FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
Undergraduate Programs

Department Psychology

College Science

*(To obtain a course number, contact **erudolph@fau.edu**)*

UUPC Approval 10-12-2026
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

Prefix PSY **Number** 4733	*(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)* **Lab Code**	**Type of Course** Lecture	**Course Title** AI and Psychology

Credits *(See Definition of a Credit Hour)*: 3

Effective Date *(TERM & YEAR)*: Spring 2027

Grading *(Select One Option)*: Regular ◉ Sat/UnSat ○

Course Description *(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)*

This course introduces psychology students to the basics of artificial intelligence (AI) and its relationship to human thinking, emotions, and behavior. Students will learn how AI is designed to mimic the brain in some ways and how it can support psychologists in research and therapy. We'll also explore how AI can work as part of a team with humans, including how tasks can be shared between people and AI systems. The course doesn't require programming skills or advanced math, focusing instead on clear ideas and practical tools. It offers a blend of foundational knowledge and practical skills for students' academic and professional pursuits.

Prerequisites, with minimum grade*	**Corequisites**	**Registration Controls** *(Major, College, Level)*
PSY 1012 with minimum grade of "C-" and PSY 3234 with minimum grade of "C-"	none	Undergraduate

***Default minimum passing grade is D-.** Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course*

WAC/Gordon Rule Course

☐ Yes ☑ No

WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines.

Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement *(Select One Option)*

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Minimum qualifications to teach course

PhD, knowledge of AI applications in psychology

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone	**List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course**
Andrzej Nowak, Nowak@FAU.EDU	Comments from Chair of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science are attached.

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair	9/30/2026
College Curriculum Chair	10-1-26
College Dean	10/1/26
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	10-12-2026
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Mecoff	10-12-2026
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

AI and Psychology

3 credits
Spring 2027

Instructor Information

Instructor:
Office:
Office hours:
Classroom:
Telephone:
Email:

Course Description

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Types of activities:

Lectures: Interactive sessions introducing theoretical concepts.

Workshops: Hands-on activities using AI tools in psychology.

Case Studies: Real-world applications of AI in clinical and research contexts.

Collaborative Projects: Students work in teams on a project to apply AI tools in psychology, or to use psychological knowledge to study AI and its collaborations with humans

Instructional Method

In-Person

Prerequisites/Corequisites

PSY 1012 with minimum grade of "C-" and PSY 3234 with minimum grade of "C-"

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand how AI works at a basic level and how it relates to human psychology.
2. Explain major psychological processes in computational terms
3. Explore how AI can think, learn, and recognize emotions.
4. Describe how AI systems approximate or diverge from human cognition
5. Understand human–AI interaction from a social psychological perspective
6. Use simple AI tools that psychologists can use for research or therapy
7. Understand how AI agents can assist humans in their tasks
8. Learn how AI systems can work alongside humans in teams
9. Critically assess bias, reasoning errors, and limitations in AI systems
10. Discuss the ethics and challenges of using AI in psychology.

Required Texts/Materials

The Psychology of Artificial Intelligence

ISBN: 9781003088660

Authors: Tony J. Prescott

Publication Date: 2024-01-01

Because the course covers applications across multiple areas of AI and psychology, and the field is rapidly developing, the instructor will draw from several textbooks, research articles, and YouTube videos. Additional reading materials and references will be provided throughout the course.

Supplementary/Recommended Readings

Chetouani, M., Nowak, A, Lukowicz, P. (2026). *Handbook of Human-AI Collaboration*. Springer

Mitchell, M. (2019). *Artificial intelligence: A guide for thinking humans*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Additional readings and links to YouTube videos will be posted by the instructor.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

Establish and implement academic standards.

Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.

Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct University Regulation 4.007.

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Course Evaluation Method

There will be no standardized exams in this course. Your grade will be based on

1. Class Participation and Engagement (30%)
2. Weekly Reflections (20%)
3. Group Presentation (20%)
4. Final Paper (30%)

Timely completion of all the assignments is required. Your letter grade will be based on the total number of points you receive (out of 100 points).

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh

penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences on grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal with individual cases of non-attendance at any time. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed due to legitimate class absences, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligations, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Attendance is required and checked. A student can have only three unexcused absences. Any additional unexcused absence will lower the grade. Missing more than 5 meetings without officially documented excuse will result in failing the course.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at www.fau.edu/regulations.

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University's established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

Title IX Statement

In any case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report the matter to the University Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX (OCR9). If University faculty become aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct, they are expected to report it to OCR9. If a report is made, someone from OCR9 and/or Campus Victim Services will contact you to make you aware of available resources including support services, supportive measures, and the University's grievance

procedures. More information, including contact information for OCR9, is available at **https://www.fau.edu/ocr9/title-ix/**. You may also contact Victim Services at **victimservices@fau.edu** or 561-297-0500 (ask to speak to an Advocate) or schedule an appointment with a counselor at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) by calling 561-297-CAPS.

Time Commitment Per Credit Hour

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

Course Grading Scale

GRADES

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100 - 94%
A-	< 94 - 90%
B+	< 90 - 87%
B	< 87 - 83%
B-	< 83 - 80%
C+	< 80 - 77%
C	< 77 - 73%
C-	< 73 - 70%
D+	< 70 - 67%
D	< 67 - 63%
D-	< 63 - 60%
F	< 60 - 0%

Grade Appeal Process

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

ï There was a computational or recording error in the grading.

ï The grading process used non-academic criteria.

ï There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

University Regulation 4.002 of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

Policy on Make-up Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes

Students can turn in work late. However, up to 20% of points may be subtracted for late submission. Students will get an incomplete grade if they do not turn in the class project. This grade will be changed to a letter grade, upon completion of the assignment, if the assignment is turned in no later than 10 days before the university deadline for changing incomplete grades.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject.
Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited.
Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. **[Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence]**

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the

work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the **Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.**

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit **https://fau.edu/ai/citation**

AI Language Specific To This Course

- AI Encouraged: The use of AI to assist in work assigned in this specific course is encouraged for various purposes. The instructor hereby permits the use of AI to assist in work assigned for this course, unless the instructor expressly indicates AI is not permitted on a particular assignment. Use must be properly documented and cited per instructor guidelines (https://fau.edu/ai/citation).

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally, and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual therapy, group therapy, and crisis services, to name a few - offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go

to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

Student Support Services and Online Resources

- Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS)
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- FAU Libraries
- Math Learning Center
- Office of Information Technology Helpdesk
- Center for Global Engagement
- Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)

- Science Learning Center
- Speaking Center
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Athlete Success Center (SASC)
- Testing and Certification
- Test Preparation
- University Academic Advising Services
- University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW)
- Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

Course Topical Outline

Week #	Lecture content
Week 1	**Week 1: Introduction to AI in Psychology Overview of AI**; Fundamentals of AI in psychological contexts. Introduction to neural networks and their relevance to understanding brain functions.
Week 2	**Basics of Neural Networks and Learning Algorithms** Overview of perceptrons, autoassociative networks, and feed-forward networks.
Week 3	**Basics of Generative AI Models** How LLM's work? Introduction to generative image models and their psychological applications. Large multimodal networks
Week 4	**Generative AI and human cognition, similarities and differences**
Week 5	**Learning in AI**: Exploring reinforcement learning and its applications in behavior modeling. Similarities and differences in AI and human learning
Week 6	**Theories of Human-AI interaction and collaboration.** Task allocation and role division in human-AI teams Applying social psychology principles to enhance human-AI interaction Trust, coordination, and shared decision-making
Week 7	**AI in Clinical and Research Applications** AI's role in clinical psychology, including AI-assisted diagnosis. Utilizing AI in psychological research, such as experimental design and emotion recognition.
Week 8	**AI as a Psychological Subject ("Silicon Participants")** AI as experimental participant Validity of AI-generated behavior Designing experiments with LLMs
Week 9	**Social Simulation and Multi-Agent Systems** Multi-agent AI and emergent social dynamics Simulation of cooperation, norms, and polarization
Week 10	**Advanced Applications and Future Directions** AI Teams: Exploring cooperation among AI agents in social settings. Addressing human-AI conflicts and resolution strategies
Week 11	**Ethics and Society** Discussion on the societal implications of AI and ethical considerations. Ethical frameworks for AI, focusing on psychology.
Week 12	**Choosing and developing group project**
Week 13	**Implementing group project**
Week 14	**Presentation of group projects**
Week 15	**Discussion of applications of AI in psychology and implications for society**

From: Hari Kalva
To: Alan Kersten
Cc: Michael Maniaci
Subject: RE: new course proposal for AI and Psychology
Date: Monday, September 28, 2026 11:33:33 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Alan, we support this proposed new course.

Best,
hari

Hari Kalva, Ph.D., FNAI
Chair & Professor
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, FL 33431
w: eecs.fau.edu

From: Alan Kersten <akersten@fau.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Hari Kalva <hkalva@fau.edu>
Cc: Michael Maniaci <mmaniaci@fau.edu>
Subject: new course proposal for AI and Psychology

Dear Hari,
The Psychology Department is planning to submit a new course proposal for an undergraduate course entitled AI and Psychology (PSY 4733). The course proposal form and syllabus are attached. As you know, as part of the course proposal process, we are asked to solicit comments from other units that may be affected (hopefully in a positive way) by the offering of this course. Would you be willing to write a brief letter of support for this new program? We are hoping to submit this course proposal by October 1st, so we would greatly appreciate a response within this time frame. Please let me know if there is someone else within your unit to whom I should be directing this request.
Thanks for considering our proposal.
Thanks,
Alan

FAU Logo

Alan Kersten, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Psychology
Florida Atlantic University
e: akersten@fau.edu