



**Government of Russian Federation**

**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of High Professional  
Education**

**«National Research University Higher School of Economics»**

National Research University  
High School of Economics  
Faculty of Psychology

**Syllabus for the course  
«Theory and methodology of modern  
psychology»**

37.04.01 «Cognitive sciences and technologies: from neuron to cognition»,  
Master of Science

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Approved by: Department of psychology

Recommended by:

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## 1. Teachers

**Author, lecturer:** Joseph MacInnes,

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**Teaching assistant:** TBD

## 2. Scope of Use

The present program establishes minimum demands of students' knowledge and skills, and determines content of the course.

The present syllabus is aimed at department teaching the course, their teaching assistants, and students of the Master of Science program 37.04.01 «Cognitive sciences and technologies: from neuron to cognition».

This syllabus meets the standards required by:

- Educational standards of National Research University Higher School of Economics;
- Educational program «Psychology» of Federal Master's Degree Program 030300.68, 2014;
- University curriculum of the Master's program in psychology (030300.68) for 2014.

## 3. Summary

Psychology is becoming more of an interdisciplinary topic every year, and this master's program is embracing that change. As such, many of our students come from a diverse background and we can't always assume a strong knowledge of theoretical topics in psychology. This course is intended to provide such a background. Topics will include a history of the various approaches to psychology, an overview of current topics and an introduction to the study of psychology as a science.

## 4. Learning Objectives

Learning objectives of the Theory and methodology of modern psychology course is to provide students the basic tools to

1. Understand the role of the scientific method in psychology and neuroscience
2. Read and understand published psychology papers
3. To develop a basic understanding of classic psychology research

## 5. Learning outcomes

After completing the course the student should:

- Be prepared to complete more indepth courses in psychology at the master's level

After completing the study of the discipline «Theory and methodology of modern psychology» the student should have the following competences:



<b>Competence</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Code (UC)</b>	<b>Descriptors (indicators of achievement of the result)</b>	<b>Educative forms and methods aimed at generation and development of the competence</b>
The ability to reflect developed methods of activity.	SC-1	SC-M1	The student is able to reflect developed methods of activity based on main concepts and approaches of psychology	Lectures and tutorials, group discussions, presentations, tests
The ability to independently become acquainted with new research methods, to change scientific profile of activity.	SC-3	SC-M3	The student is able to independently become acquainted with new methods of psychology	Tutorials, group discussions, hands-on-training, seminars.
The ability to conduct professional (including research) activity in international environment.	SC-8	SC-M8	The student is able to conduct professional (including research) activity in international environment regarding main concepts of psychology	Lectures, group discussions, colloquium, projects in mini-groups, discussions of essays.
The ability to communicate orally and in written form in English in the frame of professional and scientific intercourse.	PC-2	IC-M2.1_2.2_2.4.1_2.4.2.	The student is able to discuss problems of cognitive science both orally and in written form.	group discussions, tests, quizzes
The ability to describe problems and situations of professional activity in terms of humanitarian, economic and social sciences to solve problems which occur across sciences, in allied professional fields.	PC-5	IC-M5.3_5.4_5.6_2.4.1	The student is able to describe problems and situations of professional activity in terms of psychology	Lectures, group discussions, tests, examinations
The ability to detect, transmit common goals in the professional and social activities.	PC-8	SPC-M3	The student is able to detect, transmit common goals in the field of psychology	Discussion and analysis of the results of the home task and individual work
The ability to participate in resolution of ideological, social and personally important problems.	PC-10	SPC-M6	The student is able to participate in resolution of ideological, social and personally important problems.	Tutorials, group discussions, presentations.



## 6. Place of the discipline in the Master's program structure

The Theory and methodology of modern psychology course is an attempt to provide students a grounding in psychology and neuroscience. The class is a core course offered by the psychology department of HSE to the first year of the Master's program «Cognitive sciences and technologies». It is required for all students of the Master's program and allow them to learn the essential basics in psychology. The course is designated as pass/fail

### Prerequisites

- There are no prerequisites

### Comparison with the other courses at HSE

This class is unique in that it bridges the gap between bachelors and masters level. Students with degrees in other disciplines will get a grounding in the role of psychology as a science, and students with degrees in psychology will get a review of key topics and an introduction on how those topics are approached at a masters level.

## 7. Schedule

One pair consists of 2 academic hours for lecture or 2 academic hours of practical session (seminar) Please, see the Course description section for assignment of lectures.

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours		Self-study
			Lectures	Seminars	
1.	Historical approaches to psychology	8	2	1	5
2.	Psychology as a science	9	2	1	6
3.	Review of psychology methods	8	2	1	5
4.	Overview of memory	8	2	1	5
5.	Overview of developmental psychology	9	2	1	6
6.	Overview of perception	8	2	1	5
7.	Overview of applied psychology	8	2	1	5
8.	Overview of cognition	9	2	1	6
9.	Overview of spatial	8	2	2	5
10.	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48</b>

## 8. Requirements and Grading

Type of grading	Type of work	Characteristics	
		#	
Type of grading	Midterm Homework	1	Home reading assignments which will appear as potential final exam questions.
	Final Exam(FE)	1	Final exam
	Final project (FP) - Written research summary	1	Written essay



Final	Grade formula	0.6*FE+0.4FP
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## 9. Assessment

*Intermediate assessment* is in the form of a homework assignments. Focus will be primarily readings on a breadth of topics which may appear on the final exam.

*Final assessment* is a written exam. Questions will be entirely essay. Students will be tested on their knowledge, understanding and expression of core psychology topics.

*Final Project* is a written essay. Students will read papers in an area of psychology of their choosing and submit a short review of one paper.

The grades will be given on a scale of 1 to 10 throughout the class.

**Table of Grade Accordance**

ECTS Grade	ten-point scale/ 10-балльная шкала	five-point scale/ 5-балльная шкала
A+	10 (Excellent)	5 (Excellent)/ 5 (отлично)
A	9 (Very Good)	
A-	8 (Very Good)	
B+	7 (Good)	4 (Good)/ 4 (Хорошо)
B	6 (Good)	
C+	5 (Satisfactory)	3 (Satisfactory)/ 3 (Удовлетворительно)
C	4 (Satisfactory)	
F	3 (Fail)	1, 2 (Fail)/ 1, 2 (Неудовлетворительно)
F	2 (Fail)	
F	1 (Fail)	

## 10. Course Description

The following list describes main topics in the order as they will be presented.

- 1 History of Psychology
  - 1.1 Classic theories and approaches in psychology
- 2 Psychology as a science
  - 2.1 How do we approach psychology
  - 2.2 What is inside the 'black box'
- 3 Overview of a psychology journal article
  - 3.1 How to read an article
  - 3.2 How to summarize an article
- 4 Psychology and neuroscience
  - 4.1 How do these fields overlap?
  - 4.2 How can they help each other
- 5 Overview of memory
  - 5.1 Seminars and discussions on classic literature
- 6 Overview of cognition
  - 6.1 Seminars and discussions on classic literature
- 7 Overview of applied psychology
  - 7.1 Seminars and discussions on classic literature
- 8 Overview of perception
  - 8.1 Seminars and discussions on classic literature
- 9 **Examples and Summary**



#### **11. Term Educational Technology**

The following educational technologies are used in the study process:

- discussion and analysis of psychology articles

#### **12. Recommendations for course lecturer**

Course lecturer is advised to use interactive learning methods, which allow participation of the majority of students, such as slide presentations, combined with writing materials on board, and usage of interdisciplinary papers to present connections between all areas of psychology.

The course is intended to be adaptive, but it is normal to differentiate tasks in a group if necessary, and direct fast learners to solve more complicated tasks.

#### **13. Recommendations for students**

The course is interactive. Lectures are combined with classes. Students are invited to ask questions and actively participate in group discussions. There will be special office hours for students, which would like to get more precise understanding of each topic. Teaching assistant will also help you. All tutors are ready to answer your questions online by official e-mails that you can find in the “contacts” section.

#### **14. Final exam**

The final will demonstrate a knowledge of general topics in psychology.

#### **15. Reading and Materials**

This course strives to provide students with an overview of the classic studies in psychology. Readings will be selected from classic models of psychology, but also from a free online textbook.

#### **16. Required Reading**

Selected articles : see below

#### **17. Recommended Reading**

Selected chapters from the open source psychology text book NOBA.  
<http://nobaproject.com/>

#### **18. List of papers for review**

Will be provided as the class progresses

#### **19. Course telemaintenance**

All materials of the discipline are posted in informational educational site. Students are provided with links on relevant papers, tests, electronic books, articles, etc.

#### **15. Equipment**

The course requires a laptop, projector, and acoustic systems.



Lecture materials, course structure and the syllabus are prepared by Joseph MacInnes, Ph.D.