

Psychology 201Z: Introduction to Psychology 1

PSU FALL 2026; **HYBRID** format

IN PERSON classes Wednesdays 9:00 – 10:05am (TBD)

ONLINE ZOOM Canvas classes Mondays 9:00 – 10:05am

ONLINE review classes Fridays 9:00 – 10:05am

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TBD, **Graduate TA**;



FALL TERM: September 28 – December 11, 2026

Instructor STUDENT HOURS (Online/ZOOM), by appointment (please email)

Graduate TA STUDENT HOURS (Online/ZOOM), by appointment (please email)

TA STUDENT REVIEWS (Online/ZOOM), Fridays, 9:00 – 10:00am

NO TEXTBOOK IS REQUIRED. USE YOUR OWN BRAIN 🧠 NO AI PERMITTED ON ASSIGNMENTS. ALL REQUIRED COURSE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

ONLINE COURSE CANVAS WEBSITE: There are many useful resources, including syllabus, slides, video reviews, *and required, graded assignments and assessments* available at the course Canvas website. * **ONLINE LINKS AND DESCRIPTIONS HIGHLIGHT CRITICAL INFORMATION FOR QUIZZES AND EXAMS.** Make certain that you know how to log in and find our course.

ANY TECHNICAL ISSUES: Please call (503) 725-HELP for assistance.

Thank you for joining us! Why are you here?

Please take a moment to think about why you're taking this introductory psychology class, and what you hope to get out of the experience.

Course Description:

PSY 201Z is one of two introductory psychology courses at PSU (PSY 202Z is the other). *This course covers the scientific foundations of human behavior* in areas such as physiological and biological psychology, cognitive, ethical, and emotional development, sensation and perception, learning, consciousness, language and memory. This course also focuses on issues in experimental design and teaches students how to critically evaluate psychological research.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the quarter, this course will be a success if you:

- a) are familiar with some major topics and issues in psychology
- b) understand the basic scientific methods used in psychological research
- c) cultivate your abilities to think critically about the course material and its real world application

GRADES: ***Students who attend class do better in the course.*** Grades are assigned on a 90+ (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C) and 60-69 (D) point scale. You can earn 107.5 points in this class. **An A or B is ABOVE AVERAGE, a C is AVERAGE, and a D is BELOW AVERAGE.** Course points are awarded on the basis of your understanding of material assessed by online quizzes, a midterm and a final exam. More points are earned by participating in discussion forums and completing an art project and four coloring assignments. Students taking this course pass-fail must maintain a C-average (70%) to receive a passing grade.

*** DEADLINES ARE IMPORTANT: Late work earns half credit. It's difficult in a large class to track late assignments, so after one week late assignments will be zeroed out. No late assignments are accepted after Week Ten of term.**

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM (10 points midterm, 22.5 final): The midterm exam will cover all material up to Week Six (Learning). The final exam is comprehensive, but will draw more from material presented after the midterm. Both exams will be available for several days, and you will be able to make one continuous attempt on each.

QUIZZES (20 points): Four online graded quizzes will test a student's knowledge of recent topics covered in the textbook, and in class. Each quiz will be available for several days, and you will be able to make one continuous attempt.

DISCUSSION FORUMS (20 points): Students are required to post *their own responses* (***no AI***) to questions in our ten weekly discussion forums, which cover topics we'll be learning about in Zoom class sessions, online video lectures and other resources

and links on Canvas. You're also required to respond to two posts by peers.

Each post must be at least 100 words (~300 max) and you must respond to TWO peers in at least 50 words or more each. FORUM POSTS ARE DUE THURSDAYS (by 11:59pm); peer responses DUE by SUNDAY (by 11:59pm). AI use = zero points.

COLORING ASSIGNMENTS (20 points): Four graded coloring assignments (as a *.jpg or *.pdf) are due throughout the term. **These assignments are available on Canvas.**

ART PROJECT (15 points): Consider your own experiences, and illustrate, through drawing, painting, sculpture, poetry or music, an instance of confirmation bias or belief perseverance, in yourself or others. *What happened? What did you learn?*

*****PLEASE NOTE: ALL ARTWORK MUST BE ENTIRELY YOUR OWN. NO AI IS PERMITTED FOR ASSIGNMENTS, POSTS, OR ASSESSMENTS.***

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic integrity is a vital part of the educational experience at PSU. Evidence of cheating or plagiarism **or use of AI** will lead to serious academic consequences, including possible failure of the course and/or dismissal from school. The [Student Code of Conduct](#) is the university's policy on academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is also a violation of the PSU Code of Student Conduct. For more see: <http://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), please contact the instructor immediately to arrange academic accommodations. If you have a disability and have not yet registered with the DRC, please contact the DRC immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: ***Incompletes are rare, and based on criteria in the university catalog. Incompletes are not appropriate when less than ¾'s of course work has been submitted and scored. In difficult circumstances it's sometimes best to withdraw from a course and re-enroll during a less challenging term.***

CHALLENGES: ***Look over the course requirements in our syllabus, and online. If you are unclear about what's expected for an assignment, or assessment, please let me know.*** Life DEFINITELY has ups and downs, and everyone struggles sometimes with family, work, and other personal concerns and commitments. But not everyone has access to the same resources, or experiences the world in the same way. If there is a serious, unexpected and significant emergency, please get in touch ❤️! But be aware that we are obligated to treat all students fairly, and that means that each of you should ask questions, think ahead and plan for when assignments are due.

Everyone is subject to the same course expectations.

Course Lectures

WEEK ONE (9/28 – 10/2)

Introduction: Science and Pseudoscience in Psychology; History of psychology

***MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05am

***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY

***TAKE:** ONLINE GRADED QUIZ ONE: 9/30 – 10/4

WEEK TWO (10/5 – 10/9)

Research Methods

***MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05am

***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY

WEEK THREE (10/12 – 10/16)

Biological Psychology

***MEET:** ONLINE Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05am

***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY

***TAKE:** ONLINE GRADED QUIZ TWO: 10/14 – 10/18

Quiz covers science and pseudoscience, research methods

***BEGIN:** Coloring assignment 1 (Basic visible structures of the brain)

(*DUE WEEK FOUR on THURSDAY)

WEEK FOUR (10/19 – 10/23)

Sensation & Perception

***NO CLASS WEDNESDAY (10/21):** Outreach in Astoria, Oregon

***MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, all 9:00 – 10:05am

***SUBMIT:** Coloring assignment 1 DUE THURSDAY

***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY

***BEGIN:** Coloring assignment 2 (Simple reflex network)

(*DUE WEEK FIVE on THURSDAY)

WEEK FIVE (10/26 – 10/30)

Consciousness

***MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05am

***SUBMIT:** Coloring assignment 2 DUE THURSDAY

***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY

***BEGIN:** Coloring assignment 3 (Consciousness)

(*DUE WEEK SEVEN on THURSDAY)

WEEK SIX (11/2 – 11/6)

Learning

MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05amPOST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY**WEEK SEVEN (11/9 – 11/13)**

Memory

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY (11/11): Happy Veteran's Day!**MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, all 9:00 – 10:05am***SUBMIT:** Coloring assignment 3 DUE THURSDAY***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY***MIDTERM EXAM AVAILABLE ON CANVAS STARTING THIS WEEK (11/13)****WEEK EIGHT (11/16 – 11/20)****MIDTERM EXAM** (*Available online 11/13 – 11/22*)

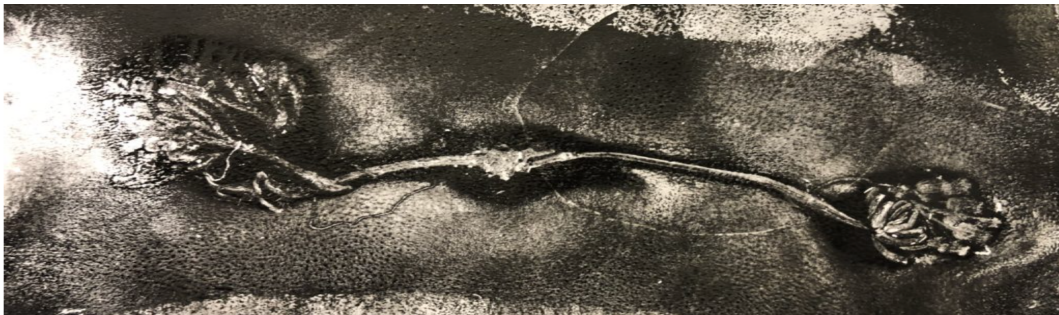
The midterm will cover the (brief) history of psychology, research methods, biological psychology, sensation and perception, consciousness, and learning.

MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05amPOST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY**WEEK NINE (11/23 – 11/27)**

Language

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY: Happy Thanksgiving!**MEET:** ONLINE Monday, 9:00 – 10:05am***SUBMIT:** FINAL ART PROJECT DUE SUNDAY***POST:** Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY***TAKE:** ONLINE GRADED QUIZ THREE 11/25 – 11/29

Quiz covers memory

***BEGIN:** Coloring assignment 4 (Embryonic development)(*DUE WEEK TEN on THURSDAY)

WEEK TEN (11/30 – 12/4)

Human Development

MEET:** ONLINE Monday/Friday, IN PERSON Wednesday, all 9:00 – 10:05amSUBMIT:** Coloring assignment 4 DUE THURSDAY***POST: Discussion FORUM by THURSDAY; student responses by SUNDAY*****TAKE:** ONLINE GRADED QUIZ FOUR 12/2 – 12/6

Quiz covers language

FINAL EXAM**Online December 4 – 9th***(Maximum DRC extensions to Thursday 12/10)*PLEASE PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW...

The final exam is scheduled for the **official final exam week at PSU**. You *MUST* be available during the official dates and times for the final exam, along with fellow students. The above date range will not be moved for any reason.

A REMINDER: We are obligated to treat all students fairly, and that means each of you should ask questions, think ahead and plan for when assignments are due.
Everyone is subject to the same course expectations.

Note that sometimes, for a myriad of reasons, life intervenes to create ongoing difficulties with class attendance, and meeting academic requirements. *In these cases, it's often best to withdraw from the course, and perhaps re-enroll at a less stressful time.*

Access and inclusion for students with disabilities

PSU values diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our goal is to create a learning environment that is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. I am committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides accommodations in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the DRC to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, chronic illness, and all other disabilities.

If you already have accommodations: Please contact us to make sure that we have received your Faculty Notification Email, and to discuss your accommodations. The DRC

is located in Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, or visit the [DRC website](#).

It can be challenging to do your best in class if you have trouble meeting basic needs like safe shelter, sleep, and nutrition. Resource centers across campus are here to provide assistance, referrals, and support. Please contact anyone on this list for assistance:

- [Basic Needs Hub](#): email to connect with the basic needs hub basicneedshub@pdx.edu.
- [Portland State Food Pantry](#): email to connect with the PSU food pantry pantry@pdx.edu.
- [C.A.R.E. Program](#): email to connect with the CARE Program askdos@pdx.edu, or call (503) 725-4422.
- [Student Health & Counseling](#): email to connect with student health and counseling askshac@pdx.edu, or call (503) 725-2800.

Mental health emergencies

If you are having a mental health emergency and need to speak with someone immediately, come into SHAC at any time during SHAC [hours of operation](#). After hours and weekends call the Multnomah County Crisis Line 503-988-4888.

PSU CARES

Connects students with resources when they are experiencing distress or other concerns that might impact their personal or academic success.

- [Make a referral to PSU CARES](#)
- Call PSU CARES: 503-725-4422
- Email PSU CARES: askdos@pdx.edu

PSU desires to create a safe campus. As part of that mission, PSU requires all students to take the [Understanding Sexual Misconduct and Resources learning module](#). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources on PSU's [Sexual Misconduct Response website](#).

Title IX reporting statement

Students frequently come to us for assistance in matters not related to the course material. Please be aware that PSU's policies require instructors to report any instance of sexual harassment, sexual and relationship violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination to university officials, who will keep the information private. If you would rather share information about these matters with a PSU staff member who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please use these campus resources:

- Connect with Confidential Advocates: 503-894-7982 or [schedule online](#) to talk with a Confidential Advocate (for matters regarding sexual harassment and sexual and relationship violence).
- [Center for Student Health and Counseling](#): 1880 SW 6th Ave #200; 503-725-2800

Discrimination and Bias Incidents

[The Office of Equity and Compliance](#) (OEC) addresses complaints of discrimination, discriminatory Harassment, and sexual harassment against employees (faculty and staff). If you or someone you know believes they have been discriminated against, you may file a complaint. Someone from the OEC will contact you to discuss how to best address your complaint.

[The Bias Review Team](#) (BRT) gathers information on bias incidents that happen on and around campus, and gives resources and support to individuals who experience them. You can report a bias incident you experienced or learned about. A member of the BRT will contact you if you indicate you would like to be contacted.

Religious accommodations statement

If you would like to obtain religious accommodations, such as flexibility in attending evening courses or an extension on assignments, please contact your instructors. If you need additional assistance, please contact the Office of the Dean of Student Life (DOSL) by emailing askdos@pdx.edu.

Cultural Resource Centers statement

Cultural Resource Centers (CRCs) create a student-centered, inclusive environment that enriches the university experience. They honor diversity, explore social justice issues, celebrate cultural traditions, and foster student identities, success, and leadership. They provide opportunities for student leadership, employment, and volunteering; student resources such as computer labs, event, lounge, and study spaces; and extensive programming. All are welcome!

- [Multicultural Student Center](#)
- [La Casa Latina Student Center](#)
- [Native American Student and Community Center](#)
- [Pan African Commons](#)
- [Pacific Islander, Asian, and Asian American Student Center](#)
- [Middle East, North Africa, South Asia Student Center](#)

Recordings in Zoom classes

We use technology for virtual meetings and recordings in this course. Use is governed by FERPA, the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) and PSU's [Student Code of Conduct](#). A record of all meetings and recordings is kept and stored by PSU, in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy and FERPA. Your instructor will not share recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include fellow students, TAs/GAs/Mentors, and any guest faculty or community based learning partners that we may engage with.

You may not share recordings outside of this course.

Doing so may result in disciplinary action.