

General Psychology | 01:830:101:H6
Classroom Location: 230 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus
Summer 2014 | MW 6-9:40 | 7/7-8/13

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Office Hours: By appointment

Description

This class is a survey of major topics in contemporary scientific psychology; it strives to provide you with a solid foundation for further study in psychology while introducing you to the major subfields. Together, we will explore some of the most interesting discoveries in psychological science, discuss their application to life outside the laboratory, and hone our critical-thinking skills. Topics will include the biology of the mind, personality, human development, memory, intelligence, social psychology, and therapy—key aspects of the human experience that affect us all. Throughout the course, I will emphasize how the topics we are covering relate to our everyday lives, and assignments are designed to make this link more salient. Classes will be made up of exercises, demonstrations, and discussions, which will serve as an important way to understand concepts.

Course Text and Website

Text: James W. Kalat, *Introduction to Psychology*, 9th ed. (Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011). Additional readings will be announced in class and posted on the website.

Website: Sakai.rutgers.edu (log in using netID and password, and click on the class website). Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, assignments, additional readings, class cancellations, etc.

Class Community

This class is a community, and like any community, we are strengthened by the diversity of experiences and viewpoints that each of you can bring. Together, we will capitalize on this opportunity to learn from each other by sharing, acknowledging, and evaluating each other's views. This class will be an open and inclusive environment, so voice your opinions in a way that is sensitive of others' differences. Be sure to respect each others' comments even if you disagree with their opinions; challenge the idea and not the person. I encourage debate and critical discussion, but it must be respectful and polite.

Grading and Assignments

Grades will be based on class participation, an in-class midterm and final, and a short project. **Assignments must be submitted on time.** As we will learn together later in the class, if I accept late assignments, I will be *reinforcing* your bad time management and/or procrastination. I just couldn't live with myself for doing that! Grades will be reduced by one point for every day

that they are submitted late, for up to three days; after the third day, late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by a Dean's note. The breakdown for final grades is:

ACTIVITY	% OF FINAL GRADE	GRADE	FINAL PERCENT
Class participation	15%	A	90.0-100.0%
Scrapbook assignment	25%	B+	85.0-89.9%
Midterm	30%	B	80.0-84.9%
Final	30%	C+	75.0-79.9%
		C	70.0-74.9%
		D	60.0-69.9%
		F	0.0-59.9%

Class Participation: Class participation and discussion is an integral part of this course. Students who attend class receive better grades, so you will be benefitted by regular and timely attendance. You are required to thoroughly read all assigned readings, to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and your reactions, and to contribute to in-class activities including group activities. The *quality* of your participation is important.

Scrapbook: Each student will keep a scrapbook of real-world examples of psychological concepts. This means that you will keep an eye out for anything that relates back to ideas covered in class. Examples could include an advertisement, a song, a newspaper article, a blog post, a YouTube video, a cartoon, a photograph, your summary of a social interaction, etc. Each student will collect *five* examples total. You will be graded based on how well you are able to relate your examples back to social psychological topics and theory. The Scrapbook should be turned in via Sakai before the beginning of the last class.

Midterm and Final Exams: There will be one midterm exam assessing your understanding of the material we have covered up to that point, and one non-cumulative final exam that will include material covered after the midterm. If you miss either exam, **I can only offer a make-up exam if you have a Dean's note.** All make-up exams will consist of essay questions. Bottom line: don't miss the midterm or final.

Research Participation Extra Credit: Students may participate in approved research studies being conducted at Rutgers University in exchange for extra credit. Each study that you participate in will add one half point to your final exam grade, up to a maximum of 2 additional points. Research participation opportunities may be announced in class.

Office Hours

I encourage you to ask questions during class or meet with me directly after class. If you are having difficulty in the course please make an appointment to talk with me ASAP. It is much easier to address any confusion early rather than at the end of the session when grades are due.

Academic Integrity

As students and teachers, we are the guardians of knowledge for future generations. Please familiarize yourselves with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found at:

<http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. Academic Integrity violations include cheating, fabrication (falsification), plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Anyone suspected of committing an act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee; those found to have done so will, *at the very least*, receive a failing grade for the course. To help clarify, in this class you may consult outside sources (e.g., journal articles, books, internet) and other students when completing assignments provided that you appropriately cite them (e.g., provide complete references and referencing notation) in your written work. ***This includes all information you find on the internet!*** You may not turn in another anyone else's work as your own, represent someone else's idea as your own, or work collaboratively on individual assignments.

Students with disabilities

Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers' policy at <http://disability/services.rutgers.edu>.

Schedule

This course schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced and posted on the website.

Class	Date	Topic	Reading
1	7/7	Introduction; Scientific Methodology	Ch. 1; Ch. 2 (Modules 1 & 2)
2	7/9	Biological Psychology	Ch. 3
3	7/13	Sensation and Perception	Ch. 4
4	7/16	Nature, Nurture, and Human Development	Ch. 5
5	7/21	Learning; Catch up and review	Ch. 6
6	7/23	MIDTERM	--
7	7/28	Memory; Consciousness	Ch. 7; Ch. 10
8	7/30	Cognition and Language; Intelligence	Ch. 8; Ch. 19
9	8/4	Social Psychology; Scrapbook Peer Review	Ch. 13
10	8/6	Personality	Ch. 14
11	8/11	Abnormality & Therapy; Catch up and review	Ch. 15; Ch. 16
12	8/13	FINAL; SCRAPBOOK DUE	--