

Spring 2015 Course Syllabus

Section 90

Online

Prof. Brill's Office Hours:

**Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 PM and Thursdays
12:00-1:00 PM, Tillett Hall Room 221**

The following are included with the online course fee you paid when you registered for the course.

You do not need to make any other purchases!

Instructions for access to MindTap and the textbook are [here](#).

*MindTap for
James W. Kalat (2014)
Introduction to Psychology, Tenth Edition
(MindTap is an online platform that
includes a customized electronic version of
the textbook as well as helpful study
materials)*

Welcome to the online version of Psychology 101 at Rutgers. This course will introduce you to the various topics and issues in the scientific exploration of mind and behavior. By the end of the semester, you should be well prepared to go on to study more advanced courses in our department. Along the way, you will discover what psychologists have learned that can enrich your studies, your relationships, your health, and other important aspects of your life.

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:

II.B.i: *Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence,*

arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.

II.B.n: *Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.*

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.

Please read the information on this web page carefully. The crucial things you need to know are presented here, and there are more details on particular topics on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

If you have any questions about the course, the first thing you should do is check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. Secondly, you should check the discussion forums in the course [Sakai](#) site. If you still don't have your answer, please send an email to the teaching assistant, who should be able to provide an answer to your question.

Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please see web site of the [Office of Disability Services for Students](#) for more information.

Is This Online Course Right For You?

Taking General Psychology as an online course rather than as a traditional classroom course will be of great benefit for some but not all Rutgers students. You should carefully consider whether it is right for you. This will depend on at least two factors:

1) Your learning style:

- You may benefit from the ability to proceed at your own pace at times of your own choosing. You may find it difficult to sit still for 80 minutes in a classroom, or you may often be fatigued and unable to concentrate at certain times of the day. An online course allows you to take frequent breaks, stand or walk around as you read or watch a video, and get to work when your energy level is high.
- However, many students do better in the social environment that the classroom provides. Being among other students and in the presence of the professor helps them to concentrate and increases their motivation to do well in the course. If this describes you, then you may be better off taking a traditional classroom version of the course.

2) Your schedule and lifestyle:

- Perhaps you have a job or other obligation that requires you to be away from campus much of the time, or you may be a commuter who finds it difficult and/or expensive to travel to campus. If so, taking an online course will help you manage these difficulties.

If you are seriously considering taking this online course, you should keep one very important thing in mind: This course is designed to be as academically rigorous as the traditional classroom version of the course. You will be expected to do as much reading and studying, and you will be expected to put in at least 160 minutes of work each week to correspond to the time spent in the lectures of the traditional course. In other words, except for travel to and from a classroom, this online course will require just as much work from you as the traditional classroom version of the course. You will be assigned videos, podcasts, exercises, and quizzes that must be completed each week.

Academic Integrity

The policies found in the [Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy](#) apply to this course. You will also be asked to assent to an online integrity statement in the course Sakai site.

Weekly Online Assignments

There will be an online MindTap assignment due each Wednesday night at 11:59 PM every week of the semester except for the week of Spring break. The individual deadline for each assignment is identified in MindTap.

You will be allowed to submit up to three late assignments during the semester. In order to do so, please send an email to the instructor to request a deadline extension.

Exams

There will be two multiple-choice exams in the course, which will both be conducted in-person on the Livingston campus in Piscataway. Each exam will include 60 multiple choice questions. Please consult the course Sakai web site or the MindTap Learning Path for the details (date, time, location) of the exams.

The midterm exam will cover chapters 1 through 7 of the textbook (that is, from the start of the textbook up to and including the "Cognition and Language" chapter). The final exam will cover chapters 8 through 15 of the textbook.

Make-up exams: You may make up an exam ***only*** if you provide legitimate documentation verifying that you missed the exam because of an excused absence. Excused absences include out-of-town athletic events, religious observances, serious illness, or other emergencies. Once you provide documentation for your absence, you will consult with the teaching assistant to schedule a make-up exam.

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about Exams](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions about Missing and Exam and Make-Up Exams](#).

Grades

Your grade will be the result of the combination of your online assignments and your exam scores, as follows:

Exams	60%
Online Assignments	40%

Note that the lowest of your weekly assignment scores will be dropped when calculating your "Online Assignments" percentage for the course.

The result of the combination of the above scores will be compared to the following table to determine your grade for the course:

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

Your grade will be determined solely on the basis of the total of your scores on exams and online assignments.

Changing Grades:

Students sometimes ask professors to change final grades, usually based on the need to achieve a certain grade in order to, for example, get into the business school, retain a scholarship, or avoid academic probation. Although I wish all of you the best of success in your studies, you hopefully can understand how changing one student's grade is unfair to the other students in the class. Therefore, requests for test score or grade changes will not be entertained. Likewise, additional assignments to earn extra credit are not available. Your final grade will be based solely on the scores you achieve in the online assignments and the course exams, as described above.

Research Participation Requirement

Research is an essential part of the field of psychology. It is important for students to be exposed to either actual participation as a subject in an experiment, or at the very least, to learn from technical articles how research is done. Therefore, all sections of General Psychology require either five "Research Participation Units" of experiment participation or an alternative assignment of writing two papers describing psychological research. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result, by departmental policy, in a reduction of your final grade.

The psychology department's [Human Research Student Requirements](#) web page explains exactly what you must do.

To sign up as a subject for experiments, to cancel an appointment you have already made, to find

out how many Research Participation Units you've earned so far, or to contact a researcher for any reason, go to the [Human Subject Pool System](#) web site.

If you choose to write the 2 papers instead of participating in experiments, you must submit the first paper on or before the day of the midterm exam and you must submit the second paper on or before the last day of classes on the academic calendar.

See the Human Research Student Requirements web page (scroll down to the Option 2 section) for the specific requirements for the papers (including how you must format your papers, what journals are acceptable as sources for your articles, etc.).

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about Research Participation](#).

Additional Instruction

You can get additional help with this course through tutoring sessions provided by the [Rutgers Learning Centers](#).

Additionally, there are [academic coaches](#) at these center who can provide individualized help with general study and test preparation skills.

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about Doing well in the Course](#).

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