

General Psychology ONLINE Fall '15

01:830:101:90

Dr. Linnea Dickson

Tillett 101: Tues 9-11am (or by appt.)

ldickson@rutgers.edu

TA: Meghan McLean

Tillett 615: Thurs. 11:30-12:30

meghan.mclean@rutgers.edu

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.

Please note: Access to the online material required for this class is included in the online course fee that you paid when you registered for this section. **You do not have to buy anything else!** You will access the online materials through our section's Sakai site (more information below).

This course satisfies the Social Analysis (SCL) Learning Outcome Goal of the SAS Core Curriculum. Specifically, students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

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

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



Course Expectations

- * Read 1 to 2 chapters per week
- * Complete weekly online assignments pertaining to the week's reading
- * Fulfill the Research Participation requirement (more information below)
- * Attend midterm and final exams IN PERSON on NEW BRUNSWICK CAMPUS

Grading

Your course grade will be a combination of your online assignments and your exam scores:

Exams (2)	60% (30% each)
Online Assignments*	40%

* The lowest of your weekly assignment scores will be dropped when calculating your Online Assignments percentage for the course.

Letter grades will be assigned as followed, based on your percentage of total available points earned:

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

Depending on the distribution of grades I may apply a curve to the final course grades. However, a final percentage of 90 is guaranteed an A, 85% guarantees a B+, etc.

Exams

There will be two multiple-choice exams in this course, which will both be conducted IN-PERSON on one of the New Brunswick campuses (most likely the Livingston Campus). Each exam will include 60 multiple-choice questions. The midterm will be held on **Friday, Oct. 23; 3:20-4:40** in the Lucy Stone Hall Auditorium. The final exam will be held during finals week on one of the New Brunswick campuses. (The specific date/time and place have not yet been determined. Look for an announcement by the beginning of December.)

You must be able to come to the New Brunswick Campus on the specified dates to take the exams. No alternate locations will be available.

Make-up Exams: No make-up/alternate times for the exams will be available except in emergency situations and only with documentation. If you must miss an exam due to a severe illness or other unforeseen emergency, contact me as soon as possible. You must provide documentation to verify your excuse before being granted a make-up.

Weekly Online Assignments

There will be an online MindTap assignment due **Wednesday night at 11:59PM every week of the semester**. For some weeks a Sakai quiz is also required, with the same deadline.

See "Accessing the Textbook and MindTap," below, for instructions on accessing the textbook and online activities.

Deadline Extensions: You will be allowed to submit up to 3 late assignments during the semester. In order to do so you will need to send me an email requesting a deadline extension. Shortly after receiving your email, I will reset your deadline for approximately 3 days beyond the date that you sent the email. I will reply with a message indicating the new deadline. Be sure you will have time during the next 3 days to complete the assignment before you request a deadline. (I will not grant you another extension for the same assignment.) If there is a Sakai quiz component to the assignment, be sure to complete that quiz as well. Sakai will mark your quiz as late, but the points will count toward your grade, provided you requested and were granted an extension and you completed it before the new deadline.

Computer/internet access problems: In general, **technical problems will not be accepted as an excuse** for the failure to complete an assignment. Among the few exceptions will be the unavailability of the Sakai or MindTap systems (whichever provides the necessary access to complete the assignment). In the case of such a system-wide (i.e., MindTap, Sakai) disruption of access, I will consider extending the assignment deadline for all students, depending on the length and timing of the outage. Note that the administrators of these systems have log files that document the exact dates and times when the system experiences problems. If your personal computer is broken or your access to the internet is interrupted, you will be expected to use a computer on campus (available in libraries and computing centers), a computer in your local library, or a computer you borrow from a friend or relative. Remember that there is a policy of personal extensions for 3 missed deadlines for any reason (see above).

Research Participation Requirement

Research is an essential part of the field of psychology. It is important for students to be exposed to 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 **7** “Research Participation Units” (RPU) of experiment participation or an alternate assignment of writing two papers describing psychological research. Research participation does not earn you any points toward your grade; however, **failure to satisfy this requirement will result, by department policy, in a reduction of your final course grade.**

The psychology department’s Human Research Student Requirement web page explains exactly what you must do: <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules>

To sign up as a subject for experiments, to cancel an appointment you have already made, to find out how many RPU you’ve earned so far, or to contact a researcher for any reason, go to the Human Subject Pool System web site: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu>.

If you choose to write the two papers instead of participating in experiments, you must submit the first paper on or before the day of the midterm exam (**10/23**) and you must submit the second paper on or before the last day of classes (**12/10**). You may submit the papers to me via email, or as a hard copy. Hard copies must be delivered in person to the undergraduate psychology office (101 Tillett Hall) before the office closes (usually 4:30, but call ahead: 848-445-4036). Emails must be received by 11:59 PM on the due date.

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 articles, etc.).

Accessing the Textbook and MindTap

An electronic version of the textbook and the assigned MindTap activities and Sakai quizzes are all accessed through our course Sakai site. Click on the “Cengage Learning” tab on the left side of our Sakai site to access the textbook and MindTap activities/assignments. If the site doesn’t pop up automatically, click on the “Press here to launch” link.

Instructions for navigating MindTap are available through the help button (the question mark) at the top right of the MindTap web page.

You can check if your browser is set up correctly to run all of the features of MindTap by clicking on your name in the top right corner of the MindTap page. A drop down menu will appear – click on “System Check.” **Chrome** and **Firefox** are the recommended browsers. Explorer is not recommended. **Customer support** can also be accessed through this drop down menu.

Sakai quizzes are accessed through the “Tests & Quizzes” tab on the left side of our Sakai site.

Extra Credit

I do not provide individual extra credit opportunities for any reason. If you are worried about your grade, **come see me well before the end of the semester** so that I can help you learn the material to the best of your ability.

Academic Integrity

The policies found in the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy (<http://researchpool.rutgers.edu>) will be enforced for this class. You will also be asked to assent to an online integrity statement in the course Sakai site.

Special Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations will be made available to students with disabilities documented by the Office of Disability Services. Please contact me as soon as possible so that accommodations can be put in place. Visit <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students> for more information.