

# Syllabus General Psychology

## 101 Section 04 – Fall 2014

### Version 9-3-2014

## Who

Instructor: Estelle Mayhew

Instructor email: emayhew@rci.rutgers.edu

TA: Alyssa McCarthy

TA email: alyssa.mccarthy@rutgers.edu

## Email procedures

### *Politesse*

- Please remember to SIGN (that means first and last name) your emails.
- I have a lot of students (800+ this semester), and I am afraid I don't know who you are, even if you have emailed before. Therefore you also need to indicate in EVERY email WHICH CLASS you are in. ***If you forget to indicate your name, or your class, I am unlikely to reply to your email. (this applies all the way to the end of the semester).***

### *Questions via email*

- If it's a minor issue, ask me before/after class.
- If you ask an administrative question for which the answer is in the syllabus or in the announcements on Sakai, I will reply with "check syllabus and announcements on Sakai". So if you have checked those places and still have an administrative question, start with something like "I read the syllabus and the announcements carefully, and I could not find the answer to the following question".
- On other issues, I will try to get back to you within 3 days. Any emails sent at unearthly hours may not get read before class period, keep it in mind.

## When/where

Class location: Lucy Stone Auditorium

Class time: Mondays & Thursdays 8:40- 10:00 am

Office hours instructor: Mondays, 10:15 - 11:15 am or by appointment

Office location instructor: Room 229, Tillett Hall Livingston Campus

Office hours TA: Wednesdays from 9-10 AM

Office location TA: Busch psychology building, A358

## Office hours and exams

### *Looking at your exam*

(A) *To see your exam -- go to the TA's office hours*

- The TA is in charge of copying and grading the exams.
- The TA will have the physical exams.

- If you wish to see your exam (and this is a **very** good idea) then you must visit the TA during her office hours.
- If you then wish to discuss the exam with me, Alyssa can send it to me and we can go over it together. **Bring your review question sheets** (the answers you prepared to the review questions) when we discuss the exam, so we can see how your preparation for the exam can be tweaked.

*(B) What to look for in your exam*

- Look at the questions you got wrong.
- Then try to figure out **why you got them wrong!** Did you not know the answer at all? Did you not know which of two answers was correct? Did you read the question too quickly and misunderstand what was being asked? Did you overthink? Were all your mistakes on one topic? What type of questions did you get wrong? Fact questions, concept questions, application questions?
- Once you see what types of mistakes you made, consider how to change your studying so that you don't make this type of mistake again (or fewer of them in any case).

*To arrange office hours "by appointment"*

- If you can't make my standard office hours we can meet "by appointment". What this means is that we need to coordinate our schedules. The fastest way to do that is to send me the slots of time that you can reasonably make it to my office (Tillett 229, Livingston campus), and I will look at those and pick some times that also work with my schedule (which varies from week to week).
- Example of timeslots:  
Mondays 10-12 and 3-4, Tuesdays 9-12, Wednesdays after 4, Thursdays before 2, Fridays no availability.
- Sending me just one time is almost never going to work, so be comprehensive the first time and save us some email back and forth.

## What

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the main areas of research in psychology. For each of the areas we will cover some of the basic things you need to know, and look at some of the interesting issues. So this course is really a sampler of the field of psychology.

## Required Readings

### Available at NJ Books and B&N bookstore

Introduction to psychology (10th ed.) James W. Kalat, Wadsworth publishing

I realize the book is expensive, as all college textbooks are. I honestly don't care if you get the loose-leaf version, some international edition that officially isn't supposed to be sold in the U.S., or the hardback.

If you do decide to buy an older edition of the book (you should not go earlier than the 9<sup>th</sup> edition), there will be TWO copies of the correct edition of the book on reserve in the Kilmer library. The exam questions are from the testbank for the current edition and as well as from stuff covered in lecture not in the book.

**The review questions that will be posted on Sakai are your guide to what you must know for the exams.**

## Class Website

- The class has a Sakai website which you should have access to if you are enrolled in the course.
- Make sure you check that you can access our site, and keep an eye on announcements from the site.
- The class slides (which are only an outline of the material covered) will be posted on Sakai. Posting will take place before class, so you can take notes on the printouts, but there may be empty slides with material to be filled in in class.
- Assignments will be posted Sakai under "tests and quizzes". Count on about three assignments before each exam.
- Most importantly review questions will be posted on Sakai. They basically spell out what you should know for each exam. If you thoroughly know the answers to the review questions, you will do well in the course.

## Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Thu, Sep. 3	Course rules	Get the book
2	Mon, Sept. 8	Psychology as science	Chapter 1
	Thu, Sept. 11	Research methods	Chapter 2
3	Mon, Sept. 15	Research methods	
	Thu, Sept. 18	Biological psych,	Chapter 3
4	Mon, Sept. 22	Biological psych/Sensation	Chapter 4
	Thu, Sept. 25	Sensation perception	
5	Mon, Sept. 29	Development	Chapter 5
	Thu, Oct. 2	Learning	Chapter 6
6	Mon, Oct. 6	EXAM 1	
	Thu, Oct. 9	Learning	
7	Mon, Oct. 13	Memory	Chapter 7
	Thu, Oct. 16	Memory	
8	Mon, Oct. 20	Cognition	Chapter 8
	Thu, Oct. 23	Language	
9	Mon, Oct. 27	Intelligence	Chapter 9
	Thu, Oct. 30	Consciousness	Chapter 10
10	Mon, Nov 3	Consciousness	
	Thu, Nov. 6	EXAM 2	
11	Mon, Nov. 10	Motivated behaviors	Chapter 11
	Thu, Nov. 13	Motivated behaviors	
12	Mon, Nov. 17	Emotions	Chapter 12
	Thu, Nov. 20	Stress & Health	

13	Mon, Nov. 24	Social psychology	Chapter 13
	TUE, Nov. 25	Social psychology	
14	Mon, Dec. 1	Personality	Chapter 14
	Thu, Dec 4	Psychological disorders	Chapter 15
15	Mon, Dec 8	Psychological disorders/Treatments	
	Fri, Dec. 19	EXAM 3	4-5:30 pm

## Taking part in research

**ALL STUDENTS IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 830:101 ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE EITHER DIRECTLY AS SUBJECTS IN EXPERIMENTS OR, INDIRECTLY, BY STUDYING AND DESCRIBING TWO PUBLISHED REPORTS OF EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS. (DIRECT PARTICIPATION IS MORE FUN AND MORE INSTRUCTIVE.)**

The main page for information is <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/> It has links for rules and FAQ.

You can fulfill this course requirement in two ways:

### **OPTION 1: EXPERIMENTAL PARTICIPATION ON-LINE REGISTRATION AT: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>**

- This method requires you to participate in several experiments for a total of 2-1/2 hours, equaling five credits (called RPUs). 1 RPU will be given in exchange for each 1/2 hour of participation, except in the case of on-line studies that do not require students to come to a lab. On-line studies will award 1/2 RPU per 1/2 hour of on-line study participation. Moreover, students are not allowed to receive more than 1 RPU by engaging in on-line studies (i.e., one hour maximum).
- You will need to register yourself by going to the main Human Subject Pool System page and clicking on "Request an Account". Make sure that you carefully enter your correct email address and select the correct course, instructor, and days/period for which you are registered. If you don't specify this information correctly, there may be subsequent problems with getting your RPUs assigned to you.
- You will receive a 5 or 6-digit ID number when you first sign into your account. This number will ensure your anonymity when you participate in research. **Make sure you have this number available when you attend experiments or complete online surveys as it is how your credit will be assigned.** If you provide an incorrect number to your researcher you may not receive credit for your participations. When you receive an email reminder prior to an appointment, the 5 or 6-digit ID number will appear in the message.

- It will be your responsibility to maintain a list of all experiments in which you have participated. RPUs will be given via an online database by the experimenters and will be forwarded to your instructor prior to the final exam. Grade adjustment, penalties for non-participation, missed appointments, etc., will be evaluated by instructors when final grades are computed. You can check your RPUs at your personal page. Do not worry if credit is not assigned until the last week of the semester. Then contact the researcher and, if not response, contact the administrator (e-mail at registration homepage).
- Print out or write down the information provided in the registration confirmation page. The sign-up information will be removed from the web page at some point and the Psychology Department does not have the pertinent information.
- It is your obligation to show up for the experiment on time. If you find that you cannot attend the experiment at the specified time, follow the instructions under My Schedule and Credits (on your Welcome page). Usually you must contact the experimenter prior to the experimental session. To contact the experimenter, use the e-mail provided at the experiment's description.
- Participation in an experiment should be an educational experience. Therefore, after you participate in an experiment, the experimenter should provide you with information about the experiment and give you an opportunity to ask questions. You should be aware that when you agree to participate in an experiment, you retain all of your rights and you may withdraw from the experiment at any time without penalty.

## **OPTION 2: TWO PAPERS SUMMARIZING A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY**

Students who are unwilling or unable to participate as subjects in experiments (Option 1) may fulfill this research participation requirement by submitting summaries of two published research articles.

The first summary must be submitted to the instructor by the 7th week of the semester. (October 13th). Students who miss that deadline must fulfill the requirement via Option 1. The second summary is due on or before the 14th week of the semester. (December 1<sup>st</sup>, or earlier).

FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON BOTH OPTIONS SEE LINK AT ABOVE SITE – before you log in, you can click on the announcement about reading the rules, and you will see what they are. In other words, you won't need to log in to find out what the rules are for either option.

## **What makes the grade?**

### **(a) Exams – 30% each**

- There will be three exams during the semester, each covering about a third of the material.
- There will be non-cumulative make-up exams without penalty ONLY for those who present a Dean's note to the instructor within a week of the missed exam (and religious holidays).

- Exam 1: covers weeks 1 – 5
- Exam 2: covers weeks 6 – 10
- Exam 3: covers weeks 11 – 15

- Exam characteristics:
  - 50 Multiple choice questions
  - Covers lecture, see review questions

*Exam conflicts*

- *If* you have a conflict for the final exam, which is defined as follows by SAS:
  - More than two (2) final exams on one calendar day
  - More than two (2) final exams scheduled in consecutive periods (ex: A student has exams scheduled for 4:00-7:00 pm and 8:00-11:00 pm on one day and 8:00-11:00 am on the following day.)
  - Two final exams scheduled for the same exam period.
- *Then* you are allowed to ask for a makeup on the basis of conflict.

In order to obtain it, you need to go to <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu> and log in (it's at the top of the page). *Print out* your final exam schedule and only then come to me. You should actually be able to do this on the first day that your schedule is finalized. The day before the exam conflict is TOO LATE to come asking for a makeup! When I have looked over your schedule, and told you that you qualify, I will ask you to send me an email saying we talked this over, and I will email you the time and place of the makeup

## **(b) Assignments - 10%**

- Assignments make up the remaining 10%. They are completed on Sakai, and they will have a deadline, after which you CANNOT submit the assignment. Assignments will be Multiple choice practice/review questions, they are open notes/open book. There will be about 3 assignments per “exam period”.

## **(c) Taking part in research worth 5 rpu's – 0 % taken off**

At the end of the semester the instructor will get a report from the system about everyone's research participation.

If you haven't taken part in 5 rpus of research, OR submitted 2 research papers by the deadlines in lieu of the research participation, professors are instructed to lower your grade. For example, an A will be lowered to a B, a B to a C, etc.

- NO LATE PAPERS PERMITTED.
- NO MIX 'N MATCH.
- Since a grade is 10% points, each RPU is, in effect, worth 2 % points.

- DON'T BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO LOSE THESE POINTS BY NOT DOING THE RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OR SUBSTITUTE PAPERS

## (d) Extra credit up to 5%

- There will be extra credit in the form of clicker questions during class. The total possible extra credit is 5 course points (i.e. half a letter grade).
- For each day there are clicker questions – by no means all classes – you earn a percentage grade.
- At end of semester all percentage grades are averaged and the proportion multiplied by 5.
- Clicker questions start counting with the questions on September 18th. Clicker questions on days before then are to make sure your clicker works, so do bring it.
- The spreadsheets showing responses during a class will be posted within 4 days of the class. It is your responsibility to check if your clicker answers were received by my signal receiver. If it was a poll, it will just say if the clicker responded during class, and not indicate what responses were given.
- THERE IS NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT

## How to do well in the course

- Come to class, and arrive in time.
- Announcements are at the beginning of class, and they are frequently important! Make sure you arrive in time.
- Pay attention in class (i.e. what is getting explained/emphasized). Get enough sleep before class, or your body will be present but not your brain.
- **Prepare the answers to the review questions, start early. These questions are your guide to what you should know. So KNOW the answers, be able to explain them to your roommate!**
- Buy/borrow/dig up your old Turning point clicker and use it in class so you get the extra credit.

## Grading Scale for letter grades end semester

A	90% or higher
B+	85% - 89%
B	80% - 84%
C+	75% - 79%
C	70% - 74%
D	60% - 69%
F	below 60%

## Course Ground Rules

## (a) In class

I really only want you in class if you are going to be paying some attention, so be so kind as to turn off your cell phone. If you urgently need to have a conversation, or watch YouTube you are free to do so, but go elsewhere. Other people want to learn the material, even if you are currently not so inclined.

## (b) Academic dishonesty

You are required to abide by the Rutgers policy on academic integrity; please familiarize yourself with this policy, you can view it at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml> Read the section on level three violations and the sanctions that follow!

## (c) Absences from class

It is your responsibility to arrange to obtain information (other than the downloadable class slides, and those are outlines) if you miss one or more classes. Please do not ask or send email to the professor or teaching assistant. If you can, arrange in advance for someone in the class that you know to take good notes for you.

## (d) Missing an exam

- There will be non-cumulative make-up exams.
- ONLY for those who present a doctor's note or a Dean's note within a week of the missed exam to the instructor can take this without penalty.

You will be allowed to take a make-up exam if, within one week of the exam, you present a doctor's note or letter from your dean's office to the professor.

(a) For illnesses: I need a doctor's note to verify your illness. So if you get sick, *get a doctor's note.*

(b) For car accidents: the dean will most likely ask for a police report to verify that the accident took place.

(c) For personal or family emergencies: the dean will most likely require some verification of the emergency (such as a death certificate or obituary if a relative has died). If it is a personal issue of some other nature, it will be up to the judgment of the dean to determine whether or not you should be excused from the exam (and thus be allowed to take the make-up).

Basically folks: I need some paper documentation from you.

- Those who miss the exam because they forgot, overslept, were inebriated, or whatever other reason that is not really an excuse, have to come to talk to me within one week of the exam, and will probably be allowed to take the makeup exam with a penalty: 8% off the top of the exam grade. In the end that is better than a zero for the exam.

**Note: Your decision to remain enrolled in the course after the first class session is your implicit agreement to abide by everything stated above.**