

General Psychology Fall 2011

Psychology 101:12

Tuesday, Thursday, 7th Period, 7:15 - 8:35 pm

Hickman 101

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Office: 227 Tillet Hall, Livingston Campus

Office hours: TBA

TA TBA

Read the syllabus all the way to the end. It contains important information. On the first day of class, please ask questions about anything you do not understand. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information and requirements in the syllabus.

Required Text: Kalat *Introduction to Psychology*, 9th Edition loose-leaf edition, hardback OR ebook OR Comer & Gould *Psychology Around Us*. Comer & Gould is available at New Jersey Books in New Brunswick in a custom looseleaf version. Kalat is Available at New Jersey Books in New Brunswick, and online as an ebook through cengagebrain.com. (You may preview the first chapter for free, and purchase 180 day access either a chapter at a time or for the entire book.) I **RECOMMEND the ebook option** as both the economic choice and the best choice for the environment.

Required Clicker: Turning Technologies RF Clicker. **Warning:** If you purchase a used clicker, also purchase replacement batteries. The batteries are designed to last for an academic year.

Participation in research is also required, resulting in accumulation of Research Participation Units (RPUs). You are required to accumulate at least 5 RPUs. There are two options for satisfying this requirement (described below).

Objectives of the course

1. Students will develop a broad understanding of major topics in contemporary psychology.
2. Students will begin to develop the skills to critically evaluate media reports about behavioral research findings.
3. Students will be introduced to principles of learning and to meta-cognitive skills important for success in college.
4. Students will be exposed to applications of psychological knowledge and principles in family, social, clinical, educational, and business settings.

Exams: There will be three cumulative exams. The third exam is the final. The second and final exams will place greatest emphasis on the recently covered material. Exams may be written, online, or clicker exams.

Academic integrity: Sanctions for cheating can result in failing the course or for more severe violations, temporary or permanent separation from the university. Familiarize yourself with the university's policies on academic integrity by visiting the following website <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/> and reading the material for students. I take violations of the academic integrity policies very seriously and have taken and will continue to take action against students who violate the policies. Keep in mind that cheating on an exam or a paper can completely derail your future plans and ambitions.

Required On-line quizzes: These are on the Sakai site. Quizzes are required and are part of your grade.

Before coming to classes read the assigned materials and take the quizzes associated with the reading and the upcoming lectures. In general, there will be an 8 to 20 item Chapter Assessment associated with the material covered each week. Quizzes may contain review items from previous chapters. Don't wait until right before the deadline to take a quiz. **If you forget to take a quiz before the deadline, you get a zero.** The quizzes will be available for a week. Your two lowest scores will be dropped from the calculation of your on-line average. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a quiz, I can reset your access. I keep track of this, and will only grant ONE reset per student.

Ungraded review quizzes will be available on-line before each exam. You will be able to take these review exams more than once. These review quizzes are not required and the scores do not affect your grade.

In-class Response System and Quizzes: Most classes will include 5 - 10 questions as in- class quizzes. These will be presented one or two items at a time, during lecture. You will answer the questions by using your radio-frequency "clicker" to indicate your choice of answer. Correct answers will be worth 2 points; answering will be worth 1 point. Some questions will have been presented in the on-line quiz prior to class. You are responsible for **registering** the six character code on the back of your clicker on Sakai (under Tests & Quizzes) and remembering to bring your clicker to class. You are responsible for checking your quiz scores on-line after each class. If no score is posted, no responses were recorded from your clicker and you get no points. As clickers sometimes stop working, it is important that you check to make sure you have a score posted after each class. If your clicker stops working, you will probably need to get new batteries or a new clicker. If it is a new clicker, see me or the bookstore. If you have a score for your clicker **THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS REGISTERED ON SAKAI.**

At the end of the term, your clicker average will be computed based on the score you received for each quiz. The average will be computed on the basis of four fewer quizzes than were actually given. What does that mean? You can forget your clicker, or it can malfunction, or you can miss class for a total of up to four times and not lose points. If you always come to class, and answer most of the questions correctly, your average will be capped at 100 points, but you will improve your clicker average by always being in class and answering questions. If any student "clicks" in for another, both students will lose all of their clicker points for the course.

Research participation units (RPU). Departmental policy requires that General Psych students either participate in experiments or write two reports summarizing published scholarly research papers. **Failing to get your RPU requirement completed can ruin a good grade.** Follow this link for more details: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>

If you do not complete the RPU requirement, your point total will be reduced by half a standard deviation before a grade is assigned. For example, assume you have earned 475 of the available points, which would be an A, and the standard deviation is 60 points. Now assume you have not met the RPU requirement. Your point total is reduced to 445 points. This would reduce your grade from an A to a B. Depending on the distribution of points, and how many you've earned, the impact could be even worse.

The deadline for completing RPUs is the week before classes end. If you choose not to participate in experiments, Option 2 requires two papers. The first paper is due Monday, October 12 at the latest. The second paper is due Tuesday, December 1, at the latest. Papers must be submitted electronically via the Sakai website.

Behavior in class: As adults, all students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to learning in a large lecture environment. However, should your behavior be perceived by me to be disruptive to fellow students in the class, I will ask you to leave the classroom, and if this occurs again, then you or any disruptive student may be judged unable to successfully complete the course with a passing grade. Your cell phone ringer should be set to vibrate, you should not be texting in class, and if you are using a laptop, it should be to take lecture notes. You should not be talking to other students during lecture or videos. Even though classes are large, all instructors have continuously updated photo rosters of their classes, so we can identify students by name. It is best not to be anonymous to your professors, but it is better to be known for your good questions, rather than rude behavior.

Attendance and Absences: You are expected to attend all classes unless you are ill or involved in a university sponsored event. Absences for religious observances and participation in university sponsored events (such as varsity athletics) will be excused and you will be permitted to make up any missed work. The university has implemented a system for student self-reporting of absences. If you are going to be absent or have been absent, you are expected to report that through the system. A link to the Student Self-Reporting of Absences system is posted below.

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

(Keep scrolling down. Print the next section and paste it on your bulletin board.)

| Week | Dates | General Psychology 101 Hickman 7:15 - 8:35 pm Topic/Assignments: Online Quizzes every week; in-class clicker quizzes most days |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Th Sept 1 | Introductory podcast on line. Succeeding in this and other classes at Rutgers and Chapter 1: What is Psychology Bring your clicker to class |
| 2 | T Sept 6 Th Sept 8 | Chapter 2: Scientific Method in Psychology. Thursday designated as Monday; therefore our class does NOT MEET |
| 3 | T Sept 13 Th Sept 16 | Chapter 3: Biological Psychology: Clicker Quizzes begin to count |
| 4 | T Sept 20 Th Sept 23 | Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception. Clicker quiz |
| 5 | T Sept 27 Th Sept 29 | Chapter 5: Nature Nurture and Human Development, Clicker Quiz Thursday: class does not meet; podcast of lecture available on line |
| 6 | T Oct 4 Th Oct 6 | Finish and review; Clicker quiz, Review quiz online Thursday: EXAM 1: Chapters 1 - 5 |
| 7 | T Oct 11 Th Oct 13 | First Paper for Option 2-RPU due Monday October 10, midnight Chapter 6: Learning, clicker quiz Thursday Chapter 7: Memory. Unplugged lecture; podcast on line |
| 8 | T Oct 18 | Learning & Memory continued, clicker quiz |

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| | Th Oct 20 | Chapter 8: Cognition and LanguageUnplugged lecture; podcast on line |
| 9 | T Oct 25 | TOPIC 9: Intelligence clicker quiz |
| | Th Oct 27 | Chapter 10 : Consciousness, clicker quiz |
| 10 | T Nov 1 | Chapter 11: Motivated Behaviors, clicker quiz |
| | Th Nov 3 | |
| 11 | T Nov 8 | Tuesday: Exam 2, Chapters 6 - 11, some review |
| | Th Nov 10 | Chapter 12 Emotion, Stress and Health, clicker quiz |
| 12 | T Nov 15 | Chapter 12 continued; start Chapter 13, clicker quiz |
| | Th Nov 17 | Chapter 13 Social Psychology Clicker Quizzes |
| 13 | T Nov 22 | Chapter 13 continued |
| | Th Nov 25-NO CLASS | Thanksgiving break |
| 14 | T Nov 29 | <i>Second paper for Option 2 - RPU Due Monday, Nov 28</i> |
| | Th Dec 1 | TOPIC 14 Personality, Clicker Quizzes |
| 15 | T Dec 6 | Chapters 15 and 16 Abnormality, Therapy and Social Issues; Specific Disorders and Treatments clicker quizzes |
| | Th Dec 8 | |
| 16 | T Dec 13 | Last day of class, clicker quiz |
| | T Dec 20 | FINAL EXAM 8 pm - 11 pm, Cumulative with emphasis on chapters 12 - 16 |

Grading: Grades will be based on a point system, as follows:

Exams: 100 points each 300 points

Clicker Average Maximum of 100 points

On-line quizzes Average score 100 points

Grading standards: Remember points are DEDUCTED from your total if you do not complete your RPU requirement.

A: 450 points

B: 400 points

C: 350 points

D: 300 points

F: 250 points

Grades: I do not change grades unless a computational error has been made. Begging, crying, attempted bribes will not work. If you need a certain average to stay in school, to keep financial aid, to get into

graduate or professional school, or just to keep your parents from nagging you, read the textbook every week, attend class regularly, make sure your clicker is working, study actively, take the quizzes, review frequently. Elaborative encoding, elaborative rehearsal, and distributed review of course material will lead to greatly improved retention of the material and decent grades in this and almost every course.

Missed exams: If you miss an exam, in general, you get a zero. Don't miss exams. If you have an unavoidable conflict, let me know ahead of time. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, death in the family) you will have to produce documentation; with acceptable documentation, we can make arrangements for a makeup.

BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS. If you arrive after the first student has turned in an exam, you will not be admitted to the exam and will have to take a makeup.

Special arrangements: If you are entitled to extended testing time or other testing accommodations, provide me with the documentation from the Office of Disability Services, and I will work with them to arrange alternate administration of your exams. Identify yourself early in the term. If you wait until just before an exam, there may be a considerable delay.

If things go horribly wrong in this course, other courses, or your life:the University has many resources to help you. The faculty and staff want you to thrive at the University and to succeed academically and socially. Ask for help as soon as you realize there is a problem. If you don't know what resources are available, I will refer you. The transition to life at a large university, or from a community college to a university, is difficult for many students. You are not alone and there are resources to help you.