

PSY 121S Introduction to Psychology

3 CREDIT HOURS

Fall (late term) 2026



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Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, 2017; Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, 2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSY 121 is an introduction to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, with an emphasis on neuroscience and behavior (focusing on the brain and nervous system), sensation and perception, learning and memory, thinking and emotion (with an emphasis on stress), personality, lifespan development (especially childhood), social psychology, and mental disorders (including psychoactive drug use and abuse.)

REQUIRED TEXT

Wade, Tavris, Sommers, & Shin (2022) Invitation to Psychology, 8th Edition (Pearson Education, Inc.) v. 1.0

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS:

Week 1		**Assignments Due by Sunday at 11:59pm Unless otherwise stated**
10/19 -	Syllabus and Introduction Week	-Getting Started Assignments (Getting Started Quiz, Getting Started Discussion Board) -Introduction to Psychology Assignment
10/25		
	Chapter 1: What is Psychology?	-Read Chapter 1 -Quiz: Ch. 1 -Theories Assignment
Week 2:		
10/26 -	Chapter 2: The Brain and the Nervous System	-Read Chapter 2 -Quiz: Ch. 2 -Nervous System Assignment
11/1		
	Chapter 3: Sensation and Perception	-Read Chapter 3 -Quiz: Ch. 3 -Sensation and Perception Discussion Board
Week 3:		
11/2 -	Chapter 4: Consciousness and Sleep	-Read Chapter 4 -Quiz: Ch. 4 -Consciousness Assignment
11/8		
	Chapter 5: Learning	-Read Chapter 5 -Quiz: Ch. 5 -Learning Theories Assignment
Week 4:		
11/9 -	Chapter 6: Memory	-Read Chapter 6 -Quiz: Ch. 6 -Memory Assignment
11/15		
	Chapter 7: Thinking and Intelligence	-Read Chapter 7 -Quiz: Ch. 7 -Thinking and Intelligence Assignment

Week 5:		
11/16 -	Chapter 8: The Major Motives	-Read Chapter 8
11/22		-Final Project Research Assignment
	Chapter 9: Emotion, Stress, and Health	-Read Chapter 9
		Quiz: Ch 9
		-Emotions Assignment
Week 6:		
11/23 -	Chapter 10: Development Over the Lifespan	-Read Chapter 10
11/29		-Quiz: Ch.10
		-Development Assignment
	Chapter 11: Social Psychology?	-Read Chapter 11
		-Quiz: Ch. 11
		-Social Psychology Assignment
Week 7:		
11/30 -	Chapter 12: Theories of Personality	-Read Chapter 12
12/6		-Quiz: Ch. 12
		-Personality Discussion Board
	Chapter 13: Psychological Disorders	-Read Chapter 13
		-Quiz: Ch. 13
		-Final Project Draft Assignment
Week 8:		
12/7 -	Chapter 14: Approaches to Treatment and Therapy	-Read Chapter 14
12/12		-Treatment and Therapy Assignment
	Final Project and Presentations Discussion Board	PowerPoint/Work Cited
		Presentation Discussion Board
		Replies to Other Students

ASSIGNMENTS

Students will complete quizzes and assignments each week over the chapters as well as the "getting started" assignments. Each quiz and assignment has a target goal to be met. Students can work to a 100% score on each assignment. To complete them, student must read the chapters first. Then, go through the questions and answer them. The book can be used for all quizzes and assignments.

FINAL PROJECT AND PRESENTATION

Students will each create a 7-10-minute presentation to be given in class over a topic from a list concerning topics within the realm of psychology. The presentation will give a detailed overview of the topic. Only books, journals, and .gov websites can be used for the research. You may use a .gov website to gather stats. Pictures for the PowerPoints are allowed to be posted from the internet, but they must be cited. A rubric will be supplied with the guidelines and grading rubric for the project.

FINAL GRADE STANDARDS

The final grade for the course will represent your instructor's assessment of the overall quality with which you met all the requirements of the course.

EVALUATION METHODS

Assignment	Percentage of the Grade
Quizzes	12 x 10 = 120
Final Project/Presentation	75 + 25 = 100
Assignments	15 x 30 = 450
Total	= **670**

A 90% - 100% = 603 points total or above
B 80% - 89% = 536-602 points total
C 70% - 79% = 469-535 points total
D 60% - 69% = 402-468 points total
F Below 60% = 401 points total or below

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- **High speed internet/Google Chrome/ is recommended:** Although these are not required, they may make your experience better and faster. No late work will be accepted due to technology issues. It is the student's responsibility to insure they are at a reliable computer.
- **Email:** Check your ECC e-mail account frequently for communications about this course. Once a day, Monday through Friday, is the best policy. Emails sent through Blackboard will be located in your Edison email (all students, faculty, and staff are required to use their Edison email account for ALL college communication).
- **Microsoft Office:** This is free to all students, if you don't have it please download it from the Getting Started Folder. All assignments must be submitted in word only

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Edison IT Helpdesk will be open from 8:30 AM until 6:00 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:30 AM until 4 PM on Fridays and are closed on Saturday and Sunday. IT requests after 6:00PM can be sent to support@edisonohio.edu and will be addressed the following business day. If you are locked out on the weekend, immediately go onto the SSRPM and go to "forgot password" enter your security answers and then click to either change your password. If during times the help desk is open, call or email them immediately: 937-778-7957.

TYPE OF CLASS

You must plan to dedicate 9 hours a week to this class (3 hours of class time, 6 hours of reading/homework/study time). This is the typical ratio for a 3-credit class as stated in the Edison Community College Catalog.

SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED by the COLLEGE

Student Support Services Syllabus Statement – Updated 10/5/2026
https://edisonohio.blackboard.com/ultra/integration/bbAssist

ACCOMMODATIONS /ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by

emailing disabilities@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.778.7850. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160.

ADVISING SERVICES

Edison State's career pathway advisors are your partners in success. A career pathway advisor is the first advisor that you will meet with once you have made the decision to further your education. Together, you and your career pathway advisor will:

- Identify the right academic major to set you on your desired career path.
- Identify the courses you'll need to accomplish your academic goals.
- Help you develop a student plan tailored to your lifestyle and work schedule.
- Prepare you to navigate your first semester at Edison State.

You can find your career pathway advisor and faculty advisor information, including their email address, by logging into MyESCC and clicking on Student Planning. Go to Plan and Schedule and click on the Advising tab. You may also call 937-778-7850 to connect via phone call.

BOOKSTORE SERVICES

eCampus is Edison State's official bookstore and is located on the Edison State webpage, under "Resources," "Bookstore," or at https://edisonohio.ecampus.com. You can also access eCampus from the ESCC home page, under "Campus Services." Through eCampus, you can rent or buy books, access course materials, or purchase ESCC merchandise.

CAREER AND JOB SERVICES

Our Career and Job Services advisors are dedicated to helping students and alumni advance their professional development as they make career decisions, develop job search strategies, pursue experiential opportunities and secure employment. Career and Job Services also provides career assessments, career information, resume and cover letter help, job postings and resources, tips for interviewing and more. Visit https://www.edisonohio.edu/Career-and-Job-Services/ for more information.

COMPUTERS

If you are working on campus, computers with internet access are available in the internet café. The Library and Tutoring Center has computers and printers available for your use.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Health and Wellness Services are available on the Edison State Piqua campus. The program is dedicated to providing resources that promote healthy lifestyle choices for our students, faculty and staff and is managed by the Human Resources department.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Edison State library is not only a comfortable place to study, we have an expansive collection of online resources available to help you with your research. Check out the library webpage here: https://www.edisonohio.edu/Library/. Libguides and short instructional videos are available to help you use these resources and can be found at: https://libguides.edisonohio.edu/. Please contact the library staff with any library questions you may have at library@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7950, or stop in!

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

College is stressful! Feeling burned out, anxious, frustrated? When challenges arise that you need help dealing with, it's helpful to have someone to talk to. We have established partnerships with many local mental health providers. If you are struggling and need to speak with someone in person, please reach out to the Edison State Care Team, https://www.edisonohio.edu/CARE-Team/. If you are concerned about a student or colleague, please file a CARE Team form https://www.edisonohio.edu/CARE-Team-Referral-Form/ so that immediate assistance can be given. This link and the CARE Team website can be found under Campus Services on our home page.

STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER AND CHARGER STATION FOOD PANTRIES

Edison State Community College is proud to assist students needing help to obtain basic necessities. The Student Resource Center and Food Pantry is stocked with all kinds of grab-and-go snacks, meal supplies, toiletries, household needs, and community resources. Stop by and check out our Charger Stations in Room 163 at Piqua, in the student lounge at Troy, in the Brooke-Gould Learning Resource Center at Eaton, and in Room 121 (for personal care items) and pantry items in the student lounge at Greenville. If you need additional assistance, please reach out at ResourceCenter@edisonohio.edu.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the Instructor should be the first point of contact
For Log-in or other technology issues:
There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.

During business hours:
• Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts.
• Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday)
o email to support@edisonohio.edu
o call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk

After hours:
• Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts
• Go to www.edisonohio.edu into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".
• Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help

Testing Your Faith Act Policy

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students ' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records, located in "Forms " and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at https://www.edisonohio.edu/servicessupport/student-resources.

TITLE IX STATEMENT - Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

It is the policy of the College to maintain a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence. Title IX federal law protects students, employees and third parties with a relationship to the college.
All Edison State Community College employees are required to report all knowledge of incidents that violate the Title IX policy to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator immediately. Student and employee confidential consultation is available through the Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services.
Title IX Policy and procedure language as well as contact information for the Coordinator of Health and Wellness, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be found at www.edisonohio.edu/TitleIX/.

TUTORING SERVICES

All Edison State students are eligible to receive free tutoring and learning support services through our Tutoring Center. Available services include Edison State tutors, both online and in-person, covering a wide variety of courses including various levels of math and paper reviews, online tutoring through OhioLINK eTutoring, distraction-reduced study rooms, and the use of Tutoring Center resources including subject-specific and general study guides. For more information on tutoring services, visit the Tutoring Center in the Library, email us at tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu, call 937-778-7959, or visit our webpage at https://www.edisonohio.edu/tutoring-center/

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For additional help, please click the ASSIST tab on Blackboard or the Edison State Student Resources folder within your course.

The Student Wellness Center helps students navigate obstacles which might cause issues or create a sense of distress during your school year. Edison State has built a network of health professionals to support students. With these partnerships, the Student Wellness Center can assist students who need support in areas such as:

- Recovery and Counseling referral
- Housing
- Food
- Physical well-being

Information and education are also provided on the topics of:

- Alcohol and drug abuse and prevention
- Sexual assault prevention and awareness
- Building healthy relationships
- Inclusion and belonging
- Survivor support
- Self-care
- Anti-Hazing

If you are struggling and need to speak with someone in person, please reach out to Velina Bogart, Coordinator of Student Wellness, at vbogart@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7854, Room 193 (next door to the Security Office).

Walk in hours on campus are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8am-5pm. Hours may vary according to the college schedule or events. You may schedule an appointment by clicking here.

If this is a medical emergency, please call 911. If this is a mental health emergency, please call 988. Please note that the Charger Station Food Pantry has been relocated to Room 060 (next to the cafeteria).

POLICY STATEMENTS

READINGS

Students are expected to have all chapters read prior to the class starting the topics. It is important to remember this is COLLEGE and expecting to be taught the book rather than reading it is not college level behavior. Lectures are supplemental to the book and will cover aspects not in the book. Students are responsible for any information in the book.

ELECTRONICS

No recording of lectures - Lectures are recorded and will be opened on Blackboard for review prior to the exams.

SUBMITTING YOUR PAPERS

Submit papers accessed by the link "View/Complete Assignment," at the bottom of the assignment. Follow the directions for attaching your paper. When you are ready to submit your work, you must click the "submit" button. Be careful that you do not click on "submit" until you're ready for your paper to be sent. This is an irrevocable step: once you have clicked "submit" you cannot get back the submission.

1. First, click on the "View/Complete"
2. Browse and Upload the assignment in WORD .doc, or .docx **NO GOOGLE DOCS ARE ALLOWED!!**
3. Look at what it uploaded. If it is the right assignment, click SUBMIT
4. You will be shown and emailed a digital receipt for all submissions. *You must hold onto these*.
5. **Print the digital receipt or make a screen copy!**

6. Save that document as if any technical issues do arise, that will have the tracking information
7. Students are responsible for checking this. If it is not given, submit again to be sure.

NEXT:

1. Then, also check to ensure that the assignment was received by looking at "My Grades".
2. An exclamation mark means you have submitted the assignment and it is waiting to be graded.

LATE WORK POLICY

This is a professional classroom; therefore, everyone will be treated like responsible adults with the capability of meeting deadlines. Each module requires 18 hours of class time for regular activities as stated in the course catalog. That means, students have 168 hours to complete 18 hours of class time work. Students must plan ahead as this is plenty of time to complete the course work.

However, it is understood that sometimes things happen. Therefore, late work is based on a case-by-case evaluation. It is very important to stay in touch with the professor and discuss issues the moment they arise. This means back and forth conversation is required prior to the due date. If the request becomes a pattern, the professor privilege will be lost (i.e. do not wait till the day assignments are due to start them). This is for legitimate issues only; procrastination is not a reason to ask for more time.

To qualify to be allowed to submit late work, prior to the deadline, students must:

1) Contact the teacher via email to discuss the reason more time is needed
2) Agree upon a new due date that the work would be submitted by which must be approved prior to 7pm on Sunday night
3) Students cannot start the new module until the late assignments are submitted. If the student does, the late assignment will be a zero

If these steps are not taken, the assignment will be a zero once the deadline has passed.

No assignments will be accepted late for the last module.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Because engaging in dishonest practices undermines the trust that is essential in any social relationship, honesty is expected in all matters. Academic honesty requires that you never submit another's work as your own. You will not plagiarize from a printed source, an electronic source, or another student's work, nor will you have someone else do your work.

You are plagiarizing if you:

- Submit someone else's work as your own.
- Buy a paper from a papermill, website or other source.
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else's work, published or unpublished, without giving the original author credit. (put in quotation marks and cited to the quote's exact location)
- Replace select words from a passage without giving the original author credit. (changing a few words does not make it your idea)
- Copy any type of multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else's work without giving the original author credit.
- Piece together phrases, ideas, and sentences from a variety of sources to write an essay.
- Build on someone else's idea or phrase to write your paper without giving the original author credit.

- Submit your own paper in more than one course.

See how to properly paraphrase, quote and cite sources at OWL Purdue Writing Lab. Any plagiarism (even 1 sentence) will result in a zero on the assignment and submitted for academic dishonesty. The second offense in the course and the student will automatically fail the course and could face expulsion. More information about plagiarism is in the Getting Started Folder.

IMPORTANT PRACTICES

Make the following part of your routine.

- Review the Blackboard manuals on the tools. Don't wait until an assignment is due before you refresh your memory on how to use these tools. "Blackboard@ Edison"(see Bb STUDENT HELP) contains helpful FAQs and tutorials you may want to check before you ask for help. The Blackboard "User Manual" is available in the TOOLS section of the course.
- Check your Edison e-mail account frequently for communications about this course. Once a day, Monday through Friday, is not too often.
- Time management is crucial. Establish a regular schedule with sufficient time allocated to the study of psychology and adhere to it.
- "Once over" is inadequate for mastering the content and skills of psychology. Review frequently. **Plan to spend six hours a week outside of class to start and adjust up or down as needed.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HOMEPAGE: You can access the homepage of the College at www.edisonohio.edu

LEARNING CENTER: All students enrolled at Edison are eligible to receive learning assistance services. Learning assistance services including tutoring, eTutoring, and the use of The Learning Center are free to Edison students. To meet with a tutor or to receive more information on services, visit room 560 in the Library, call 778-7959, or visit http://www.edisonohio.edu/Learning-Center/.

LIBRARY For all your research and information needs, the library provides excellent reference and research assistance. The Edison Library is part of the OhioLINK (Ohio Library and Information Network) consortium. We provide access to the following materials:

- 25,000 items in the Edison Library
- 49.5 million items from 90+ academic libraries (sent to the Edison Library for free)
  - Millions of full text electronic articles via the databases and Electronic Journal Center
  - 200+ electronic research databases (containing reliable, credible sources for research assignments)
  - 80,000+ ebooks
  - Thousands of digital images, videos and sounds
  - Expert reference/research assistance from professional Librarians

For more information, contact the Library at 937-778-7950 or library@edisonohio.edu, or visit http://www.edisonohio.edu/Library/.

COMPUTERS: If you are working on campus, computers with internet access are available in the internet café. The Learning Center has computers and printers available for your use.

CAREER CENTER: The career center is available to assist you in learning job search skills and exploring career goals. See the Career Center webpage for the hours the center is open and other information.

MISCONCEPTIONS

- **Distance-learning courses are easy.**

  Distance-learning courses are different from traditional courses, but not easier. Distance-learning courses "will have the same quality and academic integrity as traditional on-campus courses conducted in the classroom." In fact, distance-learning courses require a special discipline and persistence and perhaps greater self-reliance than traditional classroom courses. The work load is no less, and may be more, since you have to make up for the three hours you will not spend in direct instruction in a classroom. The time required varies depending on the type of assignments you have in a given week and—this is important!—varies with your reading speed and

comprehension and your writing and typing skills. For each module, start with a schedule that allows eighteen hours a week for this course. You can adjust up or down as you gain familiarity with the requirements of the course.

- **In distance-learning courses the work is self-paced.**
  Although you will not meet in a classroom twice a week, this course is no more self-paced than a traditional class. You have assignments to read and write; there are quizzes and exams to take: this work has to be completed within a specific time. Assignments will be posted for several weeks rather than just one. Procrastination is not a good idea.

- **The distance-learning course, the Internet, and e-mail are available twenty-four hours a day: my instructor must be available, too.**
  Your instructor is here to help you, but not twenty-four hours a day, every day. Your instructor has other responsibilities and has a life. See the section on communication for information about getting in touch with your instructor. Plan your work so that there is adequate time for communication when you need help. There is no distance-learning EMS. Students need to respect that the world does not revolve around them and that if they wait till the day an assignment is due and have issues, the professor may not respond to the email. The response time of an online class is 48 hours. Your instructor will try to answer emails as soon as possible; however, it could be the next day. Ask all questions by Thursday night to allow for the response time.

  Remember, you would be furious if an instructor emailed you and told you that you had to respond to an email right away or else you would be penalized. You wouldn't want professors to think that your life revolved around your email. Apply the same concept to the instructors.

NETIQUETTE

In our virtual classroom, you will communicate with your classmates and instructor using e-mail. Your online conduct is referred to as "netiquette.

- Be courteous and respectful of your colleagues.
- Rude, abusive, or profane language can have consequences for your continuing in the course.
- FOR EMAILS: Think before you write. Unlike a traditional class where we can see and speak to each other, an online course does not allow us to use nonverbal cues (facial expressions, tone of voice, gestures). Remarks that might be humorous when spoken can easily be misconstrued when written. Choose your words with care to lessen the chance that you will be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Do not write messages in all capital letters. This is considered SHOUTING.

Week 4

Psychology of Memory Retention Assignment

1. Read the following attached article:

Psychology of Memory Retention.pdf

2. Answer the following prompts in paragraph form with a minimum of 400 words total (a numbered list with full sentence responses is fine):

a. Write out the correct reference for this article. See APA tab for guidance on how to properly write out references. (1 sentence and see the articles reference page for how it should look).

b. State the purpose of the article/study (1-2 sentences).

c. According to the article, what are 3 characteristics of effective studying?

d. According to the article, why should you and how do you use vocabulary cards/memory cards?

e. According to the article, why should you and how do you use crib sheets?

f. According to the article, how does studying beyond rereading class notes prior to a test improve long-term memory retention?

3. Submit the assignment to the dropbox below.

Thinking and Intelligence Assignment

Instructions:

> Answer the following prompts in 400+ words total.
> 1 Define intelligence and the difference between its crystallized and fluid forms.
> 2 Summarize the notion of IQ, how it is measured, its limitations, and the challenges to assessing it across cultures.
> 3 Describe what metacognition, the triarchic theory of intelligence, multiple intelligences, and emotional intelligence are and how they shed light on the diversity of what "intelligence" means.
> 4 Outline how longitudinal and cross cultural studies shed light on the interplay of motivation, hard work, and intellectual achievement.
> 5 What are cognitive schemas?
>
> Submit the assignment to the dropbox below.

Week 5

For this assignment:

1. Read the following attached article:

Structural Stigma, Minority Stress, and Health Disparities.pdf

2. Answer the following prompts in paragraph form with a minimum of 400 words total (a numbered list with full sentence responses is fine):

a. Write out the correct reference for this article. See APA tab for guidance on how to properly write out references. (1 sentence and see the articles reference page for how it should look).

b. State the purpose of the article/study (see abstract) (1-2 sentences).

c. According to the article, what is structural stigma (p. 574)?

d. According to the article, what does the minority stress model state (p. 574)?

e. According to the article, describe the psychological and physical effects of experiencing minority stress.

f. According to the article, how does structural stigma cause minority stress?

g. According to the article, what were the authors' conclusions?

3. Submit the assignment to the dropbox below.

Final Project Scaffolding Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

*Before you begin this assignment, review the 'final project module', including the instructions, and make sure you reply to the discussion board in the 'topic choices and discussion board' folder with your topic. If your topic is not on the list, email the professor your topic idea for approval. Also, email the professor your topic for guidance, if interested.

The purpose of this assignment is to begin finding sources for your final project. You will be able to copy and paste information from this assignment as need be into your final project slides, including the references you are about to gather.

Instructions:

Search through the library and find FOUR academic journals and books related to the topic you selected (see final project topic selection folder) to be used for this assignment and the final project that support the main points you want to make. You may also use a general search engine search as need be to explore your topic.
Look at the example in the attached file above to see how to structure the annotated bibliography. Mine is more extensive than yours needs to be, but I used that as an example, so you can see what an upper level one looks like.
Place reference in text first just like you would in a reference section for each of the 8 articles or websites.
For each article and below the reference for each article:
(a) describe the purpose of the article and
(b) their findings, along with
(c) any information from the introduction, discussion, and conclusion sections that will be relevant for your final project. You will be able to copy and paste from this assignment into your final project, so it will benefit you to be thorough and set yourself up.
The word count for each annotation should be 100-250 words.
Submit the assignment to the dropbox below.