

Rutgers University

Psychology 101: General Psychology

Fall 2015

Instructor: Keiko Taga Brynildsen, Ph.D.
Class time: Tuesdays and Fridays 12:00-1:20 p.m.
Class location: Livingston Campus – Beck Hall - Auditorium
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 and by appointment
Office location: Tillett Hall #329
Email: keikob@rutgers.edu
Course web page: Sakai (sakai.rutgers.edu/portal)

Teaching Assistant: Janna Kline
Email: jrk177@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Course description:

This course surveys the major areas of psychology: the nature of psychology as a science, principles of learning, the brain and behavior, sensation and perception, cognitive processes, motivation and emotion, personality and development, stress and health, adjustment and behavior disorders, and social behavior.

Course objectives:

The objectives of this course are to develop a basic understanding of the significant theories, concepts, and issues in the field of psychology; apply theoretical concepts in psychology to everyday situations in order to help you better understand yourself and the world around you, and develop an understanding of the scientific method in psychological research. Upon completion of this course, students should be prepared for more advanced courses in Psychology.

Learning goals:

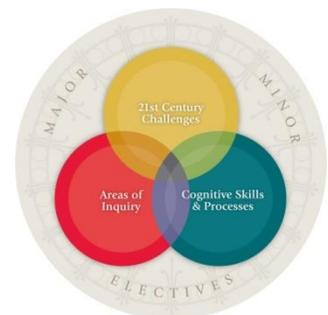
This course has been certified as satisfying the Social Analysis (SCL) Learning Outcome Goal of the SAS Core Curriculum.

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).



This course also satisfies the following Psychology Department Learning Goals:

- Students will know the leading terms, concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- Students will apply psychological concepts and content to become engaged citizens.
- Students will use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to ask, answer and understand questions related to behavior and mental processes.

Required text:

Breedlove, S. M. (2015). *Principles of Psychology*. Oxford University Press. [ISBN: 978-0-1993-2936-6]

Required equipment:

Response card rf by turning tech-w/lcd (clicker)

Regular access to a computer with Internet and Word, #2 pencil for all exams.

General course requirements:

1. **Sakai.** It is expected that all students will regularly access Sakai for course announcements and materials. Please also ensure that you check your Rutgers email regularly.
2. **Attendance:** Attending class is essential to the learning process. Regular class attendance and preparation of the assigned material are expected. Further, some exam questions will be drawn from material presented in the lecture that is not repeated in the textbook; thus, it is in your best interest to attend all classes. *If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the missed information from a classmate* (my lecture notes will not be provided to students).
3. **Reading assignments:** Reading assignments are given for each topic from the textbook. It is expected that you read the assigned material *before* the lecture.
4. **Exams:** Three midterm exams and one final exam will be given. Each exam will be based on material presented both in lecture and in the assigned readings. The final exam will be cumulative, with an emphasis on a basic understanding of the material from the first 3/4 of the course and specific understanding of the material from the last 1/4 of the course. All exams will be multiple-choice. You must provide your 9-digit RUID number on all exams; you should memorize the number and/or carry your ID card with you at all times.
5. **Response Cards:** We will use response cards periodically to involve you in the lecture and to help the instructor know when concepts are unclear. You must bring your response card with you to every lecture; your responses to questions will contribute to 5% of your total grade. See <https://www.turningtechnologies.com/pdf/UserGuides/NEWWebRegistrationToolUserGuide.pdf> for guidance on registering your clicker.
6. **Research Participation:** The psychology department requires all General Psychology students to either participate in research studies or complete an alternative paper assignment (Paper 1 is due by Week 7 (Oct. 13) and Paper 2 is due by Week 14 (Dec. 1)). All students in this class are required to log in to

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<http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/> to complete this requirement. Per departmental rules, non-fulfillment of this requirement will result in a deduction from your final course grade total equal to one-half standard deviation of the class distribution of total points. This could lower your final grade a full letter grade (i.e., A to B, B to C, etc.).

Option 1: You can participate in a few experiments by putting in 3 1/2 hours of your time outside of class to earn research credits, which are called an "RPU". You must earn a total of SEVEN "RPU's" (1 RPU for each ½ hour of your participation in lab experiments). Participating in web-based or online studies gives you ½ RPU per ½ hour of online study participation (i.e., half credit) for a maximum of only one hour. In other words, you can earn only 1 RPU from online studies and the rest of the RPUs are earned by participating in 3 hours of n-person participation.

Option 2: You can opt-out of experimental participation by following Option 2, which consists of writing two summaries of research journal articles. More information about both options is located here: <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules>

Grading:

Course grades will be based on the following:

Exam 1:	18%
Exam 2:	22%
Exam 3:	25%
Final exam:	30%
Clicker points:	5%
TOTAL	100%

Final grades will be determined by the following:

90% and above	A
87.0 – 89.9%	B+
80.0 – 86.9%	B
77.0 – 79.9%	C+
70.0 – 76.9%	C
60.0 – 69.9%	D
Below 60.0%	F

Note: A grade of C or better is required as a prerequisite to either the major or minor in psychology.

Make-up policy:

No make-up exams will be given unless arrangements are made prior to the day of the exam/assignment due date or written proof of unavoidable absence is provided (e.g., doctor's note). Make-up exams may be in essay format. If exceptional circumstances prevent you from taking an exam (e.g., car accident), it is important that you contact the instructor within 24 hours. In some circumstances without a documented but still valid reason for your absence on an exam day, you may take a make-up exam with a 10-90% deduction in points (at the instructor's discretion).

Final exam:

Our final exam is scheduled to be held on Monday, Dec. 21 8:00-11:00 am (<http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>). University regulations set the time and date of all final examinations and specific guidelines that define conflicts: <http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/forms/final-exam-conflict> If you have a legitimate medical excuse for missing the exam, you will receive a TF in the course until the make-up has been completed.

Academic integrity:

Rutgers University does not tolerate academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_2013.pdf for more information on Rutgers University's policies regarding academic dishonesty).

Disability services:

Any student who has a documented disability and is in need of academic accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (e-mail: dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu, phone: (848) 445-6800). Please bring your letter of accommodation to me as soon as possible, and we will coordinate the accommodations privately.

General policies:

Please be mindful of your fellow students and the instructors. Behavior that persistently interferes with classroom activities or with other students' ability to focus may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior may include, but is not limited to, texting, surfing the Internet or using Facebook, playing computer games, cell phones ringing, entering the class late, or leaving the class prematurely. A student responsible for continual disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem.

Exam scores will be posted on Sakai; it is your responsibility to contact the instructor immediately if you believe you have not received credit for a submitted exam. Similarly, points for in-class responses using response cards will be posted immediately on Sakai; it is your responsibility to contact the instructor immediately if you believe you have not received credit for a submitted response.

I consider the course materials used for lecture content and the course web page to be my personal intellectual property or the intellectual property of other parties, as identified. I view the sale or purchase of these materials as a violation of copyright laws. You may not post these materials or derivative materials such as study guides to any web site. You may not record lectures and/or classroom discussion without my express consent.

Course schedule

The following is a **tentative** schedule for this course. Dates may change depending on our **actual** progress in covering the material.

WEEK	DAY	TOPIC	READING
1	Sept. 1 (Tu)	Introduction to psychology	Ch. 1
	Sept. 4 (Fr)	Research methods	Ch. 2
2	Sept. 8 (Tu)	<i>No class (Monday schedule)</i>	
	Sept. 11 (Fr)	The biology of behavior	Ch. 3
3	Sept. 15 (Tu)	The biology of behavior	Ch. 3
	Sept. 18 (Fr)	Genes, environment, and behavior	Ch. 4
4	Sept. 22 (Tu)	Genes, environment, and behavior	Ch. 4
	Sept. 25 (Fr)	EXAM 1 (CHS. 1-4)	
5	Sept. 29 (Tu)	Developmental psychology	Ch. 5
	Oct. 2 (Fr)	Developmental psychology	Ch. 5
6	Oct. 6 (Tu)	Sensation and perception	Ch. 6
	Oct. 9 (Fr)	Sensation and perception	Ch. 6
7	Oct. 13 (Tu)	Sleep and dreams <i>*First paper for research participation alternative 2 due</i>	Ch. 7 pp. 260-279
	Oct. 16 (Fr)	EXAM 2 (CHS. 5-7)	
8	Oct. 20 (Tu)	Learning	Ch. 8
	Oct. 23 (Fr)	Learning	Ch. 8
9	Oct. 27 (Tu)	Memory	Ch. 9
	Oct. 30 (Fr)	Memory	Ch. 9
10	Nov. 3 (Tu)	Language and cognition	Ch. 10
	Nov. 6 (Fr)	Motivation	Ch. 12
11	Nov. 10 (Tu)	EXAM 3 (CHS. 8-10, 12)	
	Nov. 13 (Fr)	Health psychology	Ch. 13
12	Nov. 17 (Tu)	Health psychology	Ch. 13
	Nov. 20 (Fr)	Personality	Ch. 14
13	Nov. 24 (Tu)	Personality	Ch. 14
	Nov. 25	Social psychology	Ch. 15

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	(Wed)	<i>(No class Friday, Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving)</i>	
14	Dec. 1 (Tu)	Social psychology <i>*Second paper for research participation alternative 2 due</i>	Ch. 15
	Dec. 4 (Fr)	Clinical psychology	Ch. 16
15	Dec. 8 (Tu)	Clinical psychology	Ch. 16
FINAL EXAM (cumulative): Monday, Dec. 21 8:00-11:00 a.m.			

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