

General Psychology | 01:830:101:B2
Classroom Location: 201 Murray Hall, College Ave
Summer 2013 | M-TH 12:30-2:25pm

Instructor: Leigh Wilton, MS
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Office Hours: By appointment

Description

This class is a survey of major topics in contemporary scientific psychology; it strives to provide you with a solid foundation for further study in psychology while introducing you to the major subfields. Generally, we will explore how what scientist know about the mind connects to (and possibly helps explain) our own experiences. Together, we will explore some of the most interesting discoveries in psychological science, 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 that affect us all. Throughout the course, I will emphasize how the topics we are covering relate to our everyday lives, and assignments are designed to make this link more salient. Classes will be made up of exercises, demonstrations, and discussions, which will serve as an important way to understand concepts.

Course Text and Website

Text: James W. Kalat, Introduction to Psychology, 9th ed. (Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011).

Website: Sakai.rutgers.edu (log in using netID and password, and click on the class website).

Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, assignments, additional readings, class cancellations, etc.

Grading and Assignments

Grades will be based on class participation, an in-class midterm and final, and a short project. **Assignments must be submitted on time.** Grades will be reduced by one point for every day they are submitted late, for up to three days; after the third day, late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by a Dean's note. The breakdown for final grades is:

ACTIVITY	% OF FINAL GRADE
Class participation	25%
Scrapbook assignment	25%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

GRADE	FINAL PERCENT
A	90.0-100.0%
B+	87.0-89.9%
B	80.0-86.9%
C+	77.0-79.9%
C	70.0-76.9%
D	60.0-69.9%
F	0.0-59.9%

Class Participation: Class participation and discussion is an integral part of this course, and students tend to do best in my classes when they speak up, ask questions, share their views, and actively participate in group activities. You are required to thoroughly read all assigned readings, to come to class prepared to discuss the readings as well as your reactions, and to contribute to group activities.

Scrapbook: Each student will keep a scrapbook of real-world examples of psychological concepts. Basically, you will keep an eye out for anything that relates back to ideas covered in class. Examples could include an advertisement, a song, a newspaper article, a blog post, a YouTube video, a cartoon, a photograph, your summary of a social interaction, etc. Each student will collect **at least five** examples total. You will be graded based on how well you are able to relate your examples back to social psychological topics and theory. The Scrapbook will be due at the beginning of class on 7/1.

Midterm and Final Exams: There will be one midterm exam assessing your understanding of the material we have covered up to that point, and one non-cumulative final exam that will include material covered after the midterm. If you miss either exam, **I can only offer a make-up exam if you have a Dean's note.** All make-up exams will consist of essay questions. Bottom line: don't miss the midterm or final.

Research Participation Extra Credit: Students may participate in approved research studies being conducted at Rutgers University in exchange for extra credit. Each study that you participate in will add one half point to your final grade, up to a maximum of 2 additional points. Research participation opportunities may be announced in class.

Office Hours

I encourage you to ask questions during class or meet with me directly after class. If you are having difficulty in the course please make an appointment to 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.

Academic Integrity

As students and teachers, we are the guardians of knowledge for future generations. Please familiarize yourselves with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found at: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

Students with disabilities

Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers' policy at <http://disability/services.rutgers.edu>.

Schedule

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

Week	Class	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1	May 28	Introduction / What is Psychology	Ch. 1
	2	May 29	Scientific Methods in Psychology	Ch. 2 (pp. 29 – 51)
	3	May 30	Biological Psychology I: Neurons	Ch. 3 (pp. 63 – 70)
2	4	June 3	Biological Psychology II: Brain	Ch. 3 (pp. 72 – 95)
	5	June 4	Sensation and Perception I	Ch. 4 (pp. 98 – 122)
	6	June 5	Sensation and Perception II	Ch. 4 (pp.123 – 139)
	7	June 6	Nature, Nurture, and Human Development	Ch. 5
3	8	June 10	Nature, Nurture, and Human Development	--
	9	June 11	Learning	Ch. 6 (pp. 200 - 230)
	10	June 12	Catch up and in-class review	--
	11	June 13	MIDTERM	--
4	12	June 17	Memory	Ch. 7
	13	June 18	Cognition and Language	Ch. 8
	14	June 19	Intelligence	Ch. 9
	15	June 20	Consciousness	Ch. 10
5	16	June 24	Social Psychology I	Ch. 13
	17	June 25	Social Psychology II	Ch. 13
	18	June 26	Personality	Ch. 14
	19	June 27	Abnormality, Therapy, and Social Issues	Ch. 15
6	20	July 1	Specific Disorders and Treatments SCRAPBOOK DUE	Ch. 16
	21	July 2	Catch up and in-class review	--
	22	July 3	FINAL	--