

General Psychology – Summer 2013

*** 01:830:101:B6 *** LSH-A143 *** TTh 6:00-10:00pm ***

Instructor:

Heather Nofziger

E-mail: hanofzig@rci.rutgers.edu

Office: Tillett 435

Office Hours: by appointment

Mailbox: Tillett Hall 101 (Psych office)

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	495-550
Scrapbook assignment	100	B+	467-494
Midterm	150	B	440-466
Final	200	C+	412-439
		C	385-411
		D	330-384
		F	0-329

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).

Scrapbook: Throughout 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 song, a cartoon, a photograph, your summary of a social interaction, etc. You will need to collect **at least five** examples that relate to concepts we cover in class or in the book. For each example, you will need to do 4 things: provide a link to or copy of the example, give a brief description of the example, outline and define the terms that are relevant, and clearly/specifically show how the terms connect to the example. Each example/discussion should be approximately 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced. The Scrapbook will be due at the beginning of class on 6/25. **SUBMIT TO SAKAI by 5pm** the day it is due and **BRING A HARD COPY TO CLASS**. (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 (including questions that ask about major themes from the first half of the class), 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 1-5 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 and in the scrapbook, 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 5 points. DUE 7/2 – the day of the final – at the beginning of class.

NOTE: ON GRADING.

- Grades should be posted to Sakai within a week of the Scrapbook submission 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 July 5th at noon. I will post your grades for the final exam and your total late the evening of the 2nd (the day of the final). You have until 5pm the 3rd to register any grade complaints. After that, I will only adjust grades under extenuating circumstances.
- I WILL NOT “CHANGE” GRADES. If you are unhappy with your performance in the class or “need this class to graduate/stay enrolled” please come to me ASAP. I am more than happy to help you at any point during the course to devise new study methods, to answer questions or discuss other concerns you may have regarding the course. The sooner you come to me with these issues, the better. I will NOT, however, make any changes to your grade(s) at the end of the semester because you have fallen short of your anticipated/needed/desired grade. Be proactive and be sure to take advantage of Extra Credit and easy points (participation for instance)!

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				
	May 28	Introduction	CH 1	D.S. - NONE
	May 30	Biology of the Mind Nature/Nurture and Diversity	CH 2 CH 4	D.S. – NONE
WEEK 2				
	June 4	Development	CH 5	D.S. – CH 4
	June 6	Sensation/Perception Consciousness	CH 6 CH 3	D.S. – CH 5
WEEK 3				
	June 11	MIDTERM		
	June 13	Learning Memory	CH 7 CH 8	D.S. – CH 6 / CH 3
WEEK 4				
	June 18	Thinking, Language and Intelligence <i>Film: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>	CH 9	D.S. – CH 7
	June 20	Social Psych	CH 15	D.S. – CH 8 / CH 9
WEEK 5				
	June 25	Motivation: Needs, Sex and Belonging. Emotion: If you're happy, do you know it? Do you show it? Personality	Page #'s to be announced (CH 10/11) CH 12	D.S. – CH 15 / CH 12 SCRAPBOOK DUE
	June 27	Disorders Therapy	CH 13 CH 14	D.S. – CH 13 / CH 14
WEEK 6				
	July 2	FINAL EXAM		E.C. DUE "New Thought"