

General Psychology (830:101:11)
Fall 2012
Tuesday & Thursday 6:40pm – 8:00pm; HLL 114

Instructor

Dr. Vivian Hsu
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Course Description/Learning Outcomes

This course will provide you with an overview of the field psychology. We will be concentrating on the psychological basis for the understanding of human behavior, specifically learning, motivation, cognition, personality, abnormal behavior, development and social psychology. The approach will emphasize recent research relevant to present day society. We will focus on a number of different areas (1) theories pertaining to cognitive development, (2) underlying processes in areas of physical, emotional, social, and language development, (3) consider the role of culture and environment on development, and (4) critically discuss applications of present day research.

Textbook and Additional Readings

King, L.A. (2010). Experience Psychology. McGraw Hill Publishers

Additional readings will be added throughout the semester. I will provide the articles via Sakai. It is important that you keep up with the readings so that you will be able to ask questions and participate in class discussions. I understand that there will be a considerable amount of reading; however, I firmly believe that you will get more out of this class if you have read the material beforehand.

Course Content Areas

Psychological Theorists and Theories: Darwin, Freud, Erikson's Psychosocial Theory, Pavlov's Classical Conditioning, Skinner's Operant Conditioning, Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory, Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory

Research: Hypothesis, Experiments, Correlations, Descriptive, Longitudinal, Cross-Sectional, Independent Variable, Dependent Variable, Confounding Variables, Ethics, Research Flaws

Human Development: Germinal, Embryo, Fetus, Teratogens, Childbirth, APGAR, Newborn Reflexes, Sensory Capabilities, Neuron and Brain Development, Piaget's Assimilation, Accommodation, Object Permanence, Infantile Amnesia, Vygotsky's Sociocultural Theory- Zone of Proximal Development, Scaffolding, and Private Speech, Language Development, Emotions, Temperament, Attachment

Emotional Development: Emotions, Temperament, Attachment, Personality, In-Group vs. Out-Group Perception, Bandura's Observational Learning, Erikson's Stages of Social Development

Evaluation

Exams/Quizzes: There will be 2 midterm and a final exam based on text and lecture materials. Each exam is worth 100 points. Additionally, you will be given 10-point multiple choice quizzes throughout the semester. I will count your highest scoring 5 quizzes for a total of 50 points. **Your maximum exam/quiz point total is 350 points.**

IMPORTANT!! Scheduled midterms or final exam will not be postponed unless you have spoken to me (in person) at least 24 hrs prior to the exam. Make-up exams will be essay format. Makeup exams are given on a case by case basis and are dependent on instructor/TA scheduling.

Article Summary (out of class): I will upload research articles as supplemental material to your text reading. You will be required to choose one article from the reading list and write a *short 1-paragraph* (no more than 3-5 sentences total) critique. Specifically, I want to know what **you think** the important take-home message is (1-2 sentences) and how you would either modify or enhance the research presented (2-3 sentences). There will also be 2 additional questions to answer pertaining to the specific article you choose. You are required to complete **5 critiques** throughout the entire semester. **Each critique is worth 20 points for a total of 100 points.** *Any additional critiques will be added as 1 point bonus to your final grade with a maximum of 5 bonus points. All article assignments are due November 30, 2012 in your Drop Box on Sakai.*

This Academic Integrity Policy: *Academic dishonesty is any attempt by the student to gain academic advantage through dishonest means, to submit, as his or her own, work which has not been done by him/her or to give*

improper aid to another student in the completion of an assignment. Such dishonesty would include, but is not limited to: submitting as his/her own a project, paper, report, test, or speech copied from, partially copied, or paraphrased from the work of another (whether the source is printed, under copyright, or in manuscript form). Credit must be given for words quoted or paraphrased. The rules apply to any academic dishonesty, whether the work is graded or ungraded, group or individual, written or oral. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI Policy 0 01 2011.pdf>

In summary, here is the breakdown of the grading strategy:

Highest Scoring 5 Quizzes	50pts
Midterm Exam I	100pts
Midterm Exam II	100pts
Final Exam	100pts
Article Summaries (5 total)	100pts
Total:	450pts

Extra Credit: There are two extra credit options available, each worth 2 points. You can submit a maximum of 2 extra credit assignments for a total of 4 extra credit points. Submissions into your Drop Box must be made on Sakai *prior* to the final exam and *points will be added to your final exam/quiz total*. **Final extra credits are due December 15, 2012.**

- (1) Comic/Cartoon Video– Find a comic or cartoon video (Youtube/Hulu) pertaining to a topic involving infant/child development. Write a *brief* (1 paragraph) summary explaining the concept presented and how it relates to what you have learned in class. Submit both comic and summary via Sakai.
- (2) Experimental Project – Design an experiment that you would be interested in carrying out that pertains to a topic we have discussed. Write a 1-2 page summary explaining how you would carry it out and how it relates to what you have learned. Submit via Sakai.

University Research Pool Requirement

As General Psychology students, you are required to participate in the University Research Pool. Here is the link to the University system: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>

You can either participate in research (for lab studies, 2.5 hours = 5 RPU) or write two short papers summarizing research articles. You must register under this course – General Psychology 830:101:11 - Hsu. You simply enter your name, a userID of your choice, and a password and follow the instructions from there. For further information regarding the rules of the program go to the following link at your convenience:

<http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules>

Self-Reporting Absence Application

You are expected to attend all classes, however if unexpected absences arise and you plan on missing multiple classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date(s) and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me, **however I would also appreciate a personal email or speaking to me directly if you have extenuating circumstances.**

Class Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Readings:</u>
9/4	Welcome and Introduction	
9/6	The Science of Psychology; Approaches to Psychology	Ch. 1
9/11	Approaches to Psychology cont'd; Scientific Method	Ch. 1 cont'd
9/13	The Brain and Behavior; Nervous System	Ch. 2
9/18	The Brain and Behavior; Nervous System	Ch. 2 cont'd
9/20	Brain and Functioning; Brain Plasticity	Ch. 2 cont'd

9/25	Sensation and Perception	Ch. 3
9/27	Visual System; Auditory System (MIDTERM REVIEW)	Ch. 3 cont'd
10/2	MIDTERM I	
10/4	States of Consciousness; Sleep and Dreams	Ch. 4
10/9	Psychoactive Drugs	Ch. 4 cont'd
10/11	Learning; Classical/Operational Conditioning; Observational Learning	Ch. 5
10/16	Memory Storage and Retrieval	Ch. 6
10/18	Intelligence Tests	Ch. 6 cont'd
10/23	Language Development	Ch. 7
10/25	Language Development cont'd	Ch. 7 cont'd
10/30	Human Development: Child Development	Ch. 8
11/1	Human Development: Adolescence, Adulthood	Ch. 8 cont'd
11/6	Human Development: Wrap-up (MIDTERM REVIEW)	Ch. 9 cont'd
11/8	MIDTERM II	
11/13	Emotion Development	Ch. 9 cont'd
11/15	Personality	Ch. 10
11/20	Attachment	Ch. 10 cont'd
11/27	Social Psychology	Ch. 11
11/29	Development of Self	Ch. 11 cont'd
12/4	Psychological Disorders	Ch. 12
12/6	Anxiety; Mood; Eating Disorders	Ch. 12 cont'd
12/11	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	
12/18	FINAL EXAM 8pm - 11pm	