

# General Psychology

(830:101:13)

LSH Auditorium, Monday/Wednesday 6:40 - 8:00 p.m.

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| <b>Instructor:</b> Cordelia Aitkin, PhD<br><b>Office Hours:</b> Monday & Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30, Tillet 321, or by appointment<br><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:cdaikin@rci.rutgers.edu">cdaikin@rci.rutgers.edu</a> | <b>TA:</b> Jeremy Engelberg<br><b>Office Hours:</b> Wednesdays, 5 -6 pm, Tillet 325, or by appointment<br><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jeremy.engelberg@rutgers.edu">jeremy.engelberg@rutgers.edu</a> |
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## Learning Goals:

1. Develop scientific and critical reasoning skills.
2. Understand the major subfields and a representative sample of the major theories in psychology.
3. Understand some of the links between mind and brain, and how those links are discovered.
4. Improve class participation skills by asking questions and contributing to discussions.

## Required Material:

Text: Kalat, James W. (2013) *Introduction to Psychology*. ISBN-13: 978-1133956600

Clicker: Response card by Turning Technology. ISBN: 978-1934931400

**Research Requirement:** All General Psychology sections have an experimental requirement for the students. There are two ways to fulfill this requirement:

1. participate in experiments for 2-1/2 hours
2. complete two written assignments.

For details, go to <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules>.

**Electronics Policy:** All electronics must be off for the duration of the class period.

**Assessment:** Grades will be determined from a combination of in-class activities (including exams) and homework (including reading).

*Participation* (5%): Participation will be based on in-class clicker questions. In these questions, you may be asked to answer based on your own understanding of the topic, or after discussion with a small group of your fellow students.

*Homework* (10%): Various assignments, mostly on-line

*In-class exams* (60%): We will have 3 exams during the semester, one for each of the first three modules

*Final* (25%): Most of the final will focus on the final module of the course, but will also review major material from the first three modules. It will be from 8 to 11 pm, Monday, May 12 PLEASE NOTE: The time and date of the final exam is set by the University, and cannot be changed.

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will incur penalties as described in the University Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

**Make-up Policy:** Make-up exams will be given if the exam is missed for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness). There will be no make-ups or extensions for homework, participation, or experimental credits.

**Extra Help:** General Psychology can be a challenging course! If you feel concerned about your grasp of the material, please come see me or Mr. Engelberg during office hours: these are times set aside specifically for you to ask for help from us outside of class.

**Email:** If you need to contact us by email, use your Rutgers account to send the email. Include the course and section number in the subject, and your full name in the email itself. We will attempt to answer emails promptly, but this is not always possible.

**Grading:** Grades are based on assessments as follows:

| <i>Assessment</i>       | <i>Percentage of Final Grade</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Homework                | 10                               |
| Participation           | 5                                |
| First exam              | 20                               |
| Second exam             | 20                               |
| Third Exam              | 20                               |
| Final                   | 25                               |
| <i>Total Percentage</i> | <i>100</i>                       |

Final letter grades will be based on the percentage system:

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A            | <=90              |
| B+           | 87-89.9999        |
| B            | 80-86.9999        |
| C+           | 77-79.9999        |
| C            | 70-76.9999        |
| D            | 60-69.9999        |
| F            | 0-59.9999         |

### Lecture Schedule (Subject to Change)

|                     | <i>Date</i> | <i>Topic</i>                                    | <i>Reading Assignment</i>                              |
|---------------------|-------------|---|--|
| Module<br>1         | 1/22        | What is this class?                             |  |
|                     | 1/27        | What is Psychology?                             | Chapter 1  |
|                     | 1/29        | Research Methods                                | Chapter 2  |
|                     | 2/3         | Personality Theories and Traits                 | Chapter 14, pp. 459 - 481                              |
|                     | 2/5         | Personality Assessment/ Abnormal Psych          | Chapter 14, pp. 482 - 492<br>Chapter 15, pp. 493 - 500 |
|                     | 2/10        | Abnormal Psychology                             | Chapter 15   |
|                     | 2/12        | Abnormal (con't) and Review                     |  |
|                     | 2/17        | <b>Exam 1</b>                                   | <b>Module 1</b>  |
| Module<br>2         | 2/19        | Neurons   | Chapter 3, pp. 57 – 74                                 |
|                     | 2/24        | Brains; Genetics                                | Chapter 3, pp. 75 - 100                                |
|                     | 2/26        | Sensation & Perception                          | Chapter 4  |
|                     | 3/3         | Intelligence                                    | Chapter 9  |
|                     | 3/5         | Consciousness                                   | Chapter 10   |
|                     | 3/10        | Consciousness (con't) and Review                |  |
|                     | 3/12        | <b>Exam 2</b>                                   | <b>Module 2</b>  |
| 3/17 & 3/19         |             | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK                         |  |
| Module<br>3         | 3/24        | Classical & Operant Conditioning                | Chapter 6, pp. 185 - 207                               |
|                     | 3/26        | Variations of Learning; Types of Memory         | Chapter 6, pp. 210 – 218<br>Chapter 7, pp. 219 - 230   |
|                     | 3/31        | Using Memory; Attention                         | Chapter 7, pp. 231 – 254<br>Chapter 8, pp. 257 - 264   |
|                     | 4/2         | Thinking & Language                             | Chapter 8, pp. 264 - 291                               |
|                     | 4/7         | Thinking & Language (con't) and Review          |  |
|                     | 4/9         | <b>Exam 3</b>                                   | <b>Module 3</b>  |
| Module<br>4         | 4/14        | Development                                     | Chapter 5  |
|                     | 4/16        | Social Behavior and Social Perception           | Chapter 13, pp. 419 – 436                              |
|                     | 4/21        | Attitudes and Interpersonal Behavior            | Chapter 13, pp. 437 -458                               |
|                     | 4/23        | Motivated Behaviors                             | Chapter 11   |
|                     | 4/28        | Emotions, Stress, and Health                    | Chapter 12   |
|                     | 5/5         | Stress and Coping (con't) and Review            |  |
| <b>Monday, 5/12</b> |             | <b>Final 8 -11 p.m.</b><br><b>**NOTE TIME**</b> | <b>Emphasis on Module 4</b>                            |