

Rutgers University  
Psychology 101: General Psychology  
Fall 2012

Instructor: Keiko Taga Brynildsen, Ph.D.  
Class time: Tuesdays and Fridays 12:00-1:20 p.m.  
Class location: Livingston Campus – Beck Hall - Auditorium  
Office hours: Fridays 10:50-11:50 and by appointment  
Office location: Tillett Hall #329  
Email: keiko.brynildsen@rutgers.edu  
Course web page: Sakai (sakai.rutgers.edu/portal)

Teaching Assistant: Meghan McLean  
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### Course Description:

This course surveys the major areas of psychology: the nature of psychology as a science, principles of learning, the brain and behavior, sensation and perception, cognitive processes, motivation and emotion, personality and development, stress and health, adjustment and behavior disorders, and social behavior.

### Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to develop a basic understanding of the significant theories, concepts, and issues in the field of psychology; apply theoretical concepts in psychology to everyday situations in order to help you better understand yourself and the world around you, and develop an understanding of the scientific method in psychological research. Upon completion of this course, students should be prepared for more advanced courses in Psychology.

### Learning Goals:

This course has been certified as satisfying the Social Analysis (SCL) Learning Outcome Goal of the SAS Core Curriculum.

Specifically, students will be able to:

- a) Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis (subgoal i);

and

- b) Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations (subgoal n).



This course also satisfies the following Psychology Department Learning Goals:

- Students will know the leading terms, concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Students will apply psychological concepts and content to become engaged citizens.
- Students will use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to ask, answer and understand questions related to behavior and mental processes.

Required text:

Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology, tenth edition in modules*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers. [ISBN: 1-4641-0261-9].

Required equipment:

Regular access to a computer with Internet and Word, #2 pencil for all exams.

General course requirements:

1. **Sakai.** It is expected that all students will regularly access Sakai for course announcements and materials. Please also ensure that you check your Rutgers email regularly.
2. **Attendance:** Attending class is essential to the learning process. Regular class attendance and preparation of the assigned material are expected. Further, some exam questions will be drawn from material presented in the lecture that is not repeated in the textbook; thus, it is in your best interest to attend all classes. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the missed information from a classmate (my lecture notes will not be provided to students).
3. **Reading assignments:** Reading assignments are given for each topic from the textbook. It is expected that you read the assigned material *before* the lecture.
4. **Exams:** Three midterm exams and one final exam will be given. Each exam will be based on material presented both in lecture and in the assigned readings. The final exam will be cumulative, with an emphasis on a basic understanding of the material from the first 3/4 of the course and specific understanding of the material from the last 1/4 of the course. All exams will be multiple-choice. You must provide your 9-digit RUID number on all exams; you should memorize the number and/or carry your ID card with you at all times.
5. **Research Participation:** The psychology department requires all General Psychology students to either participate in research studies or complete an alternative paper assignment (Paper 1 is due by Oct. 16 and Paper 2 is due by Dec. 4). Please see <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules> for detailed information about this requirement. All students in this class are required to log in to <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/> to complete this requirement. Per departmental rules, failure to fulfill this requirement will result in a grade reduction (e.g., B+ to B, B to C+, etc.).

## Grading:

Course grades will be based on the following:

Exam 1:	23%
Exam 2:	23%
Exam 3:	24%
Final exam:	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Final grades will be determined by the following:

90% and above	A
87.0 – 89.9%	B+
80.0 – 86.9%	B
77.0 – 79.9%	C+
70.0 – 76.9%	C
60.0 – 69.9%	D
Below 60.0%	F

Note: A grade of C or better is required as a prerequisite to either the major or minor in psychology.

## Make-up policy:

No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made prior to the day of the exam or proof of necessary absence is provided (e.g., doctor's note). Make-up exams may be in essay or oral format. If exceptional circumstances prevent you from taking an exam (e.g., car accident), it is important that you contact the instructor within 24 hours. In some circumstances without a documented, valid reason for your absence on an exam day, you may take a make-up exam with a 10-90% deduction in points.

## Final Exam:

Our final exam is scheduled to be held on Thursday, Dec. 20 8:00-11:00 am (<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>). University regulations set the time and date of all final examinations and specific guidelines that define conflicts:

[http://sas.rutgers.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=132&Itemid=117](http://sas.rutgers.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=132&Itemid=117)

If you have a legitimate medical excuse for missing the exam, you will receive a TF in the course until the make-up has been completed.

## Academic integrity:

Rutgers University does not tolerate academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the office of the provost (see [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI\\_Policy\\_9\\_01\\_2011.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf) for more information on Rutgers University's policies regarding academic dishonesty).

## Differing abilities:

Any student who has a documented disability and is in need of academic accommodations should contact the Office of Differing Abilities Services (e-mail: [dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu), phone: (848) 445-6800). Please bring your letter of accommodation to me as soon as possible, and we will coordinate the accommodations privately.

## General policies:

Please be mindful of your fellow students and the instructors. Behavior that persistently interferes with classroom activities or with other students' ability to focus may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior may include, but is not limited to, texting, surfing the internet, playing computer games, cell phones or beepers ringing, entering the class late, or leaving the class prematurely. A student responsible for continual disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem.

## Course schedule

The following is a *tentative* schedule for this course. Dates may change slightly depending on our *actual* progress in covering the material.

WEEK	DAY	TOPIC	READING
<b>1</b>	Sept. 4	<u>Introduction to the History and Science of Psychology</u> The history and scope of psychology	Mod. 1
	Sept. 7	Thinking critically Research strategies	Mod. 2 Mod. 3
<b>2</b>	Sept. 11	<u>The Biology of Mind</u> Neural and hormonal systems Older brain structures	Mod. 4 Mod. 5
	Sept. 14	The cerebral cortex <u>Consciousness</u> Sleep and dreams	Mod. 6 Mod. 8
<b>3</b>	Sept. 18	<u>Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity</u> Behavior genetics and evolutionary psychology Environmental influences on behavior	Mod. 11 Mod. 12
	Sept. 21	<u>Developing through the Life Span</u> Infancy and childhood development	Mod. 14
<b>4</b>	Sept. 25	Adolescence development Adult development	Mod. 15 Mod. 16
	Sept. 28	<b>EXAM 1 (MODULES 1-6, 8, 11, 12, 14-16)</b>	
<b>5</b>	Oct. 2	<u>Sensation and Perception</u> Introduction to sensation and perception Vision and perceptual organization	Mod. 17 Mod. 18
	Oct. 5	<u>Learning</u> Classical conditioning Operant conditioning	Mod. 20 Mod. 21
<b>6</b>	Oct. 9	Learning by observation <u>Memory</u> Introduction to memory, encoding	Mod. 22 Mod. 23
	Oct. 12	Storage Retrieval Forgetting	Mod. 24 Mod. 25 Mod. 26
<b>7</b>	Oct. 16	<u>Motivation</u> Basic motivational concepts and hunger Sexual motivation	Mod. 32 Mod. 33

\*Note: This syllabus is subject to change if adjustments become necessary during the semester.

	Oct. 19	<b>EXAM 2 (MODULES 17, 18, 20-26)</b>	
<b>8</b>	Oct. 23	<u>Emotion, Stress, and Health</u> Introduction to emotion Stress and health	Mod. 35 Mod. 38
	Oct. 26	Promoting health	Mod. 39
<b>9</b>	Oct. 30	<u>Personality</u> Psychodynamic theories	Mod. 40
	Nov. 2	Humanistic theories Trait and social-cognitive theories	Mod. 41 Mod. 42
<b>10</b>	Nov. 6	<u>Social Psychology</u> Social thinking Social influence	Mod. 43 Mod. 44
	Nov. 9	Antisocial relations Prosocial relations	Mod. 45 Mod. 46
<b>11</b>	Nov. 13	<b>EXAM 3 (MODULES 32, 33, 35, 38-46)</b>	
	Nov. 16	<u>Psychological Disorders</u> Introduction to psychological disorders Anxiety disorders	Mod. 47 Mod. 48
<b>12</b>	Nov. 21 (Wed.)	Mood disorders Schizophrenia	Mod. 49 Mod. 50
	Nov. 27	<b><i>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</i></b>	
<b>13</b>	Nov. 30	Dissociative, personality, and eating disorders	Mod. 51
	Dec. 4	<u>Therapy</u> The psychological therapies	Mod. 52
<b>14</b>	Dec. 7	Evaluating psychotherapies	Mod. 53
	Dec. 11	The biomedical therapies	Mod. 54
<b>FINAL EXAM (cumulative): Thurs., Dec. 20 8:00-11:00 a.m.</b>			

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