

# General Psychology (01:830:101:H6)

## Summer 2011

**Instructor:** David Stout, Ph.D.

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**Office:** TBD

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursday from 5:15pm-5:45pm. Otherwise, by appointment.

### **Textbook:**

Myers, D. (2010). *Psychology* (9th ed.). New York, NY: Worth.

The text is available in the Livingston bookstore.

### **Additional readings:**

Your instructor will periodically supply you with additional supplemental readings.

### **Course Description:**

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. This course will provide a survey of main topics in psychology including the historical and contemporary perspectives, research methods, biopsychology, sensation and perception, human development, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, personality, psychological disorders, therapies, and social psychology. In addition to completing the required readings, students will watch movies, observe and record psychology in everyday life, and perform activities to demonstrate understanding of psychological concepts.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Students will learn to define psychology and distinguish between the major psychological perspectives.
2. Students will learn to differentiate between and apply the various techniques that psychologists use in their research.
3. Students will learn to identify and discuss the anatomy and physiology of the major nervous system structures, sensory organs, and endocrine system.
4. Students will learn to recognize and discuss psychological concepts related to human development, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, stress and health, personality, psychological disorders, therapies, and social psychology.
5. Students will analyze the personal relevance of psychology by identifying examples of psychological concepts in their own lives.

**Web Resources:**

*Sakai:* Go to Sakai.rutgers.edu; log in using netID and password; click on class website. Check the website frequently for any announcements, supplemental readings, etc.

*Text Website:* <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/myers9e/>

This website contains free and open resources.

**Grading:**

Final grades will be based on performance on unit exams, satisfactory completion of in-class projects, and research participation. The breakdown will be as follows:

*Exams:* There will be three in-class unit exams to measure your knowledge and understanding of the material, as well as your ability to apply course concepts. All exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Questions will cover material from the Myers text, supplemental readings, and in-class discussions. The exams are not cumulative. Each unit exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points (25% of final grade). *Please note:* If the University is closed on a day when an exam is scheduled, the exam will be held during the next scheduled class. Otherwise, there will be no cancelation or postponement of exams. *Warning:* If you find a note outside of class or hear a rumor about class being canceled, don't trust this information – verify all such messages by checking Sakai. If you don't see an announcement regarding postponement or cancelation of an exam, call the Psychology Department (445-4036). Exams may only be made up by appointment if the student has a legitimate documented excuse for missing a class on a date when an exam has been scheduled. In these cases, an alternate, but equivalent version of the exam given in class may be taken.

*In-class Projects:* Active class participation is an essential part of this course. All students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to participate in class activities. Throughout the term, students will be required to complete several in-class projects. If a student misses an in-class project due to absence, the project may only be made up if the absence is excused. Legitimate excuses for absence include illness and bereavement. Acceptable documentation includes a doctor's note or confirmation of a death in the family. Satisfactory completion of in-class projects will be worth a maximum of 100 points (25% of final grade).

*Research Participation:* All General Psychology students are required to participate in research or to complete an alternative paper assignment. Most students opt to participate in experiments because it is quicker, more enjoyable, and it clarifies the research process. Descriptions of experiments and sign-up opportunities are available via on-line registration at <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>

*Grade Calculation:* Following, you will find the weights of each required assignment, the distribution of points for each required class activity, and the number of points necessary to earn each grade:

Assignment	Total Points	Weight
Unit 1 Exam	100	25%
Unit 2 Exam	100	25%
Unit 3 Exam	100	25%
In-class Projects	100	25%
<b>NOTE: Research participation or an alternative term paper is also required.</b>		

Points needed for each grade:

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	360-400	90-100%
B+	348-359	87-89.9%
B	320-347	80-86.9%
C+	308-319	77-79.9%
C	280-307	70-76.9%
D	240-279	60-69.9%
F	0-239	0-59.9%

*Special Notes regarding Grading:*

- The point and grade distributions noted above are not flexible.
- I am happy to meet with students individually to discuss any assignments. Also, if you're having difficulty in the course, meet with me during my office hours as soon as you recognize the problem. Don't wait until the end of the semester when it may be too late to rectify the situation.
- Any questions regarding the calculation of your final grade must be addressed and resolved within one week of your final grade being posted. After one week, your final grade cannot be changed for any reason.

*Extra Credit:* Short extra credit essays will be available on the days of each unit exam. Students may earn a maximum of 10 points extra credit during the term.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Read and become familiar with the University's academic integrity policy (<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). All breaches of the academic integrity policy will be reported to the University's Academic Integrity Facilitators and the Office of Student Conduct. Sanctions for such violations may include any of the following, depending on the level of violation:

1. Required participation in a noncredit workshop or seminar on ethics or academic integrity.
2. An assigned paper or research project related to ethics or academic integrity.
3. A make-up assignment that is more difficult than the original assignment.
4. A failing grade on the assignment.
5. A failing grade for the course.
6. Disciplinary warning or probation.
7. Suspension for one or more semesters.
8. Permanent expulsion from the University with a permanent notation of disciplinary expulsion on the student's Rutgers transcript.

Violations of the academic integrity code include use of impermissible materials, fabrication of information/citations in an academic work, representation of another person's work as your own, and/or deliberately impeding the progress of another student.

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*This course schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the website.*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Myers Text Reading</b>
<b>1</b>	7/12/11	The Story of Psychology Research Methods in Psychology	Prologue Chapter 1 (pp. 21-38)
	7/14/11	The Biology of Mind Sensation and Perception	Chapter 2 Chapter 6 (pp. 269-272 and 275-279)
<b>2</b>	7/19/11	Nature/Nurture/Diversity Development through the Lifespan	Chapter 4 (pp. 134-159) Chapter 5
	7/21/11	<b>UNIT 1 EXAM</b> Learning	Review Unit 1 readings Chapter 7
<b>3</b>	7/26/11	Memory Thinking	Chapter 8 Chapter 9 (pp. 369-378)
	7/28/11	Motivation Emotion	Chapter 11 (pp. 444-481) Chapter 12 (pp. 498-527)
<b>4</b>	8/2/11	<b>UNIT 2 EXAM</b> Personality	Review Unit 2 readings Chapter 13
	8/4/11	Personality (continued) Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
<b>5</b>	8/9/11	Psychological Disorders (continued) Therapies	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
	8/11/11	Social Psychology	Chapter 16
<b>6</b>	8/16/11	<b>UNIT 3 EXAM</b>	Review Unit 3 readings

- Lateness of assignment submission will result in deduction of 5 points per day from the total number of points earned.
- Exams may only be made up if there is a legitimate documented excuse for missing the exam.
- No work will be accepted for credit after 8/16/11.