

<b>BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE</b>
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City University of New York
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Department of Social Sciences and Human Services
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**Course Title: Introduction to Psychology**

(Psy 100, section 1405)  
(Paired with Soc 100  
taught by Prof. Amy Sodaro)

**Instructor: Dr. Masha Komolova**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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COURSE INFORMATION:

Semester – Fall 2018  
3 credits  
Schedule – Wed & Fri, 12:30-1:45PM  
Room – M1117 (Wed) & S739 (Fri)  
Prerequisites - none

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon 2:30-4 PM & Wed 4-5:30 PM,  
or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended to introduce students to a variety of topics, theories, and approaches that make up the field of psychology. The topics will include: research methods in psychology, biological foundations of psychology, learning, cognition and intelligence, memory, personality, social psychology, and psychopathology. The course may be important regardless of whether you intend to specialize in the field, as it should help you better understand your own and others' behaviors and the mental processes that underlie these behaviors. The course should also help you acquire learning skills that are applicable to a broad range of settings (see below).

**LEARNING COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION:**

This semester you are enrolled in a BMCC Learning Academy community, which links SOC 100 with PSY 100 and your BLA Success Seminar. In these two academic courses and in the seminar, we will be making connections between psychology and sociology, between the individual and society. You will complete a number of shared assignments for the two courses and out of class experiences focused on the theme:

**Inside Out: Identity, Self and Society**

Who are you? What makes you *you*? Are you a product of biology or society? Or both? This learning community will explore these questions, looking at the individual's place in society from sociological and psychological perspectives. We will consider topics such as gender identity, memory of trauma, the impact of environments like prison on individual behavior and other social and psychological forces that shape us.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students should:	Assessments
Be familiar with fundamental concepts and terms in psychology	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and high impact activities
Know how psychologists go about establishing scientific knowledge, and be familiar with major empirical findings	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and high impact activities

in the field	
Be able to evaluate scientific evidence in a critical fashion	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and high impact activities
Problem solve and apply acquired knowledge to a variety of real-life settings, including developing insights into one's own behavior and mental processes	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and high impact activities
Improve oral and writing communication skills	I In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, high impact activities

#### GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcomes	Assessments
<b>Communication Skills</b> – Students will be able to write, read, listen and speak critically and effectively.	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and high impact activities
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b> - Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences.	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and g high impact activities
<b>Values</b> - Students will be able to make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness and social responsibility.	In-class participation, Waymaker quizzes, exams, and high impact activities

#### USE OF TECHNOLOGY

This course uses *Waymaker Introduction to Psychology* platform - a new set of digital course materials based on open educational resources (OER) instead of a traditional textbook. You can access all readings, videos, quizzes and other activities on the Blackboard (“Waymaker Assignments” tab). Please note that you have to click on the “launch” button when trying to access Waymaker materials.

My own lectures will be presented via power point slides; most of the lectures will also include DVD and youtube video clips. Power point slides, which will include links to some videos, as well as other course documents will be available on the Blackboard (“Course Materials” tab). “Course Materials” will also include the syllabus and other additional documents you need for the course.

#### REQUIRED TEXT AND OTHER READINGS

*There is no textbook required for this course.*

All required readings are available on the Blackboard, under the “Waymaker Assignments” tab. Reading assignments can be found in folders organized by a topic (8 topics total). Please see the Course Schedule for reading assignments on each topic. The readings will only partially overlap with lecture materials. The entire set of readings is also available in the PDF format, under the “Course Materials” tab.

#### CLASS FORMAT

Each class will consist of an interactive lecture, in which we will discuss course material presented on the power point slides as well as watch relevant video clips. In some classes, you will also complete group assignments.

## EVALUATION AND REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS

### Grading

- Exams = 40%
- Waymaker quizzes = 15%
- High Impact Assignments - linked with SOC 100 = 35% (10% for each debate, 15% for the essay)
- Attendance/participation (including the BLA success seminar) = 10%

### Grading Scale

A	93% and above	B-	80 – 82%	D+	67 – 69%
A-	90 – 92%	C+	77 – 79%	D	63 – 66%
B+	87 – 89%	C	73 – 76%	D-	60 – 62%
B	83 – 86%	C-	70 – 72%	F	59% and below

### Incompletes

In order to qualify for an “Incomplete,” you must complete no less than 80% of the course work and be in good standing, i.e., have earned at least a C on all completed work.

### Exams

There will be four exams in this course. There exams will be consist of: 1) multiple-choice questions, which will test your knowledge of the material covered in lectures and 2) short answers, which will test your knowledge of the material covered both in lectures and Waymaker readings. Each exam will cover two topics; the final exam is not comprehensive.

Study guides outlining questions and concepts that you need to know for the exam will be distributed one class before each exam review session. You are expected to use study guides to prepare *specific* questions for the review sessions.

Make-up exams will not be permitted except for the cases of absolute emergency. You will have to notify me about your absence prior to the exam and provide appropriate documentation that explains your absence.

### Waymaker Quizzes

After you complete readings and interactive activities for each topic, you will take an online quiz that will assess your knowledge of the topic. All quizzes can be found within each topic folder, under the “Waymaker Assignments” tab.

Due dates for each quiz are indicated in the Course Schedule (all quizzes must be completed by 11:59 pm of the due date). You are allowed two attempts to take the quiz. I recommend that you take each quiz well before the due date, so you have a chance to study more and improve your performance. The quiz score received from your second attempt will be automatically entered into your Blackboard grade book.

### **High Impact Assignments**

There will be three “high impact” assignments in the course. All of the assignments will relate to the topics that deal with the overlap between psychology and sociology disciplines.

- 1) **Gender debate** – in-class debate on the role of biology and socialization in shaping gender differences. The debate will take place on **10/03**, in Prof. Komolova’s class.
- 2) **Reflection on the 9/11 Museum** – paper about your experience at the 9/11 Museum and the issues of collective memory construction. The museum trip will take place on **11/07**, during Prof. Komolova’s class and the BLA Success seminar.
- 3) **Prison debate** – in-class debate on the role of individual and situational factors in crime, and the issues surrounding rehabilitation and punishment. The debate will take place on **12/05**, during Prof. Sodaro’s class.

You will be provided with detailed assignment instructions and readings that you will need for completing assignments in advance. The readings will be available on the Blackboard. For the debates, your knowledge of the readings will be tested with brief in-class quizzes. You will be also expected to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings in the paper about the museum visit. Your instructors will help you to prepare for the assignments; time will be allocated for the preparation during some classes.

### **Extra credit**

You have two extra credit options (you can do only one):

- 1) *Psychology Club*. You are highly encouraged to attend the Psychology Club. I will announce specific dates, times, and room number for the club meetings once they are available in the beginning of the semester. The club features BMCC as well as guest speakers who are experts in different fields of psychology. For your extra credit, you can attend one of the club meetings and write a short report about what you have learned. Feel free to write about anything that has attracted your attention in the lecture, but I would prefer to hear your personal thoughts about the lecture (even if it’s a critique of a particular speaker or a lecture format) rather than a summary of the lecture content. The report must be at least one page in length. Please make sure to put your name on the attendance sheet circulated during meetings. You are welcome to attend as many meetings as you’d like but you will receive extra credit for only one report. If you cannot make it to one of the club meetings, you can attend any other lecture related to psychology and write a report about your experience.
- 2) *Research Participation*. Participating in a research project is a great way to learn about what psychologists do. To complete this requirement, you must sign up for participation in a psychology research study. You can find advertisements that recruit research participants on craigslist and classified sections of many newspapers; you

can also simply use google and search for something like “psychology research participation NYC.” You are allowed to participate in any online studies as long as they relate to psychology. Please come talk to me if you have difficulty finding a study that you can participate in. I may also announce some research participation opportunities during the semester. After participating in a study, write a brief report (at least one page in length) about your experience. Your report should include the following: a) description of the procedure used in the experiment (i.e., what you were asked to do, what instruments/technology have been used, or any other relevant information); b) discussion of the question that you think the researchers were trying to address (you should be able to request this information in the end of your participation); c) description of your experience in personal terms (e.g., what you’ve learned from this experience, how it made you feel, what it made you think of). You must attach a proof of your participation to your report – a receipt you obtain from a research assistant, a copy of an email, or any other document that confirms your participation.

If you complete your extra credit requirement successfully, your final grade will be improved by one increment (e.g., from B to B+, from B+ to A-, etc.). You can also earn bonus points by answering extra questions on the exams and actively participating in class and the discussion forum. Extra credit assignments are due on **December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **Attendance, lateness, and participation**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absence hours is limited to one more class hour than the number of hours a class meets in a week. As our class meets for three hours per week, you’re allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences and lateness, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F grade.

Attendance and participation are part of the grade for this course, and you are expected to attend the class regularly. You are allowed to miss three classes maximum without consequences for your grade. Three latenesses equal one absence. You can decide how to “spend” your three absences, and do not need to provide any documentation for those. If you miss class more than three times due to some extraordinary circumstances (e.g., staying in a hospital for two weeks), you must talk to me and provide appropriate documentation. For each class that you miss after the three excused absences, your attendance/participation grade will be lowered by 5%. You are expected to actively participate in class – ask questions, initiate discussions, and actively engage in class exercises.

#### **BEHAVIOR IN CLASSROOM**

You are encouraged to participate in class, but please do it in a respectful manner. You must take turns and not talk on the top of your classmates or the instructor. Also, when expressing your opinions, please be mindful of offending or hurting others. Private discussions are not allowed at any time. If I feel that your behavior is disrespectful, distracting, and counterproductive to class progress, I may ask you to leave the class.

#### **Use of electronic devices**

The use of any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, computers, I-pads, etc.) is strictly prohibited in this class. All cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off

and put away before the beginning of the class. Failure to comply with these policies will significantly lower your attendance/participation grade.

#### **ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Accessibility located in Room N320 (212-220-8200). BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

#### **BMCC POLICY ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on the BMCC's web site (Academics).

#### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

Keep up all semester. Many students assume that this class is easy because it is based on common sense. Unfortunately, many students fail this class due to this common but mistaken assumption. It is a survey course, and includes a lot of new and complex information, so it is important to learn the material in small parts. If you try to crunch all the information before quizzes and exams, you are likely to be overwhelmed and perform poorly. Also, try to complete at least some of the readings on a topic before we cover it in the lecture. Please do not hesitate to consult with me about any problems that you are experiencing with the class or for any additional help you may need, but do not wait until the end of the semester because usually not much can be done at this point.

#### **USEFUL RESOURCES**

- *Counseling Center*: Room S343, phone (212) 220-8140, [bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling](http://bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling)
- *Learning Resource Center* (for tutoring): Room S510, phone (212) 220 - 1383, [bmcc.cuny.edu/lrc](http://bmcc.cuny.edu/lrc)
- *Writing Center*: Room S500W, phone (212) 220-1384, [bmcc.cuny.edu/writingcenter](http://bmcc.cuny.edu/writingcenter)

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to revision)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b> (Waymaker quizzes should be completed by 11:59PM of the date indicated on the left)
Wed – 08/29	Introduction	
Fri – 08/31	Critical Thinking Research in Psychology	Research in Psychology
Wed – 09/05	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Fri – 09/07	Research in Psychology	Research in Psychology
Wed – 09/12	Research in Psychology Biological Foundations	<b>Quiz on Research in Psychology</b>
Fri – 09/14	Biological Foundations	Biopsychology
Wed - 09/19	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Fri – 09/21	Biological Foundations	Biopsychology
Wed – 09/26	Biological Foundations Exam Review	<b>Quiz on Biopsychology</b>
Fri – 09/28	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Wed– 10/03	Biology vs. Socialization	<b>Gender Debate</b>
Fri – 10/05	Learning	Learning
Wed– 10/10	Learning	Learning
Fri – 10/12	Learning Cognition and Intelligence	Thinking and Intelligence <b>Quiz on Learning</b>
Wed – 10/17	Cognition and Intelligence	Thinking and Intelligence
Fri - 10/19	Cognition and Intelligence Exam Review	<b>Quiz on Thinking and Intelligence</b>
Wed– 10/24	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Fri – 10/26	Memory	Memory
Wed – 10/31	Memory	Memory
Fri – 11/02	Memory Personality	Personality <b>Quiz on Memory</b>
Wed – 11/07	<b>9/11 Museum trip</b>	
Fri – 11/09	Personality	Personality
Wed – 11/14	Personality Review Session	Personality <b>Quiz on Personality</b>
Fri – 11/16	<b>Exam 3</b>	
Wed – 11/21	Social Psychology	Social Psychology <b>9/11 Paper</b>
Fri - 11/23	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Wed – 11/28	Social Psychology	Social Psychology
Fri – 11/30	Social Psychology	<b>Quiz on Social Psychology</b>
Wed– 12/05	Psychological Disorders	Psychological Disorders
Fri – 12/07	Psychological Disorders	Psychological Disorders
Wed – 12/12	Psychological Disorders Review session	<b>Quiz on Psychological Disorders</b> <b>Extra credit assignment</b>
Fri – 12/14	<b>Exam 4</b>	