

# Spring 2016 Course Syllabus

## Section H1

**Monday & Thursday 10:20 - 11:40 AM**

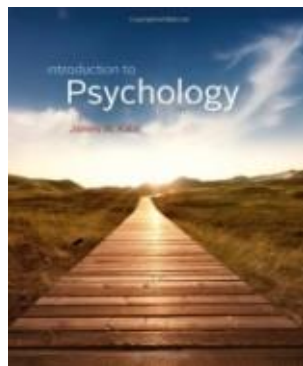
**Tillett Hall Room 253**

***Prof. Brill's Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-1:00 PM, Tillett Hall Room 221***

In addition to this web site, there will be another web site with class announcements, downloadable viewgraphs, grades, and web links at <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> . You will use your Rutgers netID and password for this Sakai web site.

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about the Sakai course web site](#).

All students in this course will be required to obtain the following two items, but do not make any purchases until after you have attended the first class, during which you will receive a detailed explanation of MindTap, how to get it at the lowest cost possible, and how it will be utilized in this course!



*MindTap for  
James W. Kalat (2014)  
Introduction to Psychology, Tenth  
Edition  
(MindTap is an online platform  
that includes a customized  
electronic version of the textbook  
as well as helpful study materials)*



*TurningPoint wireless Response  
Card  
(RF-LCD model recommended,  
older RF model acceptable )*

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Welcome to Psychology 101 for students in the Rutgers Honors Program. 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.



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:

**II.B.i:** *Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.*

**II.B.n:** *Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations.*

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.

Please read the information on this web page carefully. The crucial things you need to know are presented here, and there are more details on particular topics on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Feel free to ask me questions before the class begins, during class, or immediately after class. You may also send me [email](#), but *I may not answer email questions if the questions have already been answered in class, on this web page, on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page, or in the Announcements section on the course [Sakai](#) site.*

### Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please see web site of the [Office of Disability Services for Students](#) for more information.

### Academic Integrity

The policies found in the [Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy](#) apply to this course, along with specific policies concerning the use of wireless transmitters (clickers) in the classroom (see below).

### Research Participation Requirement

Research is an essential part of the field of psychology. It is important for students to be exposed to either 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 seven "Research Participation Units" of experiment participation or an alternative assignment of writing two papers describing psychological research.

The psychology department's [Human Research Student Requirements](#) web page explains exactly what you must do.

To sign up as a subject for experiments, to cancel an appointment you have already made, to find out how many Research Participation Units you've earned so far, or to contact a researcher for any reason, go to the [Human Subject Pool System](#) web site.

If you choose to write the two papers instead of participating in experiments, you must submit the first paper on or before the midpoint of the course and you must submit the second paper on or before the last lecture 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 your articles, etc.).

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about Research Participation](#).

### Class Participation

The wireless classroom communication system will enable every student in the class to respond to questions presented by the instructor. Points will be accumulated by students for answering questions: You will receive 1 point for each question answered, and 2 points for each question

answered correctly. At the end of the semester, your class participation percentage will count as 20% of your final score for the course (see table below under the "Grades" heading).

The 2nd and 3rd lectures of the semester will involve practice with the wireless transmitters. It is therefore important that you purchase your transmitter as soon as possible after the first class session. Starting with the 4th lecture of the semester, responses to the in-class questions will count toward your grade. There will be, on average, 10 questions per class (but individual classes may vary in the number of questions).

The lowest 20% of your responses will be dropped. This will give you flexibility with respect to class attendance and with problems with your transmitter pad (you forgot it, you accidentally sent the wrong answer, or technical problems). Classes will start on time and will almost always require the full 80 minutes scheduled, so if you come late or leave early you will probably miss some questions.

**Please note very well: There will be no adjustments to your class participation scores except for documented excused absences. Excused absences include out-of-town athletic events, religious observances, serious illness, or other emergencies. Once you provide documentation for your absence, the questions that you missed because of that absence will be eliminated from the calculation of your total class participation score for the course.** Other attendance issues, punctuality problems, forgetting to bring your transmitter, dead batteries, or technical problems with your transmitter pad together should lead you to miss no more than 20% of the questions for the semester. Note that if your transmitter is not working properly, which is not likely to happen, you can return it to the bookstore for a new unit.

Also note you may not send responses from more than one transmitter for any in-class questions. If you are found doing this, both (or all) of the transmitters will be confiscated and both (or all) of the students to whom those transmitters belong will receive 0 for the class participation component of the course.

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about the Classroom Communication System](#)

## Exams

There will be two multiple-choice exams in the course. Each exam will include 60 multiple choice questions. See the [course schedule](#) for the dates of the exams. Test questions will be taken from both the textbook and material presented in class.

**Make-up exams:** You may make up an exam *only* if you provide legitimate documentation verifying that you missed the exam because of an excused absence.

For more information, see [Frequently Asked Questions about Exams](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions about Missing and Exam and Make-Up Exams](#).

## Writing Assignments:

There will be two writing assignments in this course. Details of the assignments will be provided during class and in the course [Sakai](#) site.

### Grades

Your grade will be the result of the combination of your in-class participation and your exam scores, as follows:

Exams	60%
Clickers	20%
Writing assignments	20%

The result of the combination of the above scores will be compared to the following table to determine your grade for the course:

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

**Your grade will be determined solely on the basis of the total of your scores on exams, writing assignments, and in-class participation.**

#### *Changing Grades:*

Students sometimes ask professors to change final grades, usually based on the need to achieve a certain grade in order to, for example, get into the business school, retain a scholarship, or avoid academic probation. Although I wish all of you the best of success in your studies, you hopefully can understand how changing one student's grade is unfair to the other students in the class. Therefore, requests for test score or grade changes will not be entertained. Likewise, additional assignments to earn extra credit are not available. Your final grade will be based solely on the scores you achieve in the writing assignments, the clicker questions, and the course exams, as described above.

### Additional Instruction

You can get additional help with this course through tutoring sessions provided by the [Rutgers Learning Centers](#).

Additionally, there are [academic coaches](#) at these center who can provide individualized help with general study and test preparation skills.

# Spring 2016 Course Schedule

## Section H1

***Prof. Brill's Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-1:00 PM, Tillett Hall Room 221***

Assignment due before the beginning of the class session listed:		Date		Topic
		Thu	Jan. 21	Lecture 1: Introduction and overview of the course
Obtain	MindTap and Clicker	Mon	Jan. 25	Lecture 2: What is Psychology? (Part 1) Clicker Practice
Read	Course Web Site			
Do	Enter Your Clicker ID in Sakai			
Read	Chapter 1, Module 1.1	Thu	Jan. 28	Lecture 3: What is Psychology? (Part 2) More Clicker Practice
Read	Chapter 1, Module 1.2 Chapter 2, Module 2.1	Mon	Feb. 1	Lecture 4: Scientific Methods in Psychology Clicker Responses Count Toward Grade
Read	Chapter 2, Module 2.2 Chapter 2, Module 2.3	Thu	Feb. 4	Lecture 5: Biological Psychology (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 3, Module 3.1	Mon	Feb. 8	Lecture 6: Biological Psychology (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 3, Module 3.3 Chapter 3, Module 3.4	Thu	Feb. 11	Lecture 7: Memory (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 7, Module 7.1 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a>	Mon	Feb. 15	Lecture 8: Memory (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 7, Module 7.2	Thu	Feb. 18	Lecture 9:

	Chapter 7, Module 7.3			Sensation and Perception (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 4, Module 4.1 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a> Chapter 4, Module 4.2 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a>	Mon	Feb. 22	Lecture 10: Sensation and Perception (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 4, Module 4.3 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a>	Thu	Feb. 26	Lecture 11 Human Development (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 5, Module 5.1	Mon	Feb. 29	Lecture 12: Human Development (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 5, Module 5.2 Chapter 5, Module 5.3	Thu	Mar. 3	Lecture 13: Learning
<i>Complete</i>	<i>1st Writing Assignment (Memory: Study Skills)</i>	Fri	Mar. 4	Due by 11:59 PM
Read	Chapter 6, Module 6.1 - See <a href="#">Reading Notes</a> Chapter 6, Module 6.2 - See <a href="#">Reading Notes</a> Chapter 6, Module 6.3 & Study all previous readings	Mon	Mar. 7	Exam 1
		Thu	Mar. 10	<b>No class</b>
<i>Hand in</i>	<i>RPU Paper #1 (if you're doing <a href="#">Option 2</a>)</i>	Mon	Mar. 21	Lecture 14: Cognition and Language (Part 1)
Read				
Read	Chapter 8, Module 8.1 Chapter 8, Module 8.2	Thu	Mar. 24	Lecture 15: Cognition and Language (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 8, Module 8.3	Mon	Mar. 28	Lecture 16: Intelligence and Its Measurement
Read	Chapter 9, Module 9.1 Chapter 9, Module 9.2	Thu	Mar. 31	Lecture 17: Consciousness & Motivation
Read	Chapter 10, Module 10.1 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a> Chapter 10, Module 10.1 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a>	Mon	Apr. 4	Lecture 18: Emotions, Stress, and Health (Part 1)

	Chapter 11, Module 11.1 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a>			
Read	Chapter 12, Module 12.1 Chapter 12, Module 12.2	Thu	Apr. 7	Lecture 19: Emotions, Stress, and Health (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 12, Module 12.3	Mon	Apr. 11	Lecture 20: Social Psychology (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 13, Module 13.1 Chapter 13, Module 13.2 Chapter 13, Module 13.3	Thu	Apr. 14	Lecture 21: Social Psychology (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 13, Module 13.4 Chapter 13, Module 13.5	Mon	Apr. 18	Lecture 22: Personality (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 14, Module 14.1	Thu	Apr. 21	Lecture 23: Personality (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 14, Module 14.2 Chapter 14, Module 14.3	Mon	Apr. 25	Lecture 24: Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Part 1)
Read	Chapter 15, Module 15.1 Chapter 15, Module 15.2	Thu	Apr. 28	Lecture 25: Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Part 2)
Read	Chapter 15, Module 15.3 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a> Chapter 15, Module 15.4 - <a href="#">See Reading Notes</a>	Thu	May 2	Lecture 26: Abnormal Psychology: Disorders and Treatment (Part 3)
<i>Hand in</i>	<i>RPU Paper #2 (if you're doing <a href="#">Option 2</a>)</i>			
<i>Complete</i>	<i>2nd Writing Assignment</i>	Fri	May 3	Due by 11:59 PM
Read	Chapter 15, Module 15.5	TBD	TBD	Final Exam: TBD Tillett Hall Room 253



# Spring 2016 Frequently Asked Questions Section H1

**Monday & Thursday 10:20 - 11:40 AM**

**Tillett Hall Room 253**

***Prof. Brill's Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-1:00 PM, Tillett Hall Room 221***

Before you send an email question to the professor, please check this page for the answer to your question. Questions are organized by topic, and you can search this page with your browser's "find" feature.

If you've checked these Frequently Asked Questions, and you haven't found the answer to your question, please include your **name**, **course**, and **section number** in the emails you send to the professor. You don't need to include your Rutgers ID number.

Topics of Frequently Asked Questions	
<a href="#">The Research Participation Requirement</a>	<a href="#">Grades</a>
<a href="#">Exams</a>	<a href="#">Missing an Exam and Taking a Make-Up</a>
<a href="#">The Classroom Communication System</a>	<a href="#">The Sakai Course Web Site and MindTap</a>
<a href="#">Missing Classes</a>	<a href="#">Doing Well in the Course</a>

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Research Participation Requirement

### **Q: How do I arrange to participate in experiments?**

**A:** A web-based [Human Subject Pool System](#) has been set up for this purpose. You will need to register yourself by going to the Human Subject Pool System ["Request Account"](#) page. (Alternatively, you can get there by going to the main [Human Subject Pool System](#) page and clicking on the "Request Account " link at the right of the page). Make sure that you carefully enter your Rutgers email address and also make sure that you select the correct course, instructor, and days/period for which you are registered. If you don't specify this information correctly, there may be subsequent problems with getting your RPU's assigned to you. Once you've logged in to the system, you can go to the "Study Sign Up" page to see the current experiments and the time slots available for sign-up.

### **Q: I completed 7 RPU's (Research Participation Units). Do I have to also submit any papers?**

**A:** No.

**Q: What will happen if I don't complete 7 RPUs (Research Participation Units) before the end of the semester?**

**A:** If you haven't submitted the research papers in lieu of the research participation, professors are instructed to lower your grade. For example, an A will be lowered to a B, a B to a C, etc.

**Q: I completed 7 RPUs (Research Participation Units). How much credit or extra credit do I get for the course?**

**A:** None. Completing 7 RPUs is a requirement of the course, not an extra credit assignment. When you calculate your total points for the course, you should **NOT** add the number of RPUs you've earned to your exam scores.

**Q: I completed 6 RPUs (Research Participation Units) and I didn't submit a research paper. Will my grade still be lowered?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: I completed more than 7 RPUs (Research Participation Units). Do I get any extra credit for the RPUs beyond the requirement?**

**A:** No, you will not get extra credit.

**Q: How much participation time is required to earn an RPU?**

**A:** For experiments that require you to go to a lab and participate in person, you get 1 RPU for each half-hour of participation. For experiments that you can perform over the web, you will get 1 RPU for each hour of participation.

**Q: Is there a limit to the number of RPUs that can be earned via on-line surveys and experiments?**

**A:** Yes, you are not allowed to earn more than 1 RPU from on-line participation.

**Q: How do I know how many RPUs I've completed thus far in the semester?**

**A:** You can find this information in the "My Schedule & Credits" area of the [Human Subject Pool System](#). *The General Psychology professors do not have this information!*

**Q: I completed an experiment but the Human Subject Pool web site doesn't show any RPUs earned for it. What should I do?**

**A:** Researchers are instructed to enter RPUs into the system within 7-10 days of your completing the experiment. If it hasn't yet been 7-10 days, please wait. If more than 10 days have gone by and a researcher has not entered the RPUs for you, please send email to that researcher with the date and time that you performed the experiment. You can contact the researcher through the [Human Subject Pool System](#) by going to the "My Schedule & Credits" area and clicking on the name of the study. When you see the study details, there will be a link that you can click on to send email to the researcher.

**Q: I showed up for an experiment, but the researcher wasn't there. What should I do?**

**A:** Contact the researcher (via the [Human Subject Pool System](#) using the instructions in the answer to the previous question). When you show up and the researcher doesn't, you should be given the RPU(s) associated with the experiment.

**Q: I sent email to the researcher but I haven't received a response. What should I do?**

**A:** If more than a couple of days has passed and you have not received a response from the researcher or a satisfactory resolution to your issue, please send email to the professor with the experiment name and the date and time you completed the experiment.

**Q: There aren't many experiments listed on the Human Subject Pool web site. Will there be more experiments listed in the future?**

**A:** This question is usually asked near the beginning of the semester, when many researchers are still planning their experiments, and near the end of the semester, when many experiments have achieved their target number of subjects and no longer need more participants. If it is at the beginning of the semester, there will definitely be many more experiments listed in the near future. If it is at the end of the semester, you may have procrastinated too long to complete the experiment participation requirement. There may be more experiments listed or there may not be..

**Q: I want to write the 2 papers instead of participating in experiments. When are the papers due?**

**A:** The first paper is due by the midpoint of the semester and the second paper is due by the last lecture class, NOT the date of the final exam. The class schedule lists the dates of all the lecture sessions and indicates when the papers are due.

**Q: I want to write the 2 papers instead of participating in experiments. Which journals can I use to find an article to write about for my papers?**

**A:** The article must be one which describes and reports results of experimental research. For additional details, see the "Optoin 2" section of the [Human Research Student Requirements](#) web page.

**Q: I want to write the 2 papers instead of participating in the experiments, and I have questions about what type of paper I need to write and how I need to write it.**

**A:** All the details about what you need to have in the paper are described in the "Option 2: PAPER SUMMARIZING A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY" section of the [Human Research Student Requirements](#) web page.

### Frequently Asked Questions about Grades

**Q: I really need to get an A (or a B, or a B+, etc.) in this course, but I did more poorly on the first exam than I had expected. What can I do to raise my grade?**

**A:** This course has a lot of material to cover, and some people find certain topics (such as the anatomy of the brain) especially difficult. If you need a particular grade, then you must put the work into learning the material and doing well enough on the exams. See "[Frequently Asked Questions about Doing Well in the Course.](#)"

**Q: I really need to get an A (or a B, or a B+, etc.) in this course, and I came within only 1 point (or 2 points, or 3 points) of the score for that grade. Would you be willing to give me**

**the higher grade?**

**A:** Although I sympathize with you, I will not change the grade. If I do, then all the people who received the same score will want their grades changed, and some will argue that if it can be done for 1 point, then why not for 2 points, and so on. There has to be a cut-off point somewhere. If the grade is that important, please make sure that you put in the effort to guarantee that it's not even close.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Exams

**Q: How will the exams be conducted?**

**A:** The exams will take place in the regular classroom. You will be assigned a seat as you enter the room. The seat assignment will appear on the copy of the exam that you get. We will start giving out exams and seating students about 20 minutes before the exam is scheduled to begin (assuming the previous class has already cleared out; if not, we will start as soon as they are out of the room). The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. *You must bring a pencil and eraser to the exam so that you can fill out your answer form.* Additional instructions will be given at the time of the exam.

**Q: Where and when will the exam scores for exams be posted?**

**A:** The exam scores will be posted on the [Sakai](#) course web site. Use the "Clicker and Exam Scores" button on the left hand side of the course page in Sakai. Expect it to take at least 24-48 hours to score the exam.

**Q: You teach more than one section of this course. May I take the exam with the other section?**

**A:** No. Your exam score will be lowered by a large amount if you take the exam in the other section.

**Q: I was unable to get the book, so I did poorly on the exam. What can be done?**

**A:** You need to get the required textbook as soon as possible. If there is a problem, such as the bookstore not having enough copies, please let me know right away and I will resolve the problem. Not having the textbook will not be considered a reason for missing an exam or adjusting a grade.

**Q: I can get a different Introductory Psychology textbook. Can I use that instead?**

**A:** No. Introductory Psychology textbooks differ in several ways from each other (for example, in the topics they cover or in the experimental research they describe). You need to get the specific textbook assigned for this course.

**Q: When (and where) is the final exam?**

**A:** The date, time, and location of the final exam will be shown on the [class schedule](#) web page.

**Q: Are the exams cumulative?**

**A:** No, the exams are not cumulative.

**Q: I have special test-taking needs. Can special arrangements be made for me to take the test elsewhere?**

**A:** Yes. Some students have special circumstances that make it difficult or impossible to take the test in the classroom. Examples include (but are not limited to) students in a wheelchair, students with certain learning or concentration disorders, or students with certain phobias. Such students will have letters from their [dean's office](#) certifying their special situation, and accommodations will be made in this course if these letters are presented to me at least one week in advance of the exam.

**Q: I'm on a sports team and I will be travelling to an away game on the date of the exam. Do I still need a letter from the dean's office in order to take the make-up exam?**

**A:** Either a letter from the [dean's office](#) or a letter from the coach verifying your absence will suffice.

**Q: Can I see what I got wrong on an exam?**

**A:** Yes, either during office hours or during the 20 minutes before or after a class session. If you want to see your exam before or after a class (that is, not during office hours), you will need to send an email request at least a day in advance of the class. You will not be allowed to take home the exam or copy any of the exam questions.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Missing an Exam and Make-Up Exams

**Q: I missed an exam because I was sick. What do I do?**

**A:** You will be allowed to take a make-up exam if you present a note or letter from your doctor or from the [dean's office](#). The dean will most likely require a doctor's note to verify your illness.

**Q: I missed an exam because I was in a car accident. What do I do?**

**A:** You will be allowed to take a make-up exam if you provide documentation that the accident took place. *Therefore, make sure that you get the police report to verify the accident.*

**Q: I missed an exam because of a personal or family emergency. What do I do?**

**A:** You will be allowed to take a make-up exam if you provide some verification of the emergency (such as a death certificate if a relative has died). If it is a personal issue of some other nature that you do not wish to reveal to the professor, you may discuss it with the dean's office. It will then be up to the judgment of the dean to determine whether or not you should be excused from the exam (and thus be allowed to take the make-up).

**Q: I missed an exam and got documentation verifying the reason for my absence. When do I take a make-up exam?**

**A:** You will be given a location, date, and time for a make-up. There will be a fixed number of make-up sessions during the semester for this course. Missing a make-up session will be considered the same as missing an exam: you will need documentation verifying that you missed the make-up session for a reason that is considered valid according to the course policies.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Classroom Communication System

**Q: How do I set the channel number on my transmitter (which is also necessary for responses to be received in class)?**

**A:** The transmitter has a channel number that must match the channel number of the receiver. In this class, the channel number will be set to 01. You need to set the channel number only once this semester, unless you have to change your batteries (see below) or if you are taking another course this semester in which you also use the same transmitter (this is extremely unlikely, but if you have another class that uses the same transmitter you'll need to set the channel at the beginning of each class). To set the channel, press the GO button of the transmitter. Then, when the light is alternately flashing red and green, press 0, then press 1, then press GO again.

**Q: How can I confirm that the answers I sent via my transmitter were received properly?**

**A:** The green light on your transmitter will stay on for a few seconds when your answer is received. However, this is not always a reliable indicator. **Therefore, it is critical that you check that your responses were received after every class by viewing your responses online.** A day or so after each class, the answers you sent will be posted on the [Sakai](#) web site. Use the "Gradebook" button on the left hand side of the course page in Sakai. Again, it is your responsibility to check your responses from each class as soon as possible so that you may identify any problems with your transmitter before the next class. That is, if you see that your answers were not received and you believe that the transmitter is at fault (see the next two questions), you can return the transmitter to the bookstore to exchange it for a new unit (the bookstore will do this for you). This is important because there will be no adjustments to your class-participation scores for any reason, including a faulty transmitter.

**Q: My transmitter did not work when I tried to use it in class. What should I do?**

**A:** You should make sure you have set the clicker channel correctly and are using the transmitter properly to submit your responses. If you're still having problems, continue on to the next question below.

**Q: My transmitter did not work when I tried to use it in class, and I am sure I am following the directions properly. What should I do?**

**A:** The problem may be that the batteries in your transmitter are used up. Try putting in fresh batteries. In fact, it is a good idea to always have extra batteries with you in class. See the next question for information about changing your batteries. If dead batteries are not the problem, then you may have a defective transmitter. If so, the bookstore at which you purchased the transmitter will exchange your transmitter for a new one.

**Q: What kind of batteries do I need for my transmitter and how do I change them?**

**A:** Your transmitter requires two Watch/Electronic 2032 Lithium 3V batteries. These batteries are shaped like a coin (they are a little bigger than a dime and a little smaller than a nickle). You also need a small Phillips-head screwdriver to remove the battery cover on the back of the transmitter. It is best to bring such a screwdriver along with your extra batteries to class.

**Q: My transmitter didn't work during class. Can I make up the class participation points?**

**A:** No. At the end of the semester, the lowest 20% of the responses will be dropped, giving you the needed flexibility for dealing with a transmitter problem without affecting your class participation score.

**Q: I wasn't present at one (or more) classes. How does that affect my class participation score?**

**A:** If you provide documentation of an excused absence, the questions you missed will be eliminated from the calculation of your total class participation for the course. Excused absences include out-of-town athletic events (if you are a team member), religious observances, serious illness, or other emergencies. Appropriate documentation consists of:

- FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS: a note from your team coach verifying that you were out of town for an athletic event

- FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE: a note from your religious leader

- FOR ILLNESS: a doctor's note (for a single class) or a dean's note (for missing more than one class)

- FOR OTHER EMERGENCIES: appropriate documentation of the emergency or a note from the dean's office

For all other missed classes, the questions presented in those classes will count toward your score, and you will receive 0 points for each question. At the end of the semester, the lowest 20% of the responses will be dropped, giving you the scheduling flexibility you may need without affecting your class participation score.

**Q: I attended but didn't know how to use the transmitter for one or more classes. How will that affect my class participation score?**

**A:** The questions will count toward your score, and you will receive 0 points for each class participation question presented in those classes. Again, since the lowest 20% of the responses will be dropped, you have some room for error. It is your responsibility to learn how to use the clicker correctly by the 3rd lecture of the semester.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Sakai Course Web Site and MindTap

**Q: I can't log in to the course web site. Why not?**

**A:** If you registered late for the course, you may have to wait a day or so before the registrar's changes are reflected in the Sakai system roster. If that is not the source of your problem, make sure that you are using your correct Rutgers University Network ID (login) and password. If you still encounter problems, check the "**Message of the Day**" on the Sakai home page. This message will alert you to Sakai system problems that are affecting students' ability to log in or to see their courses when logged in. If there is no such message, click on the "**Login Help: Rutgers Users**" button on the left hand side of the [page](#). Finally, if you still can't log in, contact the student help desk at **732-445-HELP**. If you cannot get a resolution to your problem from the help desk, send email to [help@sakai.rutgers.edu](mailto:help@sakai.rutgers.edu) and include your name, NetID, my name (Brill), and the course number (830:101).



**Q: I've successfully logged in to the web site. However, some Sakai functions of the course don't look right or don't work. Why not?**

**A:** The Sakai software should work with all commonly used browsers. If you are using a new or unusual browser, you may have problems. If you are using one of the common browsers (IE, Netscape, Firefox), then check the "Message of the Day" on the Sakai home page. This message will alert you to technical problems that are affecting students' ability to see their courses or use Sakai functions. If there is no such message and you still are experiencing problems, contact the student help desk at **848-445-HELP**. If you cannot get a resolution to your problem from the help desk, send email to **help@sakai.rutgers.edu** and include your name, NetID, my name (Brill), and the course number (830:101).

**Q: I'm on the Sakai web site, but I can't find the announcements.**

**A:** The announcements are at the top right of the course home page. You should click on the title of the announcement to get the full text.

**Q: I'm on the Sakai web site, but I can't find the class slides.**

**A:** Click on the "Class Slides and Podcasts " link at the top left of the page.

**Q: How should I configure my browser for MindTap?**

**A:** It depends on your operating system and browser:

If you are using the Chrome browser on Microsoft Windows, [click here](#).

If you are using the Firefox browser on Microsoft Windows, [click here](#).

If you are using the Chrome browser on an Apple Mac, [click here](#).

If you are using the Firefox browser on an Apple Mac, [click here](#).

If you are using the Safari browser on an Apple Mac, [click here](#).

**Q: Is there a preferred browser for use with MindTap?**

**A:** Yes, the Chrome and Firefox browsers are recommended. Unfortunately, you are likely to encounter more problems if you use the Safari browser.

**Q: I can get access MindTap, but one or more of its features aren't working.**

**A:** Use the "Customer Support" link to go to the MindTap technical support page where you can create a trouble ticket and initiate a chat session with the MindTap team. The "Customer Support" link can be seen in the menu that appears when you click on your name in the upper right corner of the MindTap page.

**Q: I can't access MindTap. I'm getting an error message when MindTap is trying to start up.**

**A:** You can use the following web link to create a trouble ticket and then get into a chat session with the MindTap customer support team:

<http://support.cengage.com/magellan/ClassLandingPage.aspx?optId=1-1T89BDZ>

## Frequently Asked Questions about Missing Classes

**Q: I wasn't present at one (or more) classes. What did I miss?**

**A:** It is your responsibility to arrange to obtain information (other than the downloadable class



slides) if you miss one or more classes. If you can, arrange in advance for someone in the class that you know to take good notes for you. It is highly recommended to form a study group, both for the purposes of preparing for exams as well as for keeping each other informed when someone has to miss a class. If you aren't personally acquainted with anyone else in the class, you can meet other students at the supplemental instruction sessions.

**Q: I wasn't present at one (or more) classes. Can I see the videos that were shown in the class(es) I missed?**

**A:** No. The videos are integrated into the class presentations and are not available for separate viewing. As indicated in the previous question, you should get this information from another student (from your study group or from the supplemental instruction sessions).

**Q: I wasn't present at one or more classes. Is there a way to make up the class participation (clicker) points?**

**A:** See the answer to this question above in the section about the classroom communication system.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Doing well in the Course

**Q: I'm having trouble doing well (or I'm worried about doing well) in this course. What can I do?**

**A:** Unfortunately, this question is often asked late in the semester, when it is usually too late to do much to change the outcome of your efforts in the course. However, if you start early enough, my recommendations are as follows:

- There is a video series called [How to Get the Most Out of Studying](#) on the web that provides what is probably the best up-to-date scientifically grounded advice to help you do well in this and your other courses. Your first step should be to watch these videos and start implementing their recommendations as soon as possible.
- For this General Psychology course in particular, I can offer the following additional suggestions:
  - Keep up with the textbook reading assignments! There will be in-class clicker questions during the classes for which the reading assignments are due. Falling behind on the reading will directly affect your grade because you won't be able to answer these questions correctly. In addition, you will most likely find it much more difficult to complete all the reading if you leave it for the few days that precede the exams.
  - Review the class slides and your notes from the previous lecture before each class session. This will help you answer clicker questions correctly and may help you understand new lecture material that builds on what was previously presented.
  - Check your clicker score after every class session. Within 24 hours after each class (and usually later in the same day as the class), your clicker score will be posted in the course Sakai site. Should you discover that responses you tried to

send were not received, you can send email to or see Prof. Brill before the next class to resolve the problem.

- If you have worked hard at implementing these recommendations and you are still having trouble, seriously consider seeing a learning specialist at one of the [Rutgers Learning Centers](#). These learning specialists are trained to diagnose your specific study and learning problems, and can give you individualized guidance.

**Q: I've read your answer to the question "I'm having trouble doing well in this course. What can I do to improve?" but I still need more help. Can I meet with you to discuss my situation?**

**A:** All of my recommendations are listed above in the answer to the question. If you seek a personal consultation with someone who can analyze your specific situation and provide coaching, please see an [academic coach](#) at one of the [Rutgers Learning Centers](#).

**Here are some web sites you can try for additional perspectives on study skills:**

[Palgrave Study Skills  
Study Guides and Strategies](#)  
[Dartmouth Academic Skills Center](#)  
[Howtostudy.org](#)

**Q: I've been experiencing psychological problems this semester. Where can I go to get help?**

**A:** Rutgers students may get psychological counseling at the Campus Counseling Center. Links for the center are on the [Rutgers University Health Services Counseling and Psychological Services web page](#). Also available are mental health services at the Hurtado Health Center and alcohol and drug assistance programs. If you have an emergency after hours, there is a 24-hour hotline professionally staffed by the community mental health center: **(732) 235-5700**.

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