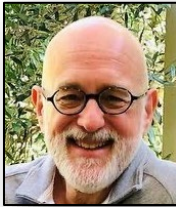


PSY 1: An Introduction to Psychological Science

Harvard University
Fall, 2020

Tuesdays & Thursdays
1:30 – 2:45 Eastern Time Zone
<https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/76677>



PROFESSOR

Daniel Gilbert, Ph.D.

gilbert@wjh.harvard.edu

Office Hour:
Thursdays 3:00 PM – 4:00
PM Eastern

Signup at
<http://psy1.youcanbook.me/>



SENIOR PRECEPTOR

Nicole Noll, Ph.D.

noll@wjh.harvard.edu

Office Hour:
Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00
PM Eastern

Signup at
<http://drnoll.youcanbook.me/>

1. Statements of Policy

- You must abide by the [Honor Code](#). It is your responsibility to read and understand Harvard's rules about what constitutes [academic dishonesty](#).
- This course deals with **sensitive topics**, such as sex, hate, prejudice, religion, and mental illness. You are likely to encounter ideas that make you feel bad and challenge your beliefs. If you do not wish to have such encounters, then this course is not right for you and you should not enroll. Research shows that "trigger warnings" are ineffective and counter-productive (see Jones, Bellet, & McNally, 2019, available here) and there will be no such warnings in this class.
- You may not **simultaneously enroll** in this course and another course with overlapping meeting time unless the instructor of the other course allows you to attend this course on the days of the exams, which are October 15 and December 3.
- You may not take this course **Pass/Fail**.

2. Offline Activities

- **Lectures:** Each week you will watch one or two lectures that were recorded by Professor Gilbert. You will find them on the course website under PANOPTO. These videos are copyrighted and may not be downloaded, transmitted, or shared.
- **Textbook:** Each week you will read sections from *Psychology* (2020), 5th edition, by Schacter, Gilbert, Wegner, & Nock. Please do not study from previous editions of the textbook, which differ substantially from the latest edition. Both bound and electronic versions of the textbook are available for sale or rent from the [publisher](#). Professor Gilbert is one of the authors of this textbook. All of his royalties that are generated by his students will be donated to a charity chosen by the highest scoring student(s) in the class.

- **Popular Book Chapters:** Each week you will read chapters from a popular book related to that week's topic. You will find those chapters in the FILES tab of the course website.

3. Online Activities

- On **Tuesday** of each week at 1:30 PM Eastern, Professor Gilbert will host a live zoom session called "Chapter Zero" in which he will interview the author of the popular book whose chapters you read. The interview will last approximately 20 minutes, and then you will have 20 minutes to interview the author yourselves.
- On **Thursdays** of each week at 1:30 PM Eastern, Professor Gilbert will host a live question-and-answer session in which he will take questions from students about the readings and lecture for that week.
- Once each week you will meet online with a small group of fellow students and your Teaching Fellow. Harvard calls these meetings "sections" and they are your chance to discuss the material from Chapter Zero in more depth, and to relate it to the material from the textbook and the lectures. Before each section, you will post questions and/or comments about the Chapter Zero readings using an online tool developed at Harvard called "Perusall." You will receive instructions for accessing Perusall from Dr. Noll and your TF.
- Please note: (1) Your questions/comments must be uploaded to Perusall by Monday at 5:00 PM Eastern, and (2) attendance at section meetings is mandatory.

4. Exams

- You will take two non-cumulative exams. Exam 1 will cover the material from "Psychological Science" through "Emotion & Motivation." Exam 2 will cover the material from "Decision-Making" through "Social Cognition." There is no final exam in this course.
- Exam questions will require short answers (a few words) and short essays (a few sentences). You will have a full class period (75 minutes) to complete the exam.
- During exams you may consult materials from the course—specifically, your notes, the textbook, and the popular book readings—but you may not consult "outside sources" such as other books, other people, or any online information.
- The exams will be given at **1:30 PM Eastern on October 15 and December 3.**
- No make-up or alternative exams will be offered so do not register for this course unless you are free to take the exams at 1:30 PM Eastern on October 15 and December 3.
- Per Harvard policy, your absence from an exam will be excused only under two conditions: (1) You are unable to appear because the exam falls on a religious holiday and you have notified the course Preceptor, Dr. Noll, of this fact by 5:00 pm on 9/20/2019, or (2) you are certifiably ill on the day of a regularly scheduled exam and you notify Dr. Noll at least 3 hours prior to the exam.
- If you have a letter from the Accessible Education Office or have any other special needs that we can accommodate during exams, please notify Dr. Noll as early as possible but no later than 5:00 pm on 9/18/2020.
- Psychologists know a lot about studying and learning. You can find several articles with advice about how to study for exams under the FILES tab on the course website, as well as in the Learning chapter of the textbook.

5. Optional Term Paper

- If you wish, you may write an approximately 1000-word term paper in which you select, read, and then review one of the books by a Chapter Zero guest author. A review includes a thorough description of the book's main arguments as well as an original critique of those arguments.

6. Grades

- You can earn up to 100 points on each of the exams, and up to 50 points on the term paper, which means that you can earn up to 250 points in the course.
- You will be graded on a curve, which means that the highest scoring students will receive the highest grades, no matter how few points they earn. Curving is to your advantage. To learn why, see the document entitled "Why You Should Love the Curve" on the course website under FILES.
- To determine course grades, we will construct a curve based on the total number of points each student earned on the exams. The top 30% of this curve will be designated the A-zone, the next 50% will be designated the B-zone, the next 15%-20% will be designated the C-zone, and the remaining 0%-5% will be designated the D-zone and/or the E-zone. We will call this "the exam curve."
- Here is how your course grade will be determined:
 - ***If you decide not to write a term paper*** then your course grade will be determined by your position on the exam curve. For example, if your position is in the A-zone, you will receive an A in the course.
 - ***If you decide to write a term paper*** then your position on the exam curve will be changed by the number of points your paper earns, and your course grade will be determined by your *new* position on the exam curve. For example, if your old position was in the B-zone but your new position is in the A-zone, you will receive an A in the course.
 - If your position is at or near the very top of your zone, your course grade will be followed by a plus, and if your position is at or near the very bottom of your zone, your course grade will be followed by a minus.
- Please note that because the exam curve is based solely on exam performance, choosing to write a term paper *can raise your grade* but choosing *not* to write a term paper *cannot lower your grade*. In other words, the "bump up" that those who write term papers receive does not result in any "bump down" for those who choose not to write one.

COURSE CALENDAR				
Week of...	Lectures	Textbook Chapters	Tuesday on Zoom at 1:30 PM	Thursday on Zoom at 1:30 PM
08-31	01 Psychological Science	01 (all) 02 (all)	-----	Orientation to Class & Section
09-07	02 Reproduction 03 Survival	13 (pp. 499-521)	Chapter Zero with Jamil Zaki , author of <i>The War for Kindness</i>	Q&A on Psychological Science, Reproduction, & Survival
09-14	04 Neuroscience	03 (pp. 73-81, 83-84, 90-101, 108-117)	Chapter Zero with Michael Gazzaniga , author of <i>The Ethical Brain</i>	Q&A on Neuroscience
09-21	05 Sensation & Perception	04 (pp. 123-134, 136-166)	Chapter Zero with Daniel Levitin , author of <i>This is Your Brain on Music</i>	Q&A on Sensation & Perception
09-28	06 Learning 07 Memory	06 (all) 07 (pp. 263-285, 292-296, 298-308)	Chapter Zero with Steven Levitt , co-author of <i>Freakonomics</i>	Q&A on Learning & Memory
10-05	08 Emotion	08 (pp. 313-321, 329-347)	Chapter Zero with Elizabeth Dunn , co-author of <i>Happy Money</i>	Q&A on Emotion
10-12	EXAM WEEK	-----	Pre-Exam Q & A	Exam 1
10-19	09 Decision Making	09 (pp. 372-389)	Chapter Zero with Richard Thaler , co-author of <i>Nudge</i>	Q&A on Decision Making
10-26	10 Consciousness 11 Sleep & Dreams	05 (pp. 171-210)	Chapter Zero with Matthew Walker , author of <i>Why We Sleep</i> (NOTE: 1:50 PM start)	Q&A on Consciousness, Sleep, & Dreams

11-02	12 Development 13 Communication	11 (all) 08 (pp. 322-329) 09 (pp. 351-368)	Chapter Zero with Katherine Kinzler , author of <i>How You Say It</i>	Q&A on Development & Communication
11-09	14 Psychopathology	15 (all)	Chapter Zero with Abigail Marsh , author of <i>The Fear Factor</i>	Q&A on Psychopathology
11-16	15 Social Cognition	13 (pp. 521-542)	Chapter Zero with Mahzarin Banaji , co-author of <i>Blindspot</i> .	Q&A on Social Cognition
11-23	MOVE-OUT WEEK	-----	-----	-----
11-30	EXAM WEEK	-----	Pre-Exam Q & A	Exam 2
12-7	READING PERIOD	-----	-----	-----