



SYLLABUS

PSYCHOLOGY 5612

Introduction to Cognitive Science

Autumn 2025 – Classes #: 20654 (grad) and 20655 (undergrad)

COURSE OVERVIEW

Basic information

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisites: Graduate standing, permission of instructor, or at least 12 credit hours from any of the following areas: computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy, or psychology

Mode of delivery: In person

Dates: Aug 26 – Dec 12, 2025

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:35 to 10:55 am

Classroom: Journalism Building, Room 375

Instructor: Dr. Alexander Petrov, petrov.11@osu.edu

Instructor's office hours: After class or by appointment

Course Assistant: Isaac Liao, liao.798@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Course Objective

What is cognition and how does it emerge from the brain? This course introduces you to the exciting interdisciplinary field of cognitive science. Researchers in philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, artificial intelligence (AI), linguistics, and anthropology have realized that they are asking many of the same questions about the nature of the human mind/brain, that they had developed complementary and synergistic methods of investigation, and that the evidence led them to compatible answers to their questions. This course introduces cognitive science through a representative sample of such questions, methods, and answers. It is not a special-topic course for students who seek detailed knowledge in a specific area of cognitive science. We will try not to lose sight of the forest for the trees, but we will take a closer look at a few trees too because science is in the details. The specific focus of this installment of Psych 5612

is on AI. Dramatic conceptual and technological advances over the past decade have propelled AI from an academic field to the core business strategy of some of the world's largest companies (e.g., Google, Meta, and Microsoft). Hundreds of billions of dollars of annual investments are being poured into the development of various AI-based technologies. The societal impact of these technologies already is significant and is projected to be transformative. In this course we will examine the inter-relationships between human minds and generative AI systems. We will also consider the psychological, economic, and societal implications of AI-based technology from a naturalist and humanist perspective.

This course is cross-listed in the Departments of Computer Science and Engineering, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology. It is intended for graduate and advanced undergraduate students in these departments. Interested students from related areas (notably neuroscience) are welcome too.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, **undergraduate** students should be able to:

- Appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science, the diversity of viewpoints, the controversies and the areas of nascent consensus.
- Describe, analyze, and critique the contribution of each of the six constituent disciplines (philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, artificial intelligence, linguistics, and anthropology) to the study of cognition.
- Demonstrate basic familiarity with discipline-specific methods, key concepts, and focus of investigation.
- Be proficient in the *lingua franca* of cognitive science – the language of information processing.
- Explain in detail the definitions of the foundational concepts of *computation* and *representation*, and be able to discuss them from multiple points of view.
- Demonstrate knowledge of a multitude of specific concepts, theories, and experimental results covered in the course. The *Course Schedule* lists some relevant keywords.
- Describe, analyze, and critique the psychological, economic, and societal implications of the technological applications of cognitive science and specifically of generative AI and human-level (and possibly superhuman-level) AI.
- Engage in critical and logical thinking about cognitive science and its technological applications.
- Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection and self-assessment.

- Write short (300-word) answers to questions on a variety of topics sampled from diverse areas of cognitive science.
- Use generative AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot and Google Gemini.

By the end of this course, **graduate** students should be able to:

- Do everything in the above list with proficiency greater than what is expected of undergraduate students.
- Read and discuss research papers from multiple scientific disciplines.
- Write critical essays – *reaction papers* – on topics outside the student’s own area of specialization.
- Defend orally their reaction papers in a brief one-on-one meeting with the instructor.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

PDF repository, slide repository, and *Study Guide*

There is no required textbook for Psych 5612 this year. (The textbook that was used in previous years is now optional – see bibliographic information below.) Everything you need will be made available on CarmenCanvas. Note in particular the following pages:

- PDF Repository – Provides access to all required readings and many optional readings, all in PDF format. This page will be updated as new readings are added, whereas last-year’s readings are demoted to optional status. Make sure to check this page regularly.
- Slide Repository – Provides access to all PowerPoint slides. This page too is updated incrementally, so make sure to check it regularly.
- Study Guide – After the *Syllabus*, this page is going to be your most important resource for success in Psych 5612. It lists the readings associated with each individual lecture, provides links to various YouTube videos, summarizes what material is covered on each exam, etc. Again, this page is updated incrementally. Make sure to check it often.

Optional textbook:

José Luis Bermúdez (2023), *Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Science of the Mind* (Fourth edition). Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1-009-07367-7.

Course technology

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** ocio.osu.edu/help
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

- Computer: current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- *Microsoft Office 365:* All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.
- *Microsoft Copilot with data protection:* All Ohio State students have access to this artificial-intelligence assistant. It is accessible through a web browser. For instructions, see <https://admin.resources.osu.edu/copilot-with-data-protection>.
- *Google Gemini:* All Ohio State students have access to this artificial-intelligence assistant as well. It too is accessible through a web browser. For instructions, see <https://ai.osu.edu/faculty-staff-students/approved-ai-tools>.

CARMENCANVAS ACCESS

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in CarmenCanvas. To ensure that you are able to connect to CarmenCanvas at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service
- Navigating CarmenCanvas (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

COURSE SCHEDULE

#	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	T 8/26	Intro to the course and the <i>Syllabus</i> .
2	R 8/28	Cartesian dualism. Introduction to the mind-body problem. Phineas Gage. Naturalism
3	T 9/02	What is cognitive science? Mind as mechanism. Textbook 2050. Rise and fall of behaviorism. "Cognitive revolution"
4	R 9/04	Chomsky's critique of behaviorism. Case study: SHRDLU. Symbolic representations
5	T 9/09	Digital (immortal) computation. Combinatorial (feedforward) circuits
6	R 9/11	Tribute to Alan Turing. Finite state machines. Sequential (recurrent) circuits with registers. Turing machine (TM). Operating a TM
7	T 9/16	Functional equivalence. Universal TM. Digital computers. Church-Turing thesis. Turing test
8	R 9/18	Good old-fashioned artificial intelligence (GOFAI). Physical symbol systems. Recursion. Heuristic search
9	T 9/23	Mind-body problem, part 1. Possible-world semantics. Epiphenomenalism
10	R 9/25	Mind-body problem, part 2. Panpsychism. Physicalism. Supervenience
11	T 9/30	Midterm Exam #1. Same room and time.
12	R 10/02	Neurophysiology. Membrane potential. Synaptic transmission Firing rates. Neuromodulation
13	T 10/07	Artificial neural-network models. Connectionist units. Relation to neurophysiology
14	R 10/09	Synaptic plasticity. Hebbian learning
15	T 10/14	Chemical computation. Feedforward artificial neural networks. I/O mapping
--	R 10/16	Autumn break. No classes
16	T 10/21	Function approximation. Machine learning. Representation learning.
17	R 10/23	Large language models (LLMs). Transformer architecture. Immortal computation
18	T 10/28	Brain reward systems. Animal learning. Reinforcement learning. Case study: <i>AlphaZero</i>
19	R 10/30	Generative AI. Recent accomplishments. Scaling laws. Near-term forecasts

#	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
20	T 11/04	Computational functionalism. Multiple realizability? Mortal computation. (This material is tested on the Final)
21	R 11/06	Midterm Exam #2. Same room and time.
--	T 11/11	Veterans Day. No classes
22	R 11/13	Affective science, part 1
23	T 11/18	Affective science, part 2
24	R 11/20	Philosophical debates about consciousness
25	T 11/25	The science of consciousness
--	R 11/27	Thanksgiving. No classes
26	T 12/02	Responsible AI and the control problem
27	R 12/04	Machine ethics and the alignment problem
28	T 12/09	AI governance. Closing discussion
FIN	F 12/12	Final Exam. Same room but starts at 8:00 am until 9:45 am!

The *Course Schedule* is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, depending on the rate of progress through the material, student interest in alternative topics, and/or scheduling constraints. **Make sure to monitor the *Study Guide* page on CarmenCanvas regularly.** Every effort will be made to keep all exam dates fixed.

ASSESSMENT

How your grade is calculated

ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY	POINTS	UNDERGRAD	GRADUATE
Attendance	20 x 1	20	20
Carmen quizzes (revised Oct 20)	10 x 5	50	50
In-class quizzes	8 x 5	40	40
Discussions (revised Oct 20)	40	40	40
Midterm exam #1 (Sep 30)	100	100	100
Midterm exam #2 (Nov 6)	100	100	100
Final exam (Dec 12)	100	100	100
Reaction papers	3 x 40	Not applicable	120
Oral defense of reaction papers	80	Not applicable	80
TOTAL		450	650

See the [Study Guide](#) on CarmenCanvas for due dates for the quizzes and reaction papers.

Grading scale

At the end of the semester, your Total points will be converted to a letter grade according to the standard OSU scale. **Specifically, the following conversion brackets will be used. These brackets are absolute. There will be no curving.** Your grade depends exclusively on your own performance throughout the semester, regardless of your classmates' performance. The extra-credit policy is outlined in a separate section below.

GRADE	PERCENTAGES	UNDERGRAD POINTS	GRADUATE POINTS
A	90.0 – 100%	405 – 450	585 – 650
A–	86.5 – 89.9%	389 – 404	562 – 584
B+	83.1 – 86.4%	374 – 388	540 – 561
B	80.0 – 83.0%	360 – 373	520 – 539
B–	76.5 – 79.9%	344 – 359	497 – 519
C+	73.1 – 76.4%	329 – 343	475 – 496
C	70.0 – 73.0%	315 – 328	455 – 474
C–	66.5 – 69.9%	299 – 314	432 – 454
D+	63.1 – 66.4%	284 – 298	410 – 431
D	60.0 – 63.0%	270 – 283	390 – 409
E	0 – 59.9%	0 – 269	0 – 389

Descriptions of major course assignments

ATTENDANCE

Description: Attendance is required, except when the student has a valid excuse according to University policies. Attendance checks will be made on almost every class. Each attendance brings you 1 point for just being in the room. A student can earn up to 20 points for attendance. Note that there are more than 20 classes and thus there will probably be approximately 25 attendance checks. Thus, you can be absent from a few classes and still earn the maximum number (20) of attendance points. You cannot earn more than 20 attendance points.

CARMENCANVAS QUIZZES

Description: There are 10 (originally announced: 12) CarmenCanvas quizzes – roughly one per week. They are designed as incentives to stay current with the readings. They also reinforce and test your understanding of the material. Most quizzes consist of short-answer questions, although there are occasional multiple-choice questions. The due dates for each quiz are announced on CarmenCanvas. Each quiz is worth 5 points.

Academic integrity and collaboration: You must complete all quizzes yourself. You are not allowed to disclose any quiz questions to any student who has not yet taken the respective quiz. Soliciting or disclosing any information related to the quizzes is a serious violation of the *Code of Student Conduct* (studentconduct.osu.edu). **Only after** both you and your fellow student(s) have completed a given quiz is it OK to compare your answers, but **not before**. Also, you must not rely on automated language tools such as Copilot or Gemini (or any other GenAI tool you may have access to) when preparing your answers to the quizzes, except in cases in which Copilot or Gemini are mentioned explicitly in the assignment.

IN-CLASS (PAPER) QUIZZES

Description: Eight in-class (a.k.a. paper) quizzes are given at the beginning of class for up to 10 minutes. Each quiz is worth 5 points. The Study Guide page on CarmenCanvas provides additional details about quiz dates, as well as links to the associated PDF readings. Missed in-class quizzes cannot be taken at a later date but you can substitute a 500-word essay about some material from the lecture you have missed.

Academic integrity: You must complete all in-class quizzes yourself. You are not allowed to disclose any quiz questions to any student who has not yet taken the respective quiz. Soliciting or disclosing any quiz-related information is a serious violation of the *Code of Student Conduct* (studentconduct.osu.edu).

MIDTERM EXAMS AND FINAL EXAM

Description: Two midterm exams are scheduled for Sep 30 and Nov 6; the Final exam is scheduled for Dec 12. **All exams are closed-book tests that must be taken in person in a proctored environment. Internet-based test-taking formats are not supported.** The three tests have the same format and contain a mix of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions. Each test is worth 100 points. They are based on material from the lectures, the textbook, the additional required readings, the instructional videos posted on CarmenCanvas, and on certain YouTube videos that are clearly marked in the lecture slides and linked on CarmenCanvas. The Final is non-cumulative. **You can miss an exam only in case of a documented emergency or – in extremely rare cases – with prior approval of the instructor.** If you miss an exam, you must schedule a make-up session within one week. Please bring a photo ID, a #2 pencil, and an eraser to the test room.

Academic integrity: Because there have been cases of students using their smart watches to cheat on the test and because it is difficult to differentiate a smart watch from an ordinary one, **all watches must be put in your pockets or bags for the duration of the tests.** Once a test begins, no questions about any test item are allowed. Please do not leave your seat until you are ready to turn your answer sheet in. After you turn it in, leave the test room immediately.

REACTION PAPERS (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Description: *This assignment applies to graduate students only; all undergraduates are exempt. If you are an undergraduate student, feel free to skip this entry.* A reading list of **Target articles** is posted on CarmenCanvas. Two of them are required for all graduate students: Turing's (1950) seminal article on the Turing Test and Anthony Aguirre's (2025) [*Keep the Future Human*](#). The third target article is chosen individually from the list on CarmenCanvas. These three articles are the basis for three Reaction papers that each graduate student must submit by the deadlines specified in the *Study Guide* page on CarmenCanvas. Each Reaction paper must be 1000-2000 words long and must be double-spaced, properly formatted, and proofread. The format is flexible and sample papers are available on CarmenCanvas along with more detailed instructions.

Academic integrity and collaboration: You may discuss your ideas about the target article with other students and with Dr. Petrov. However, the submitted Reaction paper must be your own individual work, reflect your unique thoughts, and be written in your own words. You should also cite all sources that you use, including pictures, quotes, studies, articles, etc. Also, you may rely on automated language tools such as Copilot or Gemini when preparing your texts, but you must disclose the fact that you used such tools. You must also specify your own contribution. More detailed instructions will be provided in an annex to this *Syllabus* that is distributed separately. Look for it on [CarmenCanvas](#).

ORAL DEFENSE OF REACTION PAPERS (GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY)

Description: *This assignment applies to graduate students only; all undergraduates are exempt. If you are an undergraduate student, feel free to skip this entry.* Each graduate student will have a brief (approximately 15-minute long) one-on-one meeting with the instructor. Most of the time will be spent discussing the three reaction papers submitted by this student. The aforementioned annex to the *Syllabus* provides additional details.

Extra credit

The letter grade in Psych 5612 is designed to **reflect your demonstrated knowledge of cognitive science. It emphasizes scientific content, not work ethics or non-academic circumstances.** The three proctored exams and the various written assignments described above are your primary opportunities for demonstrating your knowledge. Accordingly, extra credit plays a very limited role in our course. It is designed for students who are just below the top edge of a grading bracket and need just a tiny boost to reach the next higher bracket. In such cases, there is a limited extra-credit opportunity at the very end of the course. It is described in an annex to this *Syllabus* that is distributed separately. Look for the annex on [CarmenCanvas](#). **It is not possible to earn more than 5 extra-credit points.**

Late assignments

- Late submissions will be accepted but there is 20% penalty for each day post-deadline.
- The due dates for all CarmenCanvas quizzes will be announced on CarmenCanvas itself. Note that most of them are due at 10:00 pm rather than midnight.
- Graduate students, please refer to the *Study Guide* on CarmenCanvas for the due dates of the three reaction papers.

INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

Ohio State is committed to fostering a culture of open inquiry and intellectual diversity within the classroom. This course will cover a range of information and may include discussions or debates about controversial issues, beliefs, or policies. Any such discussions and debates are intended to support understanding of the approved curriculum and relevant course objectives rather than promote any specific point of view. Students will be assessed on principles applicable to the field of study and the content covered in the course. Preparing students for citizenship includes helping them develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to reach their own conclusions regarding complex or controversial matters.

See also the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) at the [Office of University Compliance and Integrity](#).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite, and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology, but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the [Code of Student Conduct](#) to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Our professional students also have the responsibility to uphold the professional and ethical standards found in their respective academic honor codes. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship, or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the

academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor. **The specific policy on the use of generative AI tools in Psych 5612 is described in detail in a separate document on CarmenCanvas.**

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the [Committee on Academic Misconduct](#) (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#) and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so please review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If an instructor suspects that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, the instructor is obligated by University Rules to report those suspicions to the [Committee on Academic Misconduct](#). If COAM determines that a student violated the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#) (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in the course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If students have questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, they should contact the instructor.

Grievances and solving problems

According to University Policies, if you have a problem with this class, you should seek to resolve the grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor or professor. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, college dean or associate dean, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-23. Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department.

Weather or other short-term closing

Should in-person classes be canceled, the course instructor will notify you as to which alternative methods of teaching will be offered to ensure continuity of instruction for this class. Communication will be via [CarmenCanvas](#) and/or your official university email.

Copyright

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are **only** for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a welcoming community. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Office (CRCO):

- Online reporting form at <http://civilrights.osu.edu/>
- Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
- Email: civilrights@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Civil Rights Compliance Office to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.

- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Religious accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement **and** the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Civil Rights Compliance Office](#).

Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#).

DISABILITY STATEMENT (WITH ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ILLNESS)

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If students anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health and medical conditions, whether chronic or temporary), they should let their instructor know immediately so that they can privately discuss options. Students do not need to disclose specific information about a disability to faculty. To establish reasonable accommodations, students may be asked to register with [Student Life Disability Services](#) (slds@osu.edu, 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave, phone: 614-292-3307). After registration, students should make arrangements with their instructors as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that accommodations may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If students are ill and need to miss class, including if they are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of viral infection or fever, they should let their instructor know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with [Student Life Disability Services](#) to request reasonable accommodations.

Counseling and Consultation Services / Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Content Warning Language

Some content in this course may involve media that may elicit a traumatic response in some students due to descriptions of and/or scenes depicting acts of violence, acts of war, or sexual violence and its aftermath. If needed, please take care of yourself while watching/reading this material (leaving classroom to take a water/bathroom break, debriefing with a friend, contacting a confidential Sexual Violence Advocate 614-267-7020, or Counseling and Consultation Services at 614-292-5766 and contacting the instructor if needed). Expectations are that we all will be respectful of our classmates while consuming this media and that we will

create a safe space for each other. Failure to show respect to each other may result in dismissal from the class.

Finally, welcome to the course! I hope you will enjoy the class and learn many fascinating things about how the human mind can occur in the physical universe. I look forward to seeing you on August 26.

-- Alex Petrov

Last updated 2025-10-20