

General Psychology Spring 2015

Psychology 101:04 AND 101: 07

Section 04 meets TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, 8:40 am - 10:00 am

Section 07 meets TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS, 5pm - 6:00 pm

Lucy Stone Hall Auditorium, Livingston Campus

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Office: 227 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus

Office hours: Wednesday, 11 am - 1:30 pm, Friday 10:30 am - 12Noon

TA: TBD



Read the syllabus all the way to the end. It contains important information. On the first day of class, please ask questions about anything you do not understand. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information and requirements in the syllabus. The syllabus is essentially a contract, that is why it is so long.

The primary format of the class is a traditional lecture, with some video material and frequent **required clicker quizzes** in class. PowerPoint slides will be posted for every lecture. Some will be posted before class, some after class. Additionally, there are **required** online quizzes. One of our April classes will be presented as an online audio lecture, with PowerPoint slides. Additional classes may be presented as audio lectures in case of extreme weather or other conditions.

Required Text: Gazzaniga, Heatherton & Halpern, *Psychological Science*, fourth edition. You are extremely unlikely to pass the course if you do not read the text book. The bookstores- Barnes & Noble and NJ Books sell a loose-leaf version. Speak to me about less expensive purchase options. You are responsible for knowing material in the text book even if we do not cover it in class.

Required Clicker: Turning Technologies RF Clicker OR ResponseWare. **Warning:** If you purchase a used clicker, also purchase replacement batteries. The batteries are designed to last for an academic year. You may alternatively purchase a downloadable app, ResponseWare, for participating in in-class quizzes. The app costs about \$15 and can be used on any digital device. The physical clicker is more reliable; the app, unlike the clicker, can't be lost (and you may be much less likely to lose your laptop, tablet, or phone than a clicker). Problems with wireless connectivity in a lecture hall will occasionally disrupt ResponseWare. When that happens, all ResponseWare users are affected, and I will make adjustments.

Participation in research is also **required**, resulting in accumulation of Research Participation Units (RPUs). You are required to accumulate at least 5 RPUs. There are two options for satisfying this requirement (described below). These are NOT EXTRA CREDIT. Failure to earn 5 RPUs LOWERS YOUR GRADE.

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).

Objectives of the course

1. Students will develop a broad understanding of major topics in contemporary psychology.
2. Students will begin to develop the skills to critically evaluate media reports about behavioral research findings.
3. Students will be introduced to principles of learning and to meta-cognitive skills important for success in college.
4. Students will be exposed to applications of psychological knowledge and principles in family, social, clinical, educational, and business settings.

Exams: There will be three cumulative exams. The third exam is the final. The second and final exams will place greatest emphasis on the recently covered material. Exams may be multiple choice, essay, online, or clicker exams.

Academic integrity: Sanctions for cheating can result in failing the course or for more severe violations, temporary or permanent separation from the university. Familiarize yourself with the university's policies on academic integrity by visiting the following website <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/> and reading the material for students. I take violations of the academic integrity policies very seriously and have taken and will continue to take action against students who violate the policies. Keep in mind that cheating on an exam or a paper can completely derail your future plans and ambitions. A history of an academic integrity violation will keep you out of law school, medical school and most graduate programs.

Required On-line quizzes: There are required quizzes on the Sakai site. Quizzes are required and are part of your grade. There are also required clicker quizzes that are part of your grade (discussed below). ***There will be online ESSAY quizzes as well as multiple choice quizzes.***

Before coming to classes read the assigned materials. Your average on the chapter quizzes has the same weight as an exam.

Ungraded review quizzes will be available on-line before each exam. You will be able to take these review exams more than once. These review quizzes are not required and the scores do not affect your grade.

In-class Response System and Quizzes: Most classes will include 5 - 10 questions as in-class quizzes. These will be presented one or two items at a time, during lecture. Most lectures will begin with review questions from the previous lecture. You will answer the questions by using your radio-frequency "clicker," or ResponseWare to indicate your choice of answer. Correct answers will be worth 2 points; answering will be worth 1 point. You are responsible for **registering** the six character code on the back of your clicker **on Sakai** (under Tests & Quizzes) or your ResponseWare ID, and remembering to bring your clicker or digital device to class. **You are responsible for checking your quiz scores on-line after each class. If no score is posted, no responses were recorded from your clicker or digital device ...and you get no points. As clickers sometimes stop working, it is important that you check to make sure you have a score posted after each class. If your clicker stops working, you will probably need to get new batteries or a new clicker. If it is a new clicker, see me or the bookstore. If you have a score for your clicker THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS REGISTERED ON SAKAI, you must register your device ID on Sakai, in Tests and Quizzes.**

At the end of the term, your clicker average will be computed based on the score you received for each quiz. The average will be computed on the basis of four fewer quizzes than were actually given. What does that mean? You can forget your clicker, or it can malfunction, or you can miss class for a total of up to four times and not lose points. Your individual scores are converted into percent correct scores, added together, and divided by the quantity (number of quizzes minus 4).

If you always come to class, and answer most of the questions correctly, your average will be capped at 100 points, but you will improve your clicker average by always being in class and answering questions. **If any student "clicks" in for another, both students will lose all of their clicker points for the course. Clicking for another student is cheating and is a violation of the academic integrity policy.**

Research participation units (RPUs). Departmental policy requires that General Psych students either participate in experiments or write two reports summarizing published scholarly research papers. **Failing to get your RPU requirement completed can ruin a good grade.** Follow this link for more details: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>. If you are under 18, you are exempt from this requirement, but you must document your age.

If you do not complete the RPU requirement, your point total will be reduced by half a standard deviation before a grade is assigned. For example, assume you have earned 475 of the available points, which would be an A, and the standard deviation is 60 points. Now assume you have not met the RPU requirement. Your point total is reduced to 445 points. This would reduce your grade from an A to a B. Depending on the distribution of points, and how many you've earned, the impact could be even worse.

The deadline for completing RPUs is the week before classes end. If you choose not to participate in experiments, Option 2 requires two papers. The first paper is due **Monday, February 9** at the latest. The second paper is due **Monday, April 27**, at the latest. Papers must be submitted electronically via the Sakai website. There are not always enough research slots to accommodate all students. Therefore, if you procrastinate on the RPU requirement, you may miss the dates for option 2 and not have the opportunity to obtain 5 RPU credits by participating in research.

Behavior in class: As adults, all students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to learning in a large lecture environment. However, should your behavior be perceived by me to be disruptive to fellow students in the class, I will ask you to leave the classroom, and if this occurs again, then you or any disruptive student may be judged unable to successfully complete the course with a passing grade. Your cell phone ringer should be set to vibrate, you should not be texting in class, and if you are using a laptop, it should be to take lecture notes. You should not be talking to other students during lecture or videos. Even though classes are large, all instructors have continuously updated photo rosters of their classes, so we can identify students by name. It is best not to be anonymous to your professors, but it is better to be known for your good questions, rather than rude behavior.

Attendance and Absences: Absences for religious observances and participation in university sponsored events (such as varsity athletics or performance in a University sponsored ensemble) will be excused and if necessary, you will be permitted to make up missed work. Otherwise, you are expected to attend all classes unless you are ill. However, there are no explicit penalties for lack of attendance. You may not make up quizzes or exams that you miss without a valid excuse. If you are seriously ill or injured and miss two or more weeks of classes, you should notify your dean because that is likely to affect your grades and possibly your academic standing.

The university has implemented a system for student self-reporting of incidental absences. If you are going to be absent or have been absent, some professors expect you to report that through the system. A link to the Student Self-Reporting of Absences system is posted below. I do not read these.

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

(Print the next section and paste it on your bulletin board, physically or electronically.) The dates for exams will not change, barring the zombie apocalypse, unseasonal hurricanes or other disasters. Dates for coverage of chapters MAY change. Exams will not cover chapters we have not covered, but will cover some material in the book that is not discussed in class.

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| Week | Dates | General Psychology 101 LSH-Auditorium Assignments: Sakai Online Quizzes every week; in-class clicker quizzes most days; 5 RPU credits OR 2 research summaries |
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| 1 | T Jan 20 TH Jan 22/F Jan 23 | Chapter 1: Scientific Psychology |
| 2 | T Jan 27 TH Jan 29/F Jan 30 | Chapter 2: Research Methodology. |
| 3 | T Feb 2 TH Feb 5/F Feb 6 | Chapter 3: Biology and Behavior |
| 4 | T Feb 10 TH Feb 12/F Feb 13 | Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception First Paper for Option 2-RPU due Monday Feb 9 before Midnight |
| 5 | T Feb 17 TH Feb 19/F Feb 20 | Chapter 5: Consciousness |
| 6 | T Feb 24 TH Feb 26/F Feb 27 | Tuesday EXAM 1: Chapters 1 - 5 Th/F Chapter 6 Learning |
| 7 | T March 2 H March 5/F March | Chapter 6: Learning, Chapter 7: Attention and Memory |
| 8 | T March 10 TH March 12/ F 3/13 | Chapter 7 Attention and Memory Chapter 8: Thinking and Intelligence |
| 9 | T March 17 TH 3/19 / F 3/20 | Spring Break – Classes Do Not Meet! |
| 10 | T March 24 TH 3/26 F 3/27 | Chapter 10 : Emotion and Motivation |
| 11 | T March 31 TH April 2/F 4/3 | Chapter 11 Health and Well-Being Thursday/Friday EXAM 2, Chapters 6 - 11, review chapters 1 - 5 |
| 12 | T April 7 TH April 9 F 4/10 | Chapter 12 Social Psychology Thursday's and Friday's classes WILL NOT MEET, but an audio lecture will be posted on-line |
| 13 | T April 14 TH April 16/ F 4/17 | Chapter 13 Personality |
| 14 | T April 21 TH April 23 / F 4/24 | Chapter 14 Psychological Disorders |
| 15 | T April 28 TH April 30 / F 5/1 | Chapter 15 Treatment of Psychological Disorders Second paper for Option 2 - RPU Due Monday, April 27, before Midnight THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ARE THE LAST CLASS MEETINGS |
| 16 | M May 4 | Last day of class OUR CLASSES DO NOT MEET THIS WEEK |
| 17 | Final EXAMS | FINAL EXAM TBD |

Grading: Grades will be based on a 500 point system, as follows:

Exams: 100 points each 300 points

Clicker Average: maximum of 100 points

On-line quizzes Average score 100 points

Grading standards: Remember points are **DEDUCTED** from your total if you do not complete your RPU requirement. Cut-offs for grades are listed below

A: 450 points

B+: 426

B: 400 points

C+: 376

C: 350 points

D: 300 points

Grades: I do not change grades unless a computational error has been made. Begging, crying, attempted bribes will not work. If you need a certain average to stay in school, to keep financial aid, or just to keep your parents from nagging you, read the text every week, attend class regularly, Take sure your clicker is working, study actively, take the quizzes, and review frequently. Elaborative encoding, elaborative rehearsal, and distributed review of course material will lead to greatly improved retention of the material and decent grades in this and almost every course.

Missed exams: If you miss an exam, in general, you get a zero. Don't miss exams. If you have an unavoidable conflict, let me know ahead of time. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, death in the family) you will have to produce documentation; with acceptable documentation, we can Take arrangements for a Makeup. Many students claim that a grandparent has died around the time of an exam. You will need to produce a legitimate obituary that lists you as a surviving grandchild in order for this excuse to be accepted.

BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS. If you arrive after the first student has turned in an exam, you will not be admitted to the exam and will have to take a Makeup.

Special arrangements: If you are entitled to extend testing time or other testing accommodations, provide me with the documentation from the Office of Disability Services, and I will work with them to arrange alternate administration of your exams. Identify yourself early in the term. If you wait until just before an exam, there may be a considerable delay.

If things go horribly wrong in this course, other courses, or your life: the University has many resources to help you. The faculty and staff want you to thrive at the University and to succeed academically and socially. Ask for help as soon as you realize there is a problem. If you don't know what resources are available, I will refer you.

The transition to life at a large university, or from a community college to a university, or from the military to a university, is difficult for many students. You are not alone and there are resources to help you.