are permitted to take notes, which they may use for individual/group study or for other non-commercial purposes reasonably arising from enrollment in the course or the University generally. Notes taken in class are, however, generally considered to be "derivative works" of the instructor's presentations and materials, and they are thus subject to the instructor's copyright in such presentations and materials. No individual is permitted to sell or otherwise barter notes, either to other students or to any commercial concern, for a course without the express written permission of the course instructor. To obtain permission to sell or barter notes, the individual wishing to sell or barter the notes must be registered in the course or must be an approved visitor to the class. Course instructors may choose to grant or not grant such permission at their own discretion and may require a review of the notes prior to their being sold or bartered. If they do grant such permission, they may revoke it at any time, if they so choose.”

**Behavior:** Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent Behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, violent behavior is prohibited in or on any University Facility or while participating in any university activity. If you display violent behavior or aggressive behavior (either physical or verbal) toward yourself, a fellow student, or instructor the campus police may be notified.

**Basic Needs Security:** Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Emergencies:** In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

**Nondiscrimination:** Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in [Executive Memorandum No. D-1](#), which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Any student who believes they have been discriminated against may visit [www.purdue.edu/report-hate](http://www.purdue.edu/report-hate) to submit a complaint to the Office of Institutional Equity. Information may be reported anonymously.

**Sexual Harassment:** Purdue University is committed to maintaining an environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect, and encourages its members to strive to reach their potential. Sexual harassment, whether deliberate or not, damages this environment, making it difficult for members of the University community to pursue their goals, educational needs, and working lives. It also is against the law. Purdue's policy is to preserve a campus free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated and will be reported to the appropriate Purdue University officials. More information on the sexual harassment policy can be found at: <http://www.teachingacademy.purdue.edu/PDFs/SexualHarassment.pdf>.