

General Psychology – Summer 2012

*** 01:830:101:H6 *** Beck 219 *** TTh 6:00-9:55pm ***

Instructor:

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Textbook:

Myers, D. (2009). Exploring Psychology (8th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers. The text is available in the bookstore.

Note: there are similar titles out there Psychology or Exploring Psychology in Modules by the same author. Though these books may cover similar material, I do not recommend using them, as they may not present topics in the same way or include all tested material. For similar reasons, I do not recommend you use other editions of this text, as it may have incorrect or missing information.

You are not required to purchase any of the supplementary materials (i.e. study guides, book website access, etc), although you may find them useful.

Website:

Go to Sakai.rutgers.edu, log in using netID and password, and click on the class website. Additional readings, assignments, and the most-up-to-date syllabus can be found here. Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, class cancellations, etc.

Book Website: the book publishers have put together a really helpful supplementary site. This includes study materials, outlines, a glossary of terms, etc. I highly recommend it!

<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/exploring7e/>

Course Description:

This course is designed to be an overview of the scientific study of psychology and its subdivisions. The objective of this course is to give you a foundation for further psychological study by giving you brief exposure to the subfields and bases for general study. In each chapter we will explore some of psychologists' more interesting discoveries, discuss their application to life outside the laboratory, and hone our critical-thinking skills. Topics will include the biology of the mind, personality, human development, memory, intelligence, social psychology, and therapy—key aspects of the human experience and ones that affect us all.

How is this course different from other courses?

Simply put, Psychology is the study of human beings. Throughout both the lecture and assignments, we will be focusing not only on the specific findings, concepts and theories, but how they apply to our everyday life. Generally, we will look at how aspects of the mind influence (or may explain) our experiences and behaviors. Unlike many other intro classes, you will have the chance to engage with the material in a real way, instead of sleeping in the back of a large lecture hall. To help facilitate this, classes are made up of exercises, demonstrations, and discussions. You will also have the opportunity to discuss and apply the information from lectures in smaller discussion sections where you can get your questions answered and share your insights.

Grading:

Grades will be based on class participation, an in-class midterm and final, and two short projects. There will likely be a few extra credit opportunities throughout the session including a short paper and participation in any on-going studies in the department:

ACTIVITY	points	GRADE	Point Cutoffs
Class participation	100	A	585-650
Scrapbook assignment	100	B+	565-584
Mixtape assignment	100	B	520-564
Midterm	150	C+	500-519
Final	200	C	455-499
		D	390-454
		F	0-389

Class Participation: Attendance is required. This is a smaller class and your absence will be noticed. Class discussion is an integral part of this course, and students tend to do best in my classes when they speak up, ask questions, and share their views. You are required to thoroughly read all assigned readings, and come to class prepared to discuss the readings as well as your reactions.

Discussion Sections (50 points): Having been a relatively shy student myself, I understand that talking in larger lecture sections is difficult for some. To help initiate more meaningful conversations, and to save you from having to listen to me talk for 4 hours straight, I will be breaking the class into two smaller sections: one will meet during the first 30 minutes (6pm-6:30pm) and the second will meet during the last 30 minutes (9:25-9:55pm). During each discussion section 1-4 people will be assigned to ask 2 questions related to a chapter covered in the previous classes. These groups chapters will be assigned the first day of class, and more information will be available on sakai regarding specifics of these discussions. Grades will be based both on the questions you present on your assigned day and on your contributions to discussions overall.

Attendance (50 points): Due to the short nature of summer classes, each class meeting is the equivalent of an entire week of study in a regular lecture. Because missing even a single class will put you at a great disadvantage when it comes time for tests and will mean missing out on participation, ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED and will be taken at

all meetings/discussion sections. Absences will impact your participation score in two ways: missing discussion sections will mean a deduction of 2 points and missing the general lecture will mean a deduction of 2 points (missing both will lead to a deduction of 4 points for each day missed). To avoid penalties, please attend all classes unless you have an approved excuse (i.e. illness/death in the family, NOT vacations or transportation issues). If you have to come late, please do so, don't skip class. Partial credit is better than none at all (plus missing demonstrations/examples may mean missing questions on exams).

Mixtape Assignment: You will create a "mixtape" of 4 songs that relate back to concepts discussed in class. For each song, you will include a hyperlink to a website where I may find the song (a YouTube video is fine), describe the relevant themes of the song and provide a brief discussion of how it touches on a psychological topic we have discussed. The mixtape will be due at the beginning of class on the day of the MIDTERM - 7/24. SUBMIT TO SAKAI by **5pm** the day it is due. (DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS/RUBRIC WILL BE PROVIDED IN CLASS)

Scrapbook: Throughout the second half of the course, you will keep a scrapbook of real-world examples of psychological concepts. Examples could include an advertisement, a newspaper article, a blog post, a YouTube video, a cartoon, a photograph, your summary of a social interaction, etc. You will need to collect **at least four** examples that relate to concepts we cover after the midterm. You will be graded based on how well you are able to relate your examples back to social psychological topics and theory. You may NOT use songs as scrapbook examples. The Scrapbook will be due at the beginning of class on 8/9. SUBMIT TO SAKAI by **5pm** the day it is due. (DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS/RUBRIC WILL BE PROVIDED IN CLASS)

Midterm: There will be one in-class midterm exam assessing your understanding of the material we have covered up to that point. For both the midterm and the final, if you miss the exam, **a make-up will only be offered under extreme circumstances (with some sort of proof of your excuse)**. Bottom line: don't miss the midterm or final.

Final Exam: The final will be partially cumulative, but focus mainly on material covered after the midterm. It will be held in class during the final class meeting.

Research Participation (Extra Credit opportunity 1): As an extra credit option, you will have the opportunity to participate in research being conducted within the department. Students taking the course during regular semesters are required to participate in several hours of research, but due to the irregular schedules of labs and short time frame, I will not be requiring this. Instead, to get experience in real research situations I will try to have researchers come into the class to either run studies before/after lecture or you can sign up to participate at a separate time. Participation will be worth between 2-5 points depending on the length of the study, and will be announced along with the studies.

"ONE NEW THOUGHT" Paper (Extra Credit opportunity 2): The purpose of this class is to give you new insight into not only the broader field of psychology, but how our understanding of the mind/behavior impacts our daily life. While you will have opportunities to discuss applications of concepts during the discussion sections, this is your chance to share with me a

connection you've made between a concept you've learned and your own experiences. This could mean one of a few things... You could describe something that you saw happen or that happened to you, and the psychological concepts at work. You might discuss a particular behavioral trend in yourself, your roommate, your significant other, etc that makes more sense now because of a theory of concept we've discussed in class. The basic question to consider is : what is one new insight you have as a result of this class? This is a ONE PAGE (double-spaced) paper...NO MORE THAN ONE PAGE!...and it is worth a possible 10 points. DUE 8/14 – the day of the final – at the beginning of class.

NOTE: Grades should be posted to Sakai within a week of assignment submissions and the midterm. I will announce when they are posted and, at that time, you can contact me if there are issues or your grade is missing. **FOR THE FINAL EXAM and FINAL GRADE:** Grades are due by August 19th at noon. I will post your grades for the final exam and your total late the evening of the 18th (the day of the final). You have until 12pm the 19th to register any grade complaints. After that, I will only adjust grades under extenuating circumstances.

Cheating/ Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's academic integrity policy (<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). If I suspect a student of cheating, I will have to report him or her to the Disciplinary Panel. I take cheating very seriously and so does the University.

Office Hours: Students are encouraged to ask questions during class or meet with me directly after class. I am happy to arrange appointments to meet with students individually for extra help or to discuss final project ideas. If you are having difficulty in the course PLEASE make an appointment to come and talk with me ASAP. It is much easier to address any confusion early rather than at the end of the session when grades are due.

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

	DATE	TOPICS	READINGS (before class)	Discussion Section (D.S.) and Assignments Due
WEEK 1				
	July 10	Introduction	CH 1	D.S. - NONE
	July 12	Biology of the Mind Nature/Nurture and Diversity	CH 2 CH 4	D.S. – NONE
WEEK 2				
	July 17	Development	CH 5	D.S. – CH 4
	July 19	Sensation/Perception Consciousness	CH 6 CH 3	D.S. – CH 5
WEEK 3				
	July 24	MIDTERM		MIXTAPE DUE
	July 26	Learning Memory	CH 7 CH 8	D.S. – CH 6 / CH 3
WEEK 4				
	July 31	Thinking, Language and Intelligence <i>Film: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>	CH 9	D.S. – CH 7 / CH 8
	August 2	Motivation: Needs, Sex and Belonging. Emotion: If you're happy, do you know it? Do you show it? Personality	pp.339-342, 357-372 pp. 375-397 CH 12	D.S. – CH 9
WEEK 5				
	August 7	Disorders Therapy	CH 13 CH 14	D.S. – Motivation and Emotion / CH 12
	August 9	Social Psych <i>Films: Obedience and Quiet Rage</i>	CH 15	D.S. – CH 13 / CH 14 SCRAPBOOK DUE
WEEK 6				
	August 14	FINAL EXAM		E.C. DUE "New Thought"