

General Psychology

12:00am-11:50am

Instructor: Lyra Stein, PhD

Email: Lyra@rci.rutgers.edu

Office: 519 Tillett Hall

Office Hours: By appointment after class

Required Text:

Introduction to Psychology 9th edition by James W. Kalat, ISBN: 9780495810766

Goals of this class:

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the mind. As such it is a diverse field dealing with everything from biology/physiology to learning development to social interaction. This is an introductory course and we will only be able to skim the surface of as many topics allowed in 6 weeks. The goal of this course is to give you an overview of each subfield of psychology so you can leave with a basic understanding of psychology. In addition, I hope to expose you to the scientific study of psychology to help you evaluate issues that you will read about in the popular press and encounter in everyday life.

Office Hours:

Office Hours will be held by appointment after class at my office on Livingston Campus in Tillett Hall, room 519. Feel free to set up an appointment to discuss the course material or any questions you may have about courses and careers in psychology.

Website

Given that this is a hybrid class, it is necessary that you use your eden email address and log into the Sakai site frequently.

In the Classroom

Please turn off all cell phones before the beginning of class. My philosophy of education includes active participation in class as I don't want to have to lecture for 2 hours. In my experience, this format only works when everyone puts effort into being prepared for class and actively participating in discussions. When it does work, it is similar to the kinds of interaction which will help you in your courses and your careers. You are fortunate to be registered for this class in the summer when the class is small and can facilitate open discussion.

Online

For each chapter, starting with chapter 2 you will post to the discussion board. I will split you into groups for each chapter and I will give you a topic to discuss. You are required to respond to the discussion question and then respond to my follow-up question. You must make your posts by the date indicated on the syllabus.

Attendance

I will take attendance at each class and this will count toward extra credit. If you need to miss a class, please let me know beforehand by sending me an email.

Examinations

There will be two hourly examinations, each consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions and a final consisting of 75 multiple-choice questions. You will also have 5 online quizzes. Dates of these exams are listed on the class calendar. Exam questions will cover material reviewed during class, online and assigned text reading. You are responsible for all material in the chapters assigned unless otherwise indicated.

In addition, you will have a few surprise in class quizzes which will count as extra credit and will be given at the beginning of class. The reason for the extra credit quizzes is to make sure you keep up with the readings and do not wait until the last minute to study for exams.

Make up exam policy:

You need to provide both (1) advance notice of your absence to me (via email or phone) AND (2) acceptable documentation for the absence (e.g., an excuse from a doctor, a death notice, obituary, or funeral notice, a police report, etc.). Unless both of these criteria are met, you will not be permitted to take a make-up. Make-up exams will be in essay format.

Studying:

Inevitably every semester there are students who are not happy with their grades and seem to not be concerned until the day before the final. Please do not put yourself in that position and make sure that you keep up with the class through out the semester. I know that the summer is tough since the class is compressed into 6 weeks and you would rather be outside basking in the sun. The following are some tips on how you should study for the exams:

If you want to learn the subject matter well, read the assigned material before the lecture, review the power points after the lecture, quickly go over it again a day or two later, and then re-read the notes and the chapter for a few days before the exam. Memory researchers have established that you will understand and remember something better by studying it several times spread out over days than by studying the same amount of time all at once. Also, of course, the more total time you spend studying, the better.

When you study, don't just read the text and lecture notes but stop and think about the material. The more actively you use the material, the better you will remember it. Also test yourself using flashcards. Go through the lecture notes and write the name of the concept on the front and the definition on the back. Don't worry about memorizing the definition word for word as it would be better to try to use each word in a sentence or think of examples for each term.

Research requirement:

You are required to participate in research over the semester. However, you will have the option of

(1) participating psychology research as a subject ("experimental participation credits")
OR

(2) B) Find a short journal article to read (see Psychological Science if logged into a Rutgers computer: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/PSCI?cookieSet=1>). Write a brief description of the study that identifies the research question, the dependent variable, the independent variable, and design type (correlational and/or experimental). If there are many DVs and IVs then just report the most important ones. Then turn in both the first page of the article and your description. (2), confer with me for approval of your selected article, and for format, content, and length requirements. (The summary will count as extra credit if you also participate in a study)

Additional credit:

There will also be many opportunities for extra credit through out the semester. I will be presenting you with review questions in class that will be worth 1 extra credit point toward your exam grade for everyone in your group.

1) You will also have many opportunities to participate in ongoing research in the psychology department and in addition to the one required study you may participate in any other studies for 2 extra credit points each.

2) Summarize a journal article (see Psychological Science if logged into a Rutgers computer: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/PSCI?cookieSet=1>) for 2 extra credit points (limit 2).

3) Find an article relating to one of the topics we are studying in the popular press (Psychology Today, Scientific American Mind, New York Times, Time magazine, etc.) and summarize the article and relate it to the topic covered in class for 2 extra credit points (limit 2).

Evaluation:

Evaluations are based on:

Two hourly exams (50 questions) each worth 40%,
Final examination worth (75 questions) 30%
Five quizzes worth (20 questions each) 20%,
Discussion Posts (16 total) 10%

A	90-100	C+	76- 79
B+	86- 89	C	70- 75
B	80- 85	D	60- 69

****Schedule of Reading Assignments and Exams****

****(All dates are approximate and changes will be announced in class)****

Date	Material
7/09	Introduction <u>Chapter 1: What is Psychology</u> <u>Chapter 2: Scientific Methods in Psychology</u>
7/10 online	<u>Chapter 3: Biological Psychology</u>
7/11	<u>Chapter 3: Biological Psychology</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 2 due at 11:59pm
7/12 online	<u>Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception</u>
7/16	<u>Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 3 due at 11:59pm Online quiz on chapters 1-4 open from 7/16-7/19
7/17 online	<u>Chapter 5: Nature, Nurture, Human Development</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 4 due at 11:59pm
7/18	<u>Chapter 6: Learning</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 5 due at 11:59pm
7/19 online	<u>Chapter 7: memory</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 6 due at 11:59pm Online quiz on chapters 5-7 open from 7/19-7/22
7/23	Discussion Posts for chapter 7 due at 11:59pm Exam 1 Chapters 1-7

7/24 online	<u>Chapter 8: Cognition and Language</u>
7/25	<u>Chapter 9: Intelligence</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 8 due at 11:59pm
7/26 online	<u>Chapter 10: Consciousness</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 9 due at 11:59pm
7/30	<u>Chapter 11: Motivated Behaviors</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 10 due at 11:59pm Online quiz on chapters 8-11 open from 7/30-8/2
7/31 online	<u>Chapter 12: Emotions, Stress and Health</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 11 due at 11:59pm
8/1	<u>Chapter 13: Social Psychology</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 12 due at 11:59pm
8/2 online	<u>Chapter 13: Social Psychology</u> Online quiz on chapters 12-13 open from 8/2 -8/5
8/6	Discussion Posts for chapter 13 due at 11:59pm Exam 2 Chapters 8 -13
8/7 online	<u>Chapter 14: Personality</u>
8/8	<u>Chapter 15: Abnormality, Therapy and Social Issues</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 14 due at 11:59pm
8/9 online	<u>Chapter 16: Specific Disorders and Treatments</u> Discussion Posts for chapter 15 due at 11:59pm Online quiz on chapters 14-16 open from 8/9 -8/14

8/13	Catch up/Review Discussion Posts for chapter 16 due at 11:59pm
8/14 online	Review
8/15	Final