

Spring 2016

01:830:101:06 – General Psychology

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:40 – 8:00 PM, LSH Aud

Instructor

Dr. John Ackroff

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Tillett 223

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:30,

and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant

Rachel Rubinstein

rachrubi@gmail.com

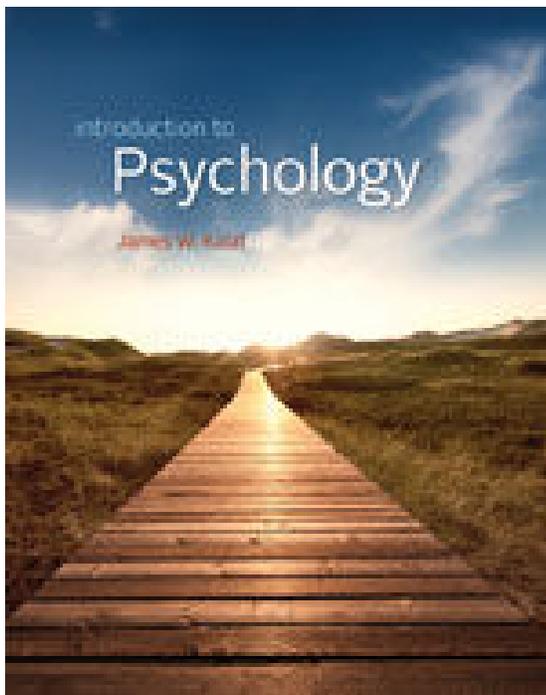
Tillett 303

Fridays, 3:30 – 4:30,

and by appointment.

Course Materials

Required Text



Kalat, J. W. (2014). *Introduction to Psychology*. (10th Edition). Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-1-305-81390-8.

To be available at New Jersey Books, 37 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick. Copies may also be available at Barnes & Noble.

A copy of the book is on reserve at the Kilmer Area Library.

This includes access to Aplia, an online homework system that includes automatically graded problems tailored to the textbook for this course. A fully interactive eBook is included with Aplia. The eBook will allow you to highlight, take notes, and bookmark pages.

Aplia provides you with a grace period of 21 days to perform homework problems and access study tools at no cost. You can use this trial period if you are uncertain about whether or not you will take this course. After 21 days, your account will be closed if you do not purchase Aplia.

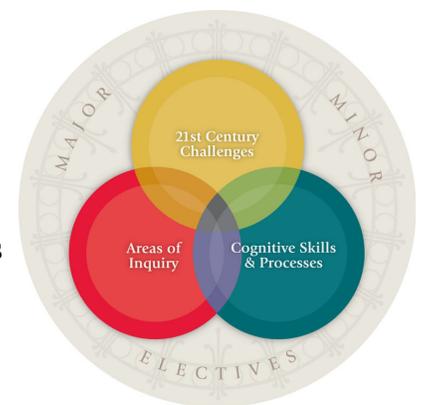
About General Psychology – Course Goals:

In this course we will discuss most of the areas encompassed by the discipline of psychology. The Psychology Department offers at least one full-semester course providing a deeper investigation into each of the topics we will cover; you should have an understanding of what psychologists do and how they go about their work at the end of the semester. You should also improve your critical thinking skills as a result of taking this course.

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 social behavior to particular questions or situations (subgoal n).



Exams and Grading:

You are expected to comply with Rutgers' [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Early in the semester there will be an online quiz in which you indicate that you have read the Syllabus and agree to its terms, including compliance with the Academic Integrity Policy. This quiz does not count toward your grade, however you must agree to these terms in order to receive your scores.

There will be three exams based on the text and other materials presented in class.

The first two exams are non-cumulative, and will consist of two parts: 40 multiple choice questions, worth 80% of the grade for that exam, and an essay question worth 20% of your grade for that exam. Each of these exams will be worth 30% of your course grade. One week prior to each exam, four essay questions will be posted online. Two of those questions will be selected for the exam; you will be required to answer either one of them in class. A sample essay question and answer will be posted before the first exam to give you some guidance as to what is expected. The third exam will also consist of two parts. The first part will be 50 multiple choice questions covering the material since the second exam.

This will also be worth 30% of your course grade. The second part will be 24 multiple choice questions covering all the material in the course, and will be worth 4% of your course grade.

There is an Aplia assignment for each chapter of the text; these will also contribute toward your grade. The current assignment is available by clicking on the "Cengage Learning" tab on sakai. (If sakai is unavailable, you can access this site at login.cengage.com.) You will be able to take each of these assignments three times. Your average score on each will be used in calculating your points. For each exam, you can earn up to 20 points, for a total of 6% of your course grade, based on your scores on the Aplia assignments. If you score 90% of the points possible on the Aplia assignments, you will earn 18 points; 75% of the Aplia assignments will give you 15 points, etc. You must complete the Aplia assignments by the due date. Each assignment is available for six days. If you can document that you were unable to do the exercise due to illness for **the entire time** it was available, your score will be adjusted. Other than that, there are no "makeups" for missed Aplia assignments. The following table summarizes the sources of your points:

Source	Component	Points	Total Points
Exam I	Multiple Choice	240	
	Essay	60	
	Aplia assignments	20	
	Exam I Total		320
Exam II	Multiple Choice	240	
	Essay	60	
	Aplia assignments	20	
	Exam II Total		320
Exam III	Non-cumulative Multiple Choice	300	
	Aplia assignments	20	
	Cumulative Multiple Choice	40	
	Exam III Total		360
Course Total			1000

You are responsible for bringing pencils with erasers to each exam. You may bring a pen for the essay questions if you wish. You must also bring your Rutgers ID Card to the exam.

Exam scores will be posted on the PostEm tab on sakai. Whenever scores are posted, the grade scale will be updated so that the letter grade you see corresponds to your current grade based on the total number of points (including extra credit) you have earned.

If you have questions about your score on a Multiple Choice exam, you can discuss them with Dr. Ackroff. If you have a question about your essay questions, you must discuss it with your Teaching Assistant. In either case, you should do this before the next exam.

If you have a schedule conflict with an exam, you may be allowed to take a makeup exam at the discretion of the instructor. You must notify the instructor of your absence **before** the exam is given in order to be allowed to take a makeup. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a makeup exam only if you provide documentation for a valid reason for missing the exam. For absences due to colds, etc., a note from your Health Center or doctor will be acceptable. This note **must** indicate that you were not able to take the exam at the scheduled time. For more serious issues such as a death in the family or serious health or personal issues, you may present a note from your Dean's office verifying that you missed the exam due to an excused absence. This note **must** indicate that you provided independent, third-party documentation of the situation. In any case, your note **must also** indicate when you will be able to make up the exam. You should give this note to the instructor within 1 week of your return to class. If you cannot document that you had a valid reason for missing an exam, you **will not** be allowed to take a makeup exam.

If an exam is cancelled or postponed on the day of the exam, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

Grading in this course works differently from most other courses. Final grades will be determined by the total number of points you score on the Multiple Choice exams and essay questions.

At the end of the semester, the point total for all exams is computed for each student, and an absolute frequency distribution is made. Outliers at the high end of the distribution (up to 3% of the students) are not used to compute grades. The highest remaining point total after the outliers have been excluded is used as the base for computing students' grades.

- Students whose point total is 90.00% or more of the base receive A grades.
- Students whose point total is 88.00 to 89.99% of the base receive B+ grades.
- Students whose point total is 80.00 to 87.99% of the base receive B grades.
- Students whose point total is 78.00 to 79.99% of the base receive C+ grades.
- Students whose point total is 70.00 to 77.99% of the base receive C grades.
- Students whose point total is 60.00 to 69.99% of the base receive D grades.

Extra credit points (see below) are added to the total number of points you score after the cutoffs have been determined.

Research Participation

The Psychology Department requires that students in General Psychology fulfill a research participation requirement. Details on what this requirement is and how it can be met are available [here](#). Note that you must be at least 18 years of age to participate in experiments. If you are not 18 at the start of the semester and will not turn 18 early in the semester, you should strongly consider fulfilling the requirement using the "Papers" option.

When you register, make sure you use your NetId. This is the ID you use to sign on to sakai.

- It is not your 9-digit RUID.
- It is not your name in "first.last" format.
- It is most certainly not your gmail (or other non-Rutgers) email address.

Registering with an ID other than your NetID is likely to result in your RPU's not being credited to you.

If you choose to fulfill the requirement using the "Papers" option, you must submit a copy of your paper in class **and** electronically on sakai by the due dates in the schedule below. Your paper must follow the format prescribed on the research participation web page, and the article you choose must be from an APA or APS publication. The research participation web page has links to lists of these publications. Information on electronic submission will be made available on sakai a week before the first paper is due. Your paper will be submitted to Turnitin to check for originality; no more than 10% of your paper may come from existing sources. You will be able to resubmit your paper if you need to revise it to meet this criterion.

Failure to meet the requirement will result in a reduction of your total course exam points by one-half a standard deviation of the total point distribution for the class. This could lower your course grade by a full letter grade.

Practice Exams

Practice Exams will be made available on sakai. There is a Long Form and Short Form for each exam. The Long Practice Exam is involved in Extra Credit (see below). It will be available for several days before the exam, after all the material has been covered in class. After that, the Short Practice Exam will be available until shortly before the actual exam. The content-related questions are the same on both exams. You may take the Long Practice Exam only once; you may take the Short Practice Exam as often as you wish.

Extra Credit:

You can earn 6 extra credit points for each exam. In order to do this, you must take the Long Practice Exam and score at least 70%, **and** answer two extra questions on the actual exam. (Half of the questions on the Long Practice Exam ask you how confident you are in your answers; you automatically get them right just for answering them. This means you only have to answer 40% of the content-related questions correctly to get a total of 70% on the exam.) The two questions on the actual exam ask you how well you think you did, and how confident you are in your estimate. You don't have to predict your score correctly, but you must answer these questions in order to receive extra credit.

Note that these are the only opportunities available for extra credit.

Attendance and Correspondence Policies:

- **Attendance:** You should attend all meetings of all of your classes. My lectures are based on the material in the assigned readings, but may also cover material not discussed in the readings. You are responsible for all of this material.

If you arrive late or must leave before class is over, please sit near a door and try to be as inconspicuous as possible. It is distracting to everyone to have people walking in and out of the classroom during class.

Classes are held according to the schedule below as long as the University is open. If the weather appears to be threatening, you can check the [Campus Operating Status](#) here.

If a class is cancelled, postponed, or moved on the day of class, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please turn off all cell phones, etc., before class begins.

Please note that you may not make any type of recording without my written consent.

If you wish to use a laptop computer to take notes, that is fine. If you wish to use a laptop computer to surf the web, play games, IM your friends, etc., I would suggest you go to the nearest Student Center. This advice also applies to having side discussions with your classmates, reading newspapers, doing puzzles, etc.

- **Questions:** I encourage you to ask questions during class. If something is unclear, or if you have a question related to the material being discussed, please ask your question then. Chances are that some of your classmates would also like some additional discussion of the topic.
- **Email:** I try to answer email promptly. Having said that,
 - Please use a Subject that gives me some idea what you are writing about. This is especially important if you send mail from an account other than eden. Mail from sexgoddess@aol.com with a subject of "hello" is likely to be considered spam and deleted unread.
 - If you ask me a question whose answer is on the course web page or Syllabus, my reply is likely to say that.
 - If you ask me a question about your standing in the course, please include your name and which course and section you are enrolled in.
 - Please re-read the section on "Questions" above. I realize that there are times when you are reviewing notes after class and/or before an exam when you will discover that you have a question. But it is in everyone's best interest for you to ask your questions in class, rather than after the fact, if you have a question while class is in session.
 - You are responsible for any announcements, etc., I send to the class via email.

Schedule

Date

Topic

Reading

Wednesday, January 20	Course Introduction and Overview	
Monday, January 25	What is Psychology?	Chapter 1
Wednesday, January 27	Scientific Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2
Monday, February 1	Scientific Methods in Psychology, cont'd	
Tuesday, February 2	Aplia assignment for Chapter 1 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, February 3	Biological Psychology	Chapter 3
Sunday, February 7	Aplia assignment for Chapter 2 due, 8:00 PM	
Monday, February 8	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
Tuesday, February 9	Aplia assignment for Chapter 3 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, February 10	Development	Chapter 5
Sunday, February 14	Aplia assignment for Chapter 4 due, 8:00 PM	
Monday, February 15	Review for Exam I	
Tuesday, February 16	Aplia assignment for Chapter 5 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, February 17	EXAM I	Chapters 1 - 5 and supplemental material
Monday, February 22	Learning	Chapter 6
Wednesday, February 24	Learning, cont'd	
Monday, February 29	Memory	Chapter 7
Tuesday, March 1	Aplia assignment for Chapter 6 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, March 2	Memory, cont'd	
	First Paper for Research Participation Alternative 2 due, 6:40 PM	
Monday, March 7	Cognition	Chapter 8
Tuesday, March 8	Aplia assignment for Chapter 7 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, March 9	Language	Chapter 8
Monday, March 14	No Class -- Spring Break	
Wednesday, March 16		
Monday, March 21	Intelligence	Chapter 9
Tuesday, March 22	Aplia assignment for Chapter 8 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, March 23	Review for Exam II	
Sunday, March 27	Aplia assignment for Chapter 9 due, 8:00 PM	
Monday, March 28	EXAM II	Chapters 6 - 9 and supplemental material
Wednesday, March 30	Consciousness	Chapter 10

Monday, April 4	Motivated Behaviors	Chapter 11
Tuesday, April 5	Aplia assignment for Chapter 10 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, April 6	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 12
Sunday, April 10	Aplia assignment for Chapter 11 due, 8:00 PM	
Monday, April 11	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Tuesday, April 12	Aplia assignment for Chapter 12 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, April 13	Social Psychology, cont'd	
Monday, April 18	Personality	Chapter 14
Tuesday, April 19	Aplia assignment for Chapter 13 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, April 20	Personality, cont'd; Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment	Chapter 15
Monday, April 25	Abnormal Psychology, cont'd Second Paper for Research Participation Alternative 2 due, 6:40 PM	
Tuesday, April 26	Aplia assignment for Chapter 14 due, 8:00 PM	
Wednesday, April 27	Review	
Sunday, May 1	Aplia assignment for Chapter 15 due, 8:00 PM	
Monday, May 2	(No Class)	
Monday, May 9	EXAM III Part I: Chapters 10 - 15 and supplementary material Part II: Cumulative	8:00 - 9:50 PM

[Rules for Final Exam Conflicts](#)

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. This includes, but is not restricted to, sites such as googledocs, Study Blue, and so on. Violation of this policy will result in loss of access to the course on sakai. You may not record lectures and/or classroom discussion without my express written consent.

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