

Welcome to GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 830:101

PROFESSOR:

Dr. Mark West
Busch Psychology Bldg., Rm. 225
Office hours: After class, or
by appointment any time

[email me](#)

REQUIRED:

1. Introduction to Psychology, 9th ed.
Author: James W. Kalat
2. electronic Study Guide

Also available for students interested in further reading about any topic in Psychology:
[INFOTRAC](#)

[Exam scores: SAS Gradebook](#)

Your final grade will be determined from the average of your numeric scores on the three exams, plus in-class participation using your clicker. These averages will be curved to determine final grades.

Reading assignments: All 16 chapters of the textbook will be covered, in sequence, by 12 lectures in 14 weeks. Therefore, if you read 1 chapter per week, you will fall behind.

You will **not** be responsible for:

- (appendix to Chap. 2)
- (color vision in Chap. 4)
- (hypnosis in Chap. 10)
- (personality traits in Chap. 14)
- (all of Chapter 15)

EXAMS:

Exam 1 Chapters 1-5
Exam 2 Chap. 6-10
Exam 3 Chap. 11-16
(excluding Chap. 15)

All three exams will be held in the same lecture hall we use for class meetings. Each exam will occur after about 8 or 9 class meetings. Exam 3 will be held during finals week, according to Rutgers final exam schedule.

Absence from an exam will be excused only in rare cases, such as illness or family emergency. Notify the professor (732-445-2576) prior to or during exam time. Prepare written documentation of your absence (physician's note, police report, etc.). **Make-up exams are difficult.**

The 3 exams will be weighted equally. Each will consist of multiple choice questions. Exam 3 will cover Chapters 11-16 and also will contain some integrative questions requiring you to connect main concepts from one chapter with those of another chapter (but will not be cumulative). Specifically 90% of Exam III will cover Chap. 11-16 and 10% will be integrative. Exam scores and in-class participation are the only determinants of your final grade; no credit will be given for extra work. Always bring No. 2 pencils to exams to mark your answer sheets.

The exams cover the reading assignments, which are the sole source of material for my

lectures. Here's the most effective way to succeed in the course. Above all, it's imperative to read and study the textbook and test yourself with the study guide. Keep pace with the lecture schedule because of the large amount of material, and because some chapters are more difficult than others. Read the material before lecture, get your questions answered in class, then go back and study the material afterward. Around 24 hours after class is highly effective. Use the study guide to challenge your knowledge: it's more important to identify what you don't understand than what you do understand, so that you can correct any deficiencies before the exam. Don't wait until the exam reveals what you don't understand, as many students unfortunately do, only to see the correct answers too late. The study guide, when used to rigorously test yourself, simulates this process of enlightenment.

Most students are either unprepared for the type of exam I give, or are not expecting exams of this type in Intro to Psychology. They may be accustomed to exams that ask for simple "regurgitation" of factual information. Here's what to expect: my exams consist only of thought questions that test comprehension of concepts. I specifically do not ask for simple recall of factual information. Instead, questions require you to recall the information and use it thoughtfully to arrive at the correct answer. Your success in this process will directly reflect how much you've challenged yourself beforehand and organized facts into clear understanding by using the study guide. So don't panic when, immediately after reading each exam question, the correct answer isn't obvious. I don't want the answer to be obvious; I want you to think! Please ask me during the exam to clarify any uncertainty you may have about an exam question.

Academic Integrity: Ethical conduct is the obligation of all students and faculty. Any involvement with cheating will be reported to the Dean's Office and can result in expulsion from the University.

Gen Psych Experimental Credit Requirement. Research is an essential part of the field of psychology. It is important for students to be exposed to either actual participation as a subject in an experiment, or at the very least, to learn from technical articles how research is done. Therefore, all sections of General Psychology require either experiment participation or an alternative assignment: writing a paper. To sign up as a subject for these experiments, to learn more about this requirement, (or to learn the detailed requirements for the paper assignment), please visit the Psychology Undergraduate web site and click on:

["Sign up for experiments"](#)