

General Psychology Syllabus
Rutgers University
Spring Semester 2014
General Psychology 01:830:101:07

Time: **Tuesday/Friday 12:00-1:20 p.m.**
Location: **Lucy Stone Hall auditorium**

Instructor: Dr. Marina Gelfand
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Office hours: Tuesday 1:45-2:45
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Teaching Assistant: Lloyd Robotham
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Sakai Site: You can access this course's Sakai at <http://sakai.rutgers.edu/> and clicking on our course: **01:830:101:07 S14**.

SAS Core Goal Statement

SAS Core Goal statement for General Psychology

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:

a) Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis (subgoal i);

and

b) Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations (subgoal n).

Materials Required



You will need the following materials for this course:

1) Kalat 10th Edition + Aplaia Printed Access Code: bundle ISBN 9781285584140

This bundle includes James Kalat's softcover version of Introduction to Psychology, 10th Edition as well as access to Aplaia online quizzes.

You can purchase this bundle at NJ Books for \$125 (this is much cheaper than buying the book and Aplaia separately). NJ Books is located at 37 Easton Ave. in New Brunswick.

Aplaia Registration Instructions:

There are two codes needed to successfully register for the Aplaia program:

1) Course key: **CFSE-ECH7-TMSG**. This key is the same for all students in the class.

2) Aplaia Access Code: This code is unique to each student. This code comes bundled with the book at the bookstore.

Go to www.cengagebrain.com and create an account if you do not have one. If you already have an account, log in. Once you have successfully created an account or logged into your existing account, enter course key **CFSE-ECH7-TMSG** where prompted and click the Register button.

IMPORTANT NOTE: When you enter the course key you are given access to the course and have a grace period to buy the Aplaia program. You will have until 11:59pm on 2/10/14 to enter the personal access code that you purchase at the bookstore. Of course, you do not need to wait until the end of the grace period; whenever you purchase the bundle, after you enter the course key above, enter the code that comes with the bundle. You will then have permanent access for the length of the course. **If you do not need the physical book, you can purchase just Aplaia and online book access from Cengage when prompted (for \$105).**

2) i>clicker 2, ISBN 1429280476. Any working version of the i>clicker is acceptable with the exception of i>clicker GO (a program on your phone or computer), which will not work.

Course description

This course will provide an overview of the diverse field of psychology. Many think of psychology as primarily having to do with abnormal behavior and therapy. While it does of course address these areas, psychology is much broader, encompassing a wide range of topics having to do with human behavior. This includes memory, learning, emotion and motivation, human development, social behavior, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, and the science of psychology as a discipline. This course will cover the most major concepts in these areas.

You will learn how to integrate psychology into your daily lives and apply the information discussed to your own experiences. Psychology is truly everywhere! You will soon see how.

You will also learn to evaluate information critically. Through a study of the science of psychology as a discipline as well as numerous examples of research, you will learn how to be a discriminating consumer of research.

Course Policies

Arriving late/leaving early: You are expected to arrive to class on time and stay for the length of the class. If you do need to arrive late or leave early, please sit in the back of the class to minimize disruption.

Disruptive behavior: Multitasking is not an effective way to learn. Talking, texting, playing computer games, taking selfies, loud gum chewing, etc. are activities that do not belong in the learning environment of a classroom and are distracting to those around you. Students who continually disrupt in this manner will be asked to leave class, and/or will have points deducted from their grade. Turn off cell phones when class begins.

Missed class: If you miss a class, make arrangements to get missed notes from a classmate. It is a good idea to find one or two "buddies" to help you if you are absent. I will post Powerpoint notes after we have finished each chapter.

Missed exams: You may only miss an exam for a **documented** reason (in writing). You must have a letter from a dean, doctor, athletic coach, etc.

Recording class: Audio or video recording of any part of lecture is strictly forbidden without expressed written permission from the instructor.

Grading

There will be three exams – two hourly exams and one final. The breakdown will be as follows:

Exam 1 – 25%

Exam 2 – 25%

Final exam – 30%

Aplia assignments – 10%

Class participation via i>clicker – 10%

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100% = A

85-89% = B+

80-84% = B

75-79% = C+

70-74% = C

60-69% = D

below 60% = F

Research Requirement

There is a mandatory research requirement for this course. You will need to complete 5 RPUs (Research Participation Credits). You receive one RPU per half hour, so you will need to complete 2.5 hours. If you do not complete all 5 RPUs, your course grade will be lowered.

For detailed information, see <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules>.

Log into the system and register for experiments here: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>

In lieu of completing the research requirement, you may complete two papers summarizing research articles – one due at the midpoint of the semester, and one due by the second to last week of class. See the website above for more information.

The experiments must be completed by the last day of classes for the semester. You are strongly encouraged to do them early in the semester to account for any logistical issues that may arise.

Exams

YOU WILL BE TESTED ON MATERIAL COVERED IN LECTURE BUT NOT IN THE BOOK. Anything mentioned in lecture is fair game. If you do not come to class, you are putting yourself at a significant disadvantage.

Given the large amount of material that will be covered in this class, it is essential that you do the reading beforehand so you have familiarity with the material.

To review your answers after an exam, see me or Lloyd Robotham during office hours.

Aplia Quizzes

There will be approximately 14 **mandatory** online quizzes on Aplia (plus one quiz on the syllabus) worth 10% of your grade. You may answer each question three times, and the higher score for each question will be counted. In order to do this, click on "Try Another Version" on the bottom of the screen after you've completed each page. You must take the quiz by the due date for it to be counted. Quizzes will open one week before they are due, and you'll receive an e-mail reminder. You will usually have one quiz per week, but occasionally, when covering a shorter chapter, there may be two quizzes in one week. *Your lowest 3 quiz scores will be dropped.*

Students who transfer late into the class during drop/add period will be given a chance to complete missed quizzes. *Otherwise, no late submissions will be accepted.* Please contact Lloyd Robotham for anything related to quiz extensions.

Class participation - i>clicker-2

Class participation is worth 10% of your grade, and will be assessed via i>clicker. *Any model i>clicker is acceptable, but it must be the i>clicker brand.* Turning Point clickers will not work.

I will be asking several questions per class, and you will be graded on whether you responded (not on whether the answer is correct). You must answer at least 75% of the questions in each class to get credit for that class. **Your lowest three participation scores will be dropped.** This will compensate for any technical problems, such as leaving your clicker at home, batteries dying, improper use, etc. The first few classes will be clicker practice; clicker responses will only start counting on 1/31/14.

I will upload i>clicker results to Gradebook 2 following each class. Scores will be labeled by date, and a score of 1 means you have received credit. It is *your responsibility* to make sure that your clicker is working properly.

Please note: If you are found using more than one clicker during class, all who are involved will receive an F for the participation portion of their grade. If this is a repeated offense, you will get an F for the entire course.

If you purchase a used clicker, make sure to replace batteries immediately. Batteries last approximately one academic year, and you don't want to be in the middle of the class when the batteries die.

Register your clicker ON THE SAKAI SITE (there is an i>clicker link in the table of contents at the left) right away. *Do not* register at iclicker.com.

Optional quizzes – *extra credit*

You will be able to earn 2 extra credit points by taking optional online quizzes. For instance, if your average is an 88 (a B+), the two points will bump you up to a 90 (an A). There will be one quiz per chapter plus a department-wide quiz administered with the final, resulting in approximately 15 quizzes. You do not lose points by not taking quizzes, but each quiz is an opportunity to earn a higher proportion of the two allotted points.

If you are on the border between two grades, extra credit can bump you up to the higher grade. Many students are at or near the border, and this is the **ONLY** opportunity available to raise your grade. Several quiz questions will show up on exams, so it is to your advantage to do them.

There are no other extra credit opportunities available. If you did not do the quizzes and are not happy with your grade at the end of the semester, you will not be able to do extra work to raise your grade. Please note that extra credit points will be added to your grade after the final.

Grading procedures

There will be **NO** adjustments to grades unless I have made a flat-out grading error. **FINAL GRADES ARE NOT ROUNDED UP**, even if you're really, really close. An 89.93 is not a 90, and gives you a B+. This applies even if you absolutely need to get a certain grade to keep financial aid, a scholarship, or maintain your GPA. If you are concerned about grades, fulfill all requirements, complete the extra credit, come to us for help early in the semester if your grades are not what you would like.

I do not automatically curve. If I feel questions on an exam were unfair or not properly understood by a high percentage of the class, or if the class as a whole is scoring lower than expected, I reserve the right to reconsider. Do not ask me if grades will be curved.

Cheating and plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously. Please familiarize yourself with the policy: <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. You are expected to complete all work in this course *by yourself* without any form of assistance from other students or outside sources, unless instructions note otherwise. While you are encouraged to study in groups, exams and quizzes must be done separately. *Working together on quizzes or exams constitutes cheating and will be handled as such.*

Disability Accommodations

Please refer to the accommodations policy for students with disabilities:
<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations can do so here:
<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

If you need special accommodations, please bring this up early in the semester. If you need extra time on exams, you must bring me the form from the disability office to sign at least **ONE WEEK** prior to the first exam. You will not need to do this for subsequent exams.

Communication

For general questions about the course, policies, etc., and clarification questions that other students could benefit from, post in a public forum such as the Sakai chat room. For any issues related to quizzes or make-up exams, contact our TA, Lloyd Robotham. Please e-mail only when an issue is more individual to you and cannot be answered elsewhere. I will make every effort to respond to your e-mail within 48 hours. Do not resend your e-mail until 48 hours have passed unless it is a true emergency. If you e-mail me a question that has been clearly covered on the syllabus or on Sakai, it will probably not be answered.

E-mails should be professional. I have posted a PowerPoint (created by a former TA, Emily Panza) listing guidelines on how to appropriately communicate with professors via e-mail. You can find this in the resources section.

MAKE SURE to read the announcements on Sakai. I will sometimes tell you to skip certain sections of chapters, for example. This is a fluid class due to changes in pacing and there may be important changes in assignments and important clarifications. You are responsible for all changes announced.

In the event of inclement weather, if you do not hear from me, assume that class is on as scheduled. I will always make an announcement on Sakai if class is cancelled.

Studying

Here are some tips to improve your study skills and increase your chances of doing well in the course. You'll get lots more tips when we cover the Memory chapter.

- Form study and homework groups. Discussing material with others is a great way to aid retention.
- Distributed practice: don't cram. The more you space out your studying over a period of time, the more likely you'll be to remember the material.
- Self-testing and evaluation - frequent testing is one of the best ways to learn and retain information. Take all the extra quizzes available. Go over your wrong answers.
- Take frequent breaks when studying. People tend to remember the beginning and end of a study session best. Marathon sessions are usually exhausting and hamper long-term recall.
- SLEEP! Make sure to get adequate rest.
- Ask for help early in the semester when there is still enough time to address issues. If you come to me two days before the final exam nervous that you have a 55 average, I am limited in how much I can help you.

Counseling

College can be an overwhelming time. If you find yourself having a difficult time coping, please refer to <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/> where you can see an overview of support services available at Rutgers.

Course Schedule

By continuing your enrollment in the course, you are accepting the terms of this syllabus.

Course schedule	<i>Changes to the syllabus announced in class and/or posted to Sakai always take precedence over information listed below.</i>
January 21	Introduction to Psychology and overview of course policies
January 24	Introduction to Psychology (Chapter 1)
January 28	Scientific Methods in Psychology (Chapter 2)

	Last day to drop course without a "W"
January 31	Scientific Methods in Psychology (Chapter 2)
	Clicker scores begin to count
February 4	Biological Psychology (Chapter 3)
February 7	Biological Psychology (Chapter 3)
February 11	Development (Chapter 5)
February 14	Development (Chapter 5)
February 18	Review and catch up
February 21	EXAM #1 on chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5
February 25	Learning (Chapter 6)
February 28	Learning (Chapter 6)
March 4	Memory (Chapter 7)
March 7	Memory (Chapter 7)
March 11	Cognition and Language (Chapter 8)
	First Paper Due if choosing research paper to fulfill RPU requirements
March 14	Intelligence (Chapter 9)
March 18	Spring break – no class
March 21	Spring break – no class
March 25	Consciousness (Chapter 10), review and catch up
March 28	EXAM #2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10
April 1	Motivated Behaviors (Chapter 11)
April 4	Emotions, Stress, and Health (Chapter 12)
April 8	Emotions, Stress, and Health (Chapter 12)
April 11	Social Psychology (Chapter 13)
April 15	Social Psychology (Chapter 13)
April 18	Social Psychology (Chapter 13)
April 22	Personality (Chapter 14)
April 25	Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Chapter 15)
April 29	Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Chapter 15)
	Second Paper Due if choosing research paper to fulfill RPU requirements
May 2	Review and catch up
May 6	No class – Reading Day
May 8	FINAL EXAM – SEMI-CUMULATIVE – 12-3 p.m. – emphasis on chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15
	Exam dates in RED
	Important deadlines in GREEN