

Fall 2014

01:830:101:11 – General Psychology

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:40 – 8:00 PM, HLL 114

Instructor

Dr. John Ackroff

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:30,

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Teaching Assistant

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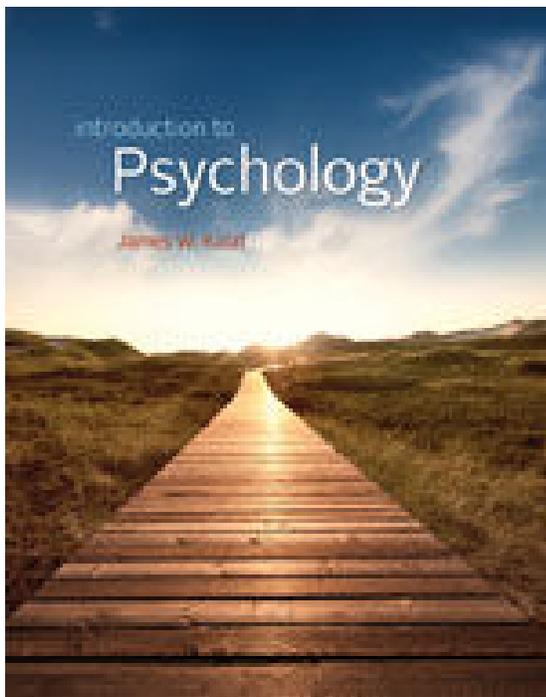
PSY 235 (Busch)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 – 12:00,

and by appointment.

Course Materials

Required Text



Kalat, J. W. (2014). *Introduction to Psychology*. (10th Edition). Cengage Learning.

To be available at New Jersey Books, 37 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick. Copies may also be available at Barnes & Noble. See the section "Getting the Materials" below for more options.

A copy of the book is reserve at the Kilmer Area Library.

Recommended Supplementary Materials

Aplia is an online homework system that includes automatically graded problems tailored to the textbook for this course. A fully interactive eBook is included with Aplia. The eBook will allow you to highlight, take notes, and bookmark pages.

The [User Guide](#) tells you how to create your account. The course key for Aplia for this course is 2HJP-MBWK-E2BV.

As in any course, some students will do better than others. As in any course, there are a variety of reasons for this. Data from a previous semester show that just over 45% of the variability in exam scores is accounted for by the variability in students' Aplia performance. This does not mean that doing the Aplia homework assignments will guarantee you a higher score, but students who do well on them tend to do well on the exams, which are the basis for your course grade.

Aplia provides you with a grace period of 21 days to perform homework problems and access study tools at no cost. You can use this trial period to decide whether you think it will help your performance in this course. After 21 days, your account will be closed if you do not purchase Aplia.

Getting the Materials

- You may purchase the Aplia package, including electronic access to the textbook, at the bookstore, (ISBN 978-1-285-19009-9) or at a reduced price directly from the publisher [here](#). Purchasing it from the publisher will give you immediate access.
- If you want a physical copy of the book, you may purchase one along with an Aplia access code (ISBN 978-1-285-58414-0) from the bookstore. (This also gives you access to an electronic textbook.) You may also purchase the same package at a reduced price directly from the publisher [here](#). This will give you immediate access to Aplia and the electronic book while your book is being shipped.
- You may purchase a physical copy of the book, without access to Aplia, from the bookstore (ISBN 978-1-133-95660-0).

About General Psychology – Course Goals:

In this course we will discuss most of the areas encompassed by the discipline of psychology. The Psychology Department offers at least one full-semester course providing a deeper investigation into each of the topics we will cover; you should have an understanding of what psychologists do and how they go about their work at the end of the semester. You should also improve your critical thinking skills as a result of taking this course.

Exams and Grading:

You are expected to comply with Rutgers' [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Early in the semester there will be an online quiz in which you indicate that you have read the Syllabus and agree to its terms, including compliance with the Academic Integrity Policy. This quiz does not count toward your grade, however you must agree to these terms in order to receive your scores.

There will be three exams based on the text and other materials presented in class.

The first two exams are non-cumulative, and will consist of two parts: 40 multiple choice questions, worth 80% of the grade for that exam, and an essay question worth 20% of your grade for that exam. Each of these exams will be worth 30% of your course grade. One week prior to each exam, four essay questions will be posted online. Two of those questions will be selected for the exam; you will be required to answer either one of them in class. A sample essay question and answer will be posted before the first exam to give you some guidance as to what is expected. The third exam will also consist of two parts. The first part will be 50 multiple choice questions covering the material since the second exam. This will also be worth 30% of your course grade. The second part will be 24 multiple choice questions covering all the material in the course, and will be worth 10% of your course grade. The following table summarizes the sources of your exam points:

Source	Component	Points	Total Points
Exam I	Multiple Choice	240	300
	Essay	60	
	Exam I Total		
Exam II	Multiple Choice	240	300
	Essay	60	
	Exam II Total		
Exam III	Non-cumulative Multiple Choice	300	400
	Cumulative Multiple Choice	100	
	Exam III Total		
Course Total			1000

You are responsible for bringing pencils with erasers to each exam. You may bring a pen for the essay questions if you wish. You must also bring your Rutgers ID Card to the exam.

Exam scores will be posted on the PostEm tab on sakai. Whenever scores are posted, the grade scale will be updated so that the letter grade you see corresponds to your current grade based on the total number of points (including extra credit) you have earned.

If you have questions about your score on a Multiple Choice exam, you can discuss them with Dr. Ackroff. If you have a question about your essay questions, you must discuss it with your Teaching Assistant. In either case, you should do this before the next exam.

If you have a schedule conflict with an exam, you may be allowed to take a makeup exam at the discretion of the instructor. You must notify the instructor of your absence **before** the exam is given in order to be allowed

to take a makeup. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a makeup exam only if you provide documentation for a valid reason for missing the exam. For absences due to colds, etc., a note from your Health Center or doctor will be acceptable. This note **must** indicate that you were not able to take the exam at the scheduled time. For more serious issues such as a death in the family or serious health or personal issues, you may present a note from your Dean's office verifying that you missed the exam due to an excused absence. In any case, your note **must also** indicate when you will be able to make up the exam. You should give this note to the instructor within 1 week of your return to class. If you cannot document that you had a valid reason for missing an exam, you **may** be allowed to take a makeup exam, but your score will be reduced by 15%. Whether or not you will be allowed to make up an exam under these circumstances is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

If an exam is cancelled or postponed on the day of the exam, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

Grading in this course works differently from most other courses. Final grades will be determined by the total number of points you score on the Multiple Choice exams and essay questions.

At the end of the semester, the point total for all exams is computed for each student, and an absolute frequency distribution is made. The top 2 or 3% of the students scores are not used to compute grades. The highest remaining point total is used as the base for computing students' grades.

- Students whose point total is 90.00% or more of the base receive A grades.
- Students whose point total is 88.00 to 89.99% of the base receive B+ grades.
- Students whose point total is 80.00 to 87.99% of the base receive B grades.
- Students whose point total is 78.00 to 79.99% of the base receive C+ grades.
- Students whose point total is 70.00 to 77.99% of the base receive C grades.
- Students whose point total is 60.00 to 69.99% of the base receive D grades.

Extra credit points (see below) are added to the total number of points you score after the cutoffs have been determined.

Research Participation

The Psychology Department requires that students in General Psychology fulfill a research participation requirement. Details on what this requirement is and how it can be met are available [here](#).

When you register, make sure you use your NetId. This is the ID you use to sign on to sakai.

- It is not your 9-digit RUID.
- It is not your name in "first.last" format.
- It is most certainly not your gmail (or other non-Rutgers) email address.

Registering with an ID other than your NetID is likely to result in your RPU's not being credited to you.

Failure to meet the requirement will result in a reduction of your total course exam points by one-half a standard deviation of the total point distribution for the class. This could lower your course grade by a full letter grade.

Practice Exams

Practice Exams will be made available on sakai. There is a Long Form and Short Form for each exam. The Long Practice Exam is involved in Extra Credit (see below). It will be available for several days before the exam, after all the material has been covered in class. After that, the Short Practice Exam will be available until shortly before the actual exam. The content-related questions are the same on both exams. You may take the Long Practice Exam only once; you may take the Short Practice Exam as often as you wish.

Extra Credit:

You can earn 2 extra credit points for each exam. In order to do this, you must take the Long Practice Exam and score at least 70%, **and** answer two extra questions on the actual exam. (Half of the questions on the Long Practice Exam ask you how confident you are in your answers; you automatically get them right just for answering them. This means you only have to answer 40% of the content-related questions correctly to get a total of 70% on the exam.) The two questions on the actual exam ask you how well you think you did, and how confident you are in your estimate. You don't have to predict your score correctly, but you must answer these questions in order to receive extra credit.

Note that these are the only opportunities available for extra credit.

Attendance and Correspondence Policies:

- **Attendance:** You should attend all meetings of all of your classes. My lectures are based on the material in the assigned readings, but may also cover material not discussed in the readings. You are responsible for all of this material.

If you arrive late or must leave before class is over, please sit near a door and try to be as inconspicuous as possible. It is distracting to everyone to have people walking in and out of the classroom during class.

Classes are held according to the schedule below as long as the University is open. If the weather appears to be threatening, you can check the [Campus Operating Status](#) here.

If a class is cancelled, postponed, or moved on the day of class, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please turn off all cell phones, etc., before class begins.

Please note that you may not make any type of recording without my written consent.

If you wish to use a laptop computer to take notes, that is fine. If you wish to use a laptop computer to surf the web, play games, IM your friends, etc., I would suggest you go to the nearest Student Center. This advice also applies to having side discussions with your classmates, reading newspapers, doing puzzles, etc.

- **Online Etiquette:** The Chat Room on sakai is provided for you to exchange course-related information.
 - Arranging study groups, asking (and answering) questions about the course material, asking for help with notes you may have missed are all legitimate uses of the Chat Room.
 - Making comments about others or their posts is not. See the [University Policy](#) if you are unsure of what's acceptable.
 - You may not discuss the Multiple Choice exam questions and/or answers in the Chat Room.
 - You may discuss questions and answers from the **Short** Practice Exams, but not the Long Practice Exams.

Any violation of this policy will result in your loss of access to **ALL** sakai resources.

- **Questions:** I encourage you to ask questions during class. If something is unclear, or if you have a question related to the material being discussed, please ask your question then. Chances are that some of your classmates would also like some additional discussion of the topic.
- **Email:** I try to answer email promptly. Having said that,
 - Please use a Subject that gives me some idea what you are writing about. This is especially important if you send mail from an account other than eden. Mail from sexgoddess@aol.com with a subject of "hello" is likely to be considered spam and deleted unread.
 - If you ask me a question whose answer is on the course web page or Syllabus, my reply is likely to say that.
 - If you ask me a question about your standing in the course, please include your name and which course and section you are enrolled in.
 - Please re-read the section on "Questions" above. I realize that there are times when you are reviewing notes after class and/or before an exam when you will discover that you have a question. But it is in everyone's best interest for you to ask your questions in class, rather than after the fact, if you have a question while class is in session.
 - You are responsible for any announcements, etc., I send to the class via email.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Tuesday, September 2	Course Introduction	

Thursday, September 4	What is Psychology?	Chapter 1
Tuesday, September 9	Scientific Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2
Thursday, September 11	Scientific Methods in Psychology, cont'd	
Tuesday, September 16	Biological Psychology	Chapter 3
Thursday, September 18	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
Tuesday, September 23	Development	Chapter 5
Thursday, September 25	(No Class)	
Tuesday, September 30	Review for Exam I	
Thursday, October 2	EXAM I	Chapters 1 - 5 and supplemental material
Tuesday, October 7	Learning	Chapter 6
Thursday, October 9	Learning, cont'd	
Tuesday, October 14	Memory	Chapter 7
Thursday, October 16	Memory, cont'd	
Tuesday, October 21	Cognition and Language	Chapter 8
Thursday, October 23	Cognition and Language, cont'd	
Tuesday, October 28	Intelligence	Chapter 9
Thursday, October 30	Review for Exam II	
Tuesday, November 4	EXAM II	Chapters 6 - 9 and supplemental material
Thursday, November 6	Consciousness	Chapter 10
Tuesday, November 11	Motivated Behaviors	Chapter 11
Thursday, November 13	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 12
Tuesday, November 18	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Thursday, November 20	Social Psychology, cont'd	
Tuesday, November 25	Personality	Chapter 14
Thursday, November 27	No Class -- Thanksgiving	
Tuesday, December 2	Personality, cont'd	
Thursday, December 4	Abnormal PSYchology: Disorders and Treatment	Chapter 15
Tuesday, December 9	Review	
Tuesday, December 16	EXAM III	Chapters 10 - 15 and supplementary material
	8:00 - 9:50 PM	

Rules for Final Exam Conflicts

I consider the course materials used for lecture content and the course web page to be my personal intellectual property or the intellectual property of other parties, as identified. I view the sale or purchase of these materials as a violation of copyright laws. You **may not** post these materials or derivative materials such as study guides to **any** web site. This includes, but is not restricted to, sites such as googledocs, Study Blue, and so on. Violation of this policy will result in loss of access to the course on sakai. You may not record lectures and/or classroom discussion without my express written consent.

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