PSYC 110: Introduction to Psychology  
Summer Session A, 2021  

**Instructor:**  
Dr. Stephanie Lazzaro  
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Office Hour: By appointment, please e-mail.  

**Teaching Fellow:**  
TBD  

**Course Overview and Goals:**  
Who are you? What is love? Why are people superstitious? Is your eye like a camera? Is your memory like a video camera? Why do we feel emotions? How can we influence other people's behavior? This course will try to answer these questions and others while giving a general overview and introduction to the scientific discipline of psychology. Students will be introduced to key conceptual issues, methodological approaches and significant findings in psychology, their historical background, and the kinds of empirical evidence on which these findings are based. Students will be encouraged to think critically and evaluate their own behavior through in-class experiments. We will use psychology as a mirror: illuminating the workings of our minds and helping us to understand ourselves and others. A scientific approach will be developed through an appreciation of how empirical data can be used to test competing theories. You will also gain important skills in psychology such as becoming critical consumers of information. You will learn how to find and read empirical papers and critically evaluate scientific information in the media. There are no prerequisites.

This is an accelerated/condensed (5 weeks instead of 14 weeks) version of PSYC 110 currently being taught in Spring 2021. Although this is an online summer course, the expected workload and content is equivalent to a typical semester-long university class. You will attend a semester’s worth of lectures and do a similar amount of reading and writing. Thus, given that an entire semester is compressed into five weeks, you should expect to devote more time to this class than you would to a class during the semester.

**Class Meetings:**  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00am-11:15am Eastern Time (ET)  
All class meetings will occur online via zoom. The zoom link will be provided on the course Canvas site.

**Readings and assignments**  
There is no required textbook and you do not need to purchase anything. All readings will be freely available online. **Readings and assignments, as well as lecture slides, will be added to Canvas. Please see the ‘Modules’ section for slides and readings and the ‘Assignments’ section for assignments.**
**Course Expectations**

In addition to regular class attendance and participation, students will complete several additional assignments including short written assignments, a midterm, and one final exam.

There will be a midterm exam in class on Friday June 25. The exam will cover the topics covered up through that date.
There will be a final exam in class on Friday July 9. The exam will cover the topics covered after the midterm (it is not cumulative).

**Grading**

Your course grade will be based on your performance on each of the four course areas described below.
Approximate weighting of different course components is as follows:
- Class Attendance/Participation: 20%
- Written Assignments: 40%
- Exam 1 (midterm): 20%
- Exam 2 (final): 20%

IMPORTANT: Class attendance/participation is an essential part of this course. If you miss more than two classes, you will automatically fail the course, regardless of how well you do otherwise. Please note that this is a Yale Summer Session rule and is outside the discretion of course staff.
The exams will be held in class during normal class times and will likely consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions. Please ensure you will be able to take the exam during these times!

**Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is a core institutional value at Yale. It means, among other things, truth in presentation, diligence and precision in citing works and ideas we have used, and acknowledging our collaborations with others. While students are encouraged to discuss psychological research, theories, course content, and material with other students, all work submitted for this course should not be collaborative and must be the work of each individual student. Academic honesty is a very serious issue which includes prohibiting e.g. cheating on coursework, falsification and/or fabrication of data, plagiarism, and multiple submissions of the same work without obtaining explicit written permission from both instructors before the material is submitted (to name a few). Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Yale’s policy: http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/regulations/academic-dishonesty/

For written assignments, any use of words or ideas from other sources has to be explicitly and clearly acknowledged via citation. For a useful discussion, see: https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism
**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week 1:**
Monday June 7, 9am-11:15am – What is PSYC 110? / Is Psychology a Science Debate  
Assignment 1: Is Psychology a Science due Thursday June 10 at noon  

Wednesday June 9, 9am-11:15am –Why do cowboys fight? / Where is my mind?  

Friday June 11, 9am-11:15am – You’ve got me feeling emotions, why? Literature Searches.  
Assignment 2: Scientific Date Night due Tuesday at noon  

**Week 2:**  
Monday June 14, 9am-11:15am – What is love? Reading reports of empirical studies.  
Assignment 3: Dating Paper Critique due Thursday June 17 at noon  

Wednesday June 16, 9am-11:15am – Who are you?  

Friday June 18, 9am-11:15am – Why are we superstitious? / Are we robots?  
Assignment 4: IAT due Tuesday June 22 at noon  

**Week 3:**  
Monday June 21, 9am-11:15am – Can you sue a casino? Discussion  
Assignment 4: Free will due Thursday June 24 at noon  

Wednesday June 23, 9am-11:15am – What makes us different?  

Friday June 25, 9am-11:15am – review, exam.  
Assignment 6: Personality, due Tuesday June 29 at noon  

**Week 4:**  
Monday June 28, 9am-11:15am – Is my memory like a video camera?  
Assignment 7: Memory, due Thursday June 31 at noon  

Wednesday June 30, 9am-11:15am – Is my eye like a camera?  

Friday July 1, 9am-11:15am – Do we see the same blue?  
Assignment 8: Media article critique due Tuesday at noon  

**Week 5:**  
Monday July 5, 9am-11:15am – Guest lecture videos  
Assignment 9: Due Wednesday at midnight  

Wednesday July 7, 9am-11:15am – How do I get people to do the things I want them to do?  

Friday July 9, 9am-11:15am – Final exam, wrap up