

**General Psychology**  
**PSY 1003(3): Section 1**  
**Fall Semester 2025**

Tu Th 1:30-2:45

Location: Taylor 105

**Instructor: Kim W. Schaeffer, Ph.D.**

Office Location: Culbertson 212 (between The Greek and Colt)

Office Hours: M: 7:00-9:45, 2:45-3:30; TU & TH: 12-1, 2:30-3:30; W: 7:00-9:45

Email: [kimschaeffer@pointloma.edu](mailto:kimschaeffer@pointloma.edu) (on average will check 2-3 times per work day)

Phone: (619) 849-2466 (prefer email)

**Teaching Assistant: Skye Holmen**

Office Location: Culbertson Hall

Email: [sholmen0022@pointloma.edu](mailto:sholmen0022@pointloma.edu)

**Course Description**

A survey of psychology as an empirical/behavior science. Topics include biological correlates of behavior, learning, cognition, emotion, motivation, personality, assessment, development, psychopathology, psychotherapy, and social psychology.

**Course Learning Outcomes in PSY 1003:** Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Recall at least a 70% of the information on textbook bank questions from the general psychology textbook used in class.
- Identify four theories of psychology
- Appreciate the history of psychological thought
- Describe practical applications for the following content areas: neuroscience, addiction, learning, memory, personality (including disorders), intelligence (including assessment), emotion, stress, health, sleep (including dreams), hypnosis, developmental psychology, psychological disorders and treatment
- Use the library search tools to find appropriate research articles
- Work effectively in teams

**PLNU's Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes (FELO)**

- Context #2: *Growing: In a Christ-Centered Faith Community*
  - Institutional Learning Outcome #2: Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of self and others as they negotiate complex environments.
    - FELO 2a. Students will develop an understanding of self that fosters personal well-being.
  - FELO 2a. will be assessed by the following:
    - Write an essay explaining how insights from psychology can tell you more about yourself, other people, or your relationships. In your essay, be sure to...
      - Choose three concepts from this course that involve you or your life in some way (e.g., depression, stress, cognition, etc.). Define them in your own words. Explain why you chose to include each of those three concepts. Be sure to discuss how each concept affects you/your life on a personal level.
      - Describe how learning about these concepts can help you thrive and achieve personal well-being. Include examples of how this course gave you insight on how to better thrive on a personal level.
    - Be sure to write approximately 500 words.
    - Turn your assignment in electronically on Canvas at the end of the semester.

### **Reading in PSY 1003**

Employers want employees who are good critical thinkers. According to Diane Halpern (2003), there are 4 aspects to critical thinking: (a) a critical thinking attitude, e.g., not accepting claims at face value; (b) the capacity to implement specific critical thinking skills, e.g., deductive reasoning, hypothesis testing, understanding probability; (c) the facility to apply these critical thinking skills to new situations; and (d) the skill to think about one's own thinking, or metacognition. We will use a significant portion of our class time for activities that will enhance your critical thinking skills. It is imperative that you read and study the reading assignment before coming to class.

### **Working in Teams in PSY 1003**

Employers want employees who work well in teams. In order for us to improve our critical thinking and become even better team members, in-class peer collaboration will be a major portion of our course. (Please note: you will not be assigned any team activities that will require you to meet with your peers outside of class.) In-class teamwork includes analysis of case studies, quizzes, and a variety of critical thinking activities that relate to psychology. Toward the end of the semester you evaluate the "helpfulness" of your team members and assign them a grade that will contribute to their final grade.

### **Required Textbook**

Myers, D. G. & DeWall, C. N. (2019). *Exploring psychology* (11th ed.). New York, NY: Worth.

**How Grades Will Be Earned (A = 93-100; A- = 90-92.99; B+ = 88-89.99; B = 84-87.99; B- = 80-83.99; C+ = 77-79.99; C = 70-76.99; C- = 65-69.99; D+ = 62-64.99; D = 55-61.99; D- = 50-54.99; F ≤ 49.99%)**

12.5%	Readiness Assurance Tests (iRAT, and tRAT)	12.5%
	Team Application Exercises	
5%	<u>Team Member Helpfulness (peer-graded)</u>	
40%	Test 1-4	
20%	Comprehensive Final	
10%	Psychology and You	

### **Managing Your Life and This Course**

If you cannot take a major test due to extreme circumstances, please ask me for permission to take the test at another time before the exam.

Most people need to miss a class due to illness, flight delays, and so on. Therefore, a safety valve is built into the course. For the safety valve to become effective, 90% or more of the class must complete the IDEA course evaluation during the first week it is posted.

*Safety Valve:* Best practices for employees allow personal cell phone usage only during mandatory breaks. Therefore, if throughout the semester I suspect no one is using their cell phone or computer for non-class activities, the four lowest Team Application Exercises, the three lowest iRATs or tRATs will be dropped. Two absent minded faux pas are allowed for the entire class throughout the semester.

### **Late Assignments**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Canvas automatically deducts 10% from late assignment plus an additional 10% per day.

### **Final Examination Policy**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each

professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted

### **State Authorization**Ⓞ

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside California.

### **PLNU Copyright Policy**Ⓞ

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

### **PLNU Recording Notification**Ⓞ

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

### **PLNU Academic Honesty Policy**Ⓞ

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**Ⓞ

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

### **PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy**®

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

**Note:** The information below must be included under the "PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy" Section if you are teaching an Online or Hybrid course.