

Introduction to Psychology: 830:101:10

Course Sakai site: Intro to Psych 101:10 Sp14

Spring 2014

TTH 5:00-6:20 LSH AUD

Dr. Bonnie Nolan

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Learning Goals

This course has been certified as satisfying the Social Analysis (SCL) Learning Outcome Goal of the SAS Core Curriculum.

Students will learn leading terms, concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the subject of the Psychology. Students will be asked to use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to ask, answer and understand questions related to many topics in Psychology. Students will learn to apply psychological concepts and content to become engaged citizens.

Specifically, students will be able to explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis, and apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.



Current Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

List of Required Books &/or Materials :

Note: You do NOT need a clicker for this class!

Course Structure and Requirements.

- **There will be 2 hourly exams and 1 final exam. The hourly exams will be worth approximately 33 points each, the final will be worth approximately 34 points. Values are approximate because questions may be thrown out based on success rates. All will be multiple choice. The first two exams will be online, and the final will be in class during the common hour exam period.**
- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations: Follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>
- **The Psychology department requires all General Psychology students to log into the RPU system via the following website: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/> in order to participate in research at some point in the semester. There is an alternative option: check out <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules> for details. The work required is minor but mandatory, and many of you may find it interesting. Note: If you choose the writing option (writing papers rather than participating in research) the first paper will be due March 5.**

On occasion, I will decide to SKIP a lecture on a particular chapter, in favor of another activity (such as a film or a discussion of an experiment.) **YOU ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT CHAPTER, AND WILL BE TESTED ON IT.** You will also be responsible for the information shared in class, which may or may not be in the book. Therefore, it is important that you:

- a) have access to an edition of the book,
- b) download and review all lecture slides
- c) take notes in class, as slides will not have all of the information you'll need

Exam dates are subject to change according to schedule variations – ample notice will be given.

Topics are Chapter Titles:

Wk 1: Jan 21

What is Psychology?

Wk 2: Jan 28

What is Psychology?, cont'd and Scientific Methods in Psychology

Biological Psychology

Wk 3: Feb 4

Learning

Memory

Wk 4: Feb 11

Mon: Sensation and Perception

Wk 5: Feb 18

Sensation and Perception

Thursday, Feb 20: **Exam 1**

Wk 6: Feb 25

Cognition and Language

Nature, Nurture and Human Development

Wk 7: Mar 4

Intelligence

Consciousness

Wk 8: Mar 11

Motivated behaviors

Thursday: Mar 13: **First Paper Due** if you choose the RPU writing option

Motivated Behaviors, cont'd

Mar 18-20 – no class – Spring Break

Wk 10: Mar 25

Emotions, Stress and Health

Wk 11: Apr 1

Tuesday: Exam 2

Thursday, Apr 3:

Social Psychology

Wk 12: Apr 8

Personality

Wk 13: Apr 15

Abnormality, Therapy and Social Issues

Wk. 14: Apr 22

Specific Disorders and Treatments

Apr 24: Second RPU paper due

Wk 15: Apr 29

Catch up/film

Review for final

The Final Exam will take place during the Common Hour Exam Schedule.

<http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/index.shtml>. The date will also be announced as soon as I have a final schedule.

General Policies: In large classes, it becomes necessary to control the flow of email, so that valid questions can be answered in a timely manner. I am available via email and in person to discuss any issue OTHER THAN THOSE DESCRIBED BELOW.

1. There MAY be, on rare occasion, an opportunity for extra credit. I will announce these as they come up. I will not give extra credit opportunities to individual students. Please do not ask.
2. If there is a grade curve, it will show at the end of the semester. Grades in my classes do not generally warrant a curve, but I am certainly open to the possibility. If there is a curve, it will be based on a statistical evaluation of the performance of the class as a whole. I will announce any alterations in grading in class and on Sakai. Please do not ask.
3. A good grade in this class is certainly achievable. There will be very fair and specific parameters for what constitutes an "A", a "B", etc. I cannot change any grade for extenuating circumstances (unless there has been a grading error) even if you're really, really close. Please do not ask.

Note: This is a very large class. Please use the resources on Sakai to get answers to routine questions; nearly all questions can be answered by looking at past announcements, resources, and the chat room.

Note: I am frequently present in the chat room. The best (and fastest) way to get answers regarding RPU is at the website: <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpures>

The best (and easiest) way to do well in this class is to show up and pay attention. I'll do my best to make it interesting! I look forward to meeting you all.