

**General Psychology Syllabus
Rutgers University
Fall Semester 2013
General Psychology 01:830:101:11**

Time of course: **Tuesday/Thursday 6:40-8:00 p.m.**
Location of Course: **HLL 114**

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Sakai Site: You can this course on Sakai by going to <http://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal> and clicking on our course: **01:830:101:11 F13**.

You will need the following materials for this course:

1) MindTap Psychology Printed Access Card for James Kalat's Introduction to Psychology, 10th Edition to be purchased at NJ Books or Rutgers University Bookstore (Barnes and Noble).

You do NOT need to buy the actual Kalat book. The MindTap access card includes an e-book of the text.

The first code is my course key: MTPQ-95TP-N34L and is the same for all students in the class. The second code is the code that you will purchase at NJ Books or the Rutgers Bookstore. This code is unique to you.

2) iClicker 2, ISBN 1429280476.

Course description:

This course will provide an overview of the diverse field of psychology. Many think of psychology as primarily having to do with abnormal behavior and therapy. While it does of course address these areas, psychology is much broader, encompassing a wide range of topics having to do with human behavior. This includes memory, learning, emotion and motivation, human development, social behavior, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, and the science of psychology as a discipline. This course will cover the most major concepts in these areas.

You will learn how to integrate psychology into your daily lives and apply the information discussed to your own experiences. Psychology is truly everywhere! You will soon see how.

You will also learn to evaluate information critically. Through a study of the science of psychology as a discipline as well as numerous examples of research, you will learn how to be a discriminating consumer of research.

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.

Policies

Arriving late/leaving early: You are expected to arrive to class on time and stay for the length of the class. If you do need to arrive late or leave early, please sit in the back of the class to minimize disruption.

Disruptive behavior: Multi-tasking is not an effective way to learn. Talking, texting, web surfing, playing games, and loud gum chewing are activities that do not belong in the learning environment of a classroom and are distracting to those around you. Students who continually disrupt in this manner will be asked to leave class. Turn off cell phones when class begins.

Missed class: If you miss a class, you should make arrangements to get missed notes from a classmate. I will not be able to provide you with lecture notes. It is a good idea to find one or two “buddies” to help you if you are absent. You can also both make sure you are up-to-date with recent announcement.

Missed exams: You may only miss an exam for a **documented** reason (in writing). You must have a letter from a dean, doctor, athletic coach, etc.

Recording class: Digital or audio recording of any part of lecture is strictly forbidden without express written permission from the instructor.

Grading

There will be three exams – two hourly exams and one final. The breakdown will be as follows:

Exam 1 – 20%

Exam 2 – 25%

Final exam – 30%

MindTap assignments – 15%

Class participation via iClicker – 10%

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100% = A (450-500 points)

85-89% = B+ (425-449 points)

80-84% = B (400-424 points)

75-79% = C+ (375-399 points)

70-74% = C (350-374 points)

60-69% = D (300-349 points)

below 60% = F (below 300 points)

Research Requirement

There is a mandatory research requirement for this course. You will need to complete 5 RPUs (Research Participation Credits). You receive one RPU per half hour, so you will need to complete 2.5 hours. If you do not complete all 5 RPUs, your course grade will be lowered. For detailed information, see <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpures>. You can log into the system and register for experiments here: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>

In lieu of completing the research requirement, you may complete two papers summarizing research articles – one due at the midpoint of the semester, and one due by the date of the final exam. See the website above for more information.

Exams

YOU WILL BE TESTED ON MATERIAL COVERED IN LECTURE BUT NOT IN THE BOOK. Anything mentioned in lecture is fair game. If you do not come to class, you are putting yourself at a significant disadvantage. Material from the book that is not covered in class may also show up on an exam, particularly if it has been covered on a quiz.

Given the large amount of material that will be covered in this class, it is essential that you do the reading beforehand so you have familiarity with the material.

To review your answers after an exam, you will need to make an appointment with our TA, Emily Panza.

Quizzes

There will be approximately 14 mandatory online quizzes via MindTap worth 15% of your grade. You may take each quiz up to three times, with the highest score counting towards your grade. Your lowest 3 quizzes will be dropped. You must take the quiz by the due date for it to be counted. Quizzes will be put up one week before they are due, and you will receive an e-mail reminder one week prior to the due date; Quizzes will be due the night before our class.

No late submissions will be accepted.

Pre quiz and exam practice questions – extra credit

Each chapter has a pre quiz and exam practice questions. You can do these for extra credit provided that you get at least 75% correct and you complete them within the assigned time frame. Pre quiz questions will only be available the week before an assignment is due; the exam practice questions will be made available one week prior to each exam. You will get half a point for each pre quiz and half a point for each exam practice that you do. You may take each quiz up to TWO times (instead of three on the mandatory quizzes).

A few of these questions will likely show up on exams, so it is to your advantage to do them.

Class participation – iClicker-2

Class participation, worth 10% of your grade, will be assessed via iClickers. You will need the *iClicker-2*. I will be asking several questions per class, and you will be graded on whether you responded. If you answer 75% of the questions in a given class, you will receive full credit for that class. Your lowest three participation scores will be dropped. This will compensate for any technical problems, such as leaving it at home, interference, improper use, etc. The first few classes will be clicker practice; clicker responses will only start counting on 9/17.

Please note: If you are found using more than one clicker during class, all who are involved will receive an F for the participation portion of their grade.

If you purchase a used clicker, make sure to replace batteries immediately. Batteries last approximately one academic year, and you don't want to be in the middle of the class when the batteries die.

Go to iClicker.com and register your clicker right away. There is a direct link in our Sakai site.

Grading philosophy:

If you want an A in this class, you will need to earn it. I am more than happy to help you throughout the semester. However, please do not come to me the last week of class and ask that I raise your grade because (fill in the blank) – you were within one point of the higher grade, you need a good grade to keep your scholarship, etc. There will be **NO** adjustments to grades unless I have made a grading error.

I do not automatically curve. If I feel questions on an exam were unfair or not properly understood by a high percentage of the class, or if the class as a whole is scoring lower than expected, I reserve the right to reconsider. Do not ask me if grades will be curved.

Cheating and plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously. Please familiarize yourself with the policy: <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. You are expected to complete all work in this course *by yourself* without any form of assistance from other students or outside sources, unless instructions note otherwise. While you are encouraged to study in groups, exams and quizzes must be done separately. *Working together on quizzes or exams constitutes cheating and will be handled as such.*

Accommodations

Please refer to the accommodations policy for students with disabilities:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations can do so here:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

If you need special accommodations, please let me know as early in the first two weeks of the semester.

Communication

For general questions about the course, policies, etc., and clarification questions that other students could benefit from, post in a public forum such as the Sakai chat room. Please e-mail only when an issue is more individual to you. I will make every effort to respond to your e-mail within 48 hours, and hopefully sooner. Please do not resend your e-mail until 48 hours have passed unless it is a true emergency. If you e-mail me a question that has been clearly covered on the syllabus or in Sakai, there is a good chance it will not be answered.

E-mails should be professional. Our TA, Emily Panza, has created a PowerPoint listing guidelines on how to appropriately communicate with professors via e-mail. You can find this in the resources section.

Voicemail will be checked approximately once every 24-48 hours. Do not use voicemail for urgent matters.

MAKE SURE to read the announcements on Sakai. I will sometimes tell you to skip certain sections of chapters, for example. This is a fluid class due to changes in pacing and there may be important changes in assignments and important clarifications. You are responsible for all changes announced.

Studying

Here are some tips to improve your study skills and increase your chances of doing well in the course. You'll get lots more tips when we cover the Memory chapter.

- Form study and homework groups. Discussing material with others is a great way to aid retention.

- Distributed practice: don't cram. The more you space out your studying over a period of time, the more likely you'll be to remember the material.
- Use the Flashcards function in MindTap to help review key terms.
- Self-testing and evaluation - frequent testing is one of the best ways to learn and retain information. Take all the quizzes until you get close to 100%. Go over your wrong answers. In addition to the mandatory quizzes, make sure to do the extra credit pre quizzes and exam reviews.
- Take frequent breaks when studying. People tend to remember the beginning and end of a study session best. Marathon sessions are usually exhausting and hamper long-term recall.
- SLEEP! Make sure to get adequate rest.
- Ask for help at the *beginning* of the semester when there is still enough time

Counseling

College can be an overwhelming time. If you find yourself having a difficult time coping, please refer to <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/> where you can see an overview of support services available at Rutgers.

By continuing your enrollment in the course, you are accepting the terms of this syllabus.

Course schedule	<i>Changes to the syllabus announced in class and/or posted to Sakai always take precedence over information listed below.</i>
September 2	Introduction to Psychology and overview of course policies
September 5	Sensation and Perception (Chapter 4 - assignment)
September 10	Scientific Methods in Psychology (Chapter 2)
September 12	Scientific Methods in Psychology (Chapter 2)
September 17	Biological Psychology (Chapter 3)
September 19	Guest lecturer: Overview of Psychology (Chapter 1)
September 24	Biological Psychology (Chapter 3)
September 26	HOURLY EXAM #1 on chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4
October 1	Development (Chapter 5)
October 3	Development (Chapter 5)
October 8	Learning (Chapter 6)
October 10	Learning (Chapter 6)
October 15	Memory (Chapter 7)
October 17	Memory (Chapter 7)
	First Paper Due if you are choosing the research paper to fulfill RPU requirements
October 22	Cognition and Language (Chapter 8)
October 24	Intelligence (Chapter 9)
October 29	Intelligence (Chapter 9)
October 31	Consciousness (Chapter 10)
November 5	HOURLY EXAM #2 on chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10
November 7	Motivated Behaviors (Chapter 11)
November 12	Motivated Behaviors (Chapter 11)
November 14	Emotions, Stress, and Health (Chapter 12)
November 19	Emotions, Stress, and Health (Chapter 12)
November 21	Social Psychology (Chapter 13)
November 26	Social Psychology (Chapter 13)
November 28	No class - Thanksgiving
December 3	Personality (Chapter 14)
December 5	Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Chapter 15)
	Second Paper Due if you are choosing the research paper to fulfill RPU requirements
December 10	Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Chapter 15)
December 17	FINAL EXAM – CUMULATIVE - 8-11 p.m. – emphasis on chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15