

### Instructor

Bruno Sauce

### Email

sauce.bruno@rutgers.edu

### Office

Busch Psych, room 315

To help you identify your instructor, here are two pictures at opposite endpoints of my aesthetic gradient  
(This is a case of learning by generalization)



Unflattering picture!  
The picture I should  
never show anyone



Nice picture!  
The picture I use on  
Facebook

**When and Where:** Tue/Thu, 6:00-10:00 PM, at SEC-117 (Busch campus)

**Textbook:** Carole Wade, Carol Tavris, Maryanne Garry (2014). Psychology, 11th Edition  
(The 10th version of the book also does the trick)

**Office hours:** By appointment or if you can catch me inside the Psychology Building  
(For simpler questions, send me an email or ask during class)

### Course Description

This course gives a topographical view of the most important topic there is: the mind. How our minds, and other animals' minds, work. How we think, how we behave, and what makes us what we are. To accomplish this, we will be flying together in many directions: towards Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, Social psychology, Developmental Psychology, Clinical Psychology, and smaller city-states in-between.

You might be taking this course because you are a bit crazy and hope to become less crazy. Maybe you want to learn how to study better, or be happier, or improve your romantic life, or avoid being scammed online, or understand your dog, or win friends and influence people. The study of Psychology has a lot of insights to real world problems, and this course might actually help you out with some of these things.

Regardless of your personal reason, however, I believe everyone should know the principles of Psychology. Both as a way to get well informed citizens in our democracies and as a way to connect humanity with all thinking life on this planet (and perhaps to connect with life on other planets – if there is any). Besides, the field of Psychology has, in my opinion, the extra advantage (and it is not a trivial one) of being awesome!

Welcome and I hope you enjoy the ride.

## Grading

The course has one Multiple Choice Exam and three other criteria: class participation, quizzes, and presentations on myths in Psychology.

Quizzes: I give one quiz at the end of every class (except during the exam and the presentations). For each quiz, you have to create your own question (related to the lecture), and then write your own answer. Harder questions and better answers get more points. Be creative! To make this more interesting, the best questions from all quizzes become half of the exam. So, creating harder questions gives you more points for the quiz assignment, and gives more of your own questions in the final (making you more likely to get the questions right).

Myths in Psychology: I give you a topic in Psychology, and you have to choose two famous and/or recent examples of myths based on it. Then, look for research on this, and give a presentation to the class. Your task here is to myth-bust. Similar to what the MythBusters do on TV, but instead of using explosions (a very inefficient, though entertaining, form of myth-busting), you will use academic search, read, and use critical analysis.

**A very good piece of advice now!** Do not simply memorize words and facts for this course. Memorization has its role, of course, but you should focus on understanding the concepts. The easiest path to get a good grade with me is to try to connect the dots and grok what “Psychology” is about (the word “grok” is a sci-fi reference. Look it up). This is the easiest path and also the most rewarding, since the things you will carry after the course are concepts, not specific facts.

### Grade calculation

The maximum total is 300. After summing all of your points, divide the result by 3 to know your grade in percentage. I will give the final letter grades based on that percentage.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
<b>Class Participation</b>	25
<b>Quizzes</b>	75
<b>Myths in Psychology</b>	100
<b>Exam</b>	100

### Points needed for each grade

A useful way to keep track of your performance is to think in terms of points below the maximum. For example: if you lose more than 30 points among all assignments, an A will not be possible.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	270-300	90-100%
<b>B+</b>	255-269	85-89.9%
<b>B</b>	240-254	80-84.9%
<b>C+</b>	225-239	75-79.9%
<b>C</b>	210-224	70-74.9%
<b>D</b>	180-209	60-69.9%
<b>F</b>	0-179	0-59.9%

## Course Schedule

Like any other complex phenomenon, the development of this course has a considerable degree of uncertainty. Therefore, the course schedule might change. Keep up!

Week	Date	Topic	Relevant chapter from book
1	July 7th	Introduction to the course	Chapters 1 and 2
		What is Psychology?	
		How psychologists do research	
2	July 9th	Genes, evolution, and environment	Chapter 3 and 4
		The brain and nervous system	
2	July 14th	Body rhythms and mental states	Chapters 5 and 6
		Sensation and perception	
3	July 16th	Learning and conditioning	Chapters 7 and 8
		Behavior in social and cultural context	
3	July 21st	Presentation: Myths in Psychology (part 1)	-
	July 23rd	Thinking and Intelligence Memory	Chapters 9 and 10
4	July 28th	Emotion, stress, and health Motivation	Chapters 11 and 12
	July 30th	Presentation: Myths in Psychology (part 2)	-
5	August 4th	Development over the life span Theories of personality	Chapters 13 and 14
	August 6th	Psychological disorders Approaches to treatment and therapy	Chapters 15 and 16
6	August 11th	Final Exam	-

## Additional Stuff

If you want to do extra work in order to get a better grade, do it during the course, not after it is over. Study, ask questions, prepare for the assignments, and get engaged!

If you miss any assignment, you need to provide me with a reasonable explanation in order to replace it. Depending on the circumstances, I might ask for a note from the Dean's office.

Beware of bogus notices on change of classroom. Changes in classroom times and room locations are announced only by me via Sakai. Ignore notices on classroom doors.