

Welcome!

Welcome to Introduction to Psychology! Psychology is a fascinating science that has connections to the Biological Sciences, Sociology, Economics, Philosophy, Linguistics, Education, Political Science, Labor Studies, Organizational Leadership, and more. It has relatives in Cognitive Science and Neuroscience, and is making connections with such disparate majors as Mathematics, Computer Science, and Robotics.

On its own, Introduction to Psychology allows us to take a peek into what makes us so interesting - from anatomy to behavior and beyond.

During the course of this semester, we'll be learning a broad overview of the science of Psychology, in many of its various forms. You will likely learn interesting facts that will have nothing to do with your current life plan, but it is even more likely that something in this class will be helpful for you in the future. I will be making connections throughout the semester, but I encourage you to make - and share with the class - your own connections.

Enjoy!

Learning Goals

1. Develop scientific and critical reasoning skills.
2. Understand the major subfields and a representative sample of the major theories in psychology.
3. Understand some of the links between mind and brain, and how those links are discovered.
4. Improve class participation skills by asking questions and contributing to discussions.

SAS Core 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).



Required Material

Class: 8:40-10 am, TF, Lucy Stone Hall Auditorium

Text: Kalat, James W. (2014) *Introduction to Psychology* with Aplia. ISBN: 9781305813908

Clicker: Response card by Turning Technology. ISBN: 978-1934931400

Instructor Information

Instructor: Cordelia Aitkin, PhD

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Tillett 321, or by appointment

Contact: cdaitkin@rci.rutgers.edu

Research Requirement

All General Psychology sections have an experimental requirement for the students in the course. As per department regulations, not fulfilling this requirement will result in a deduction of one-half of the standard deviation of the class's distribution of points; this can be

up to a full letter grade.

Please go to [this web site](#) for a full description of this requirement.

If you choose to do the paper requirement, the first paper is due by Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The second paper is due Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Remember, as per department rules, if you are not using one of the recommended sources, you must clear the article with me first. This must be done at least one week before the paper is due (that is, before Tuesday, February 23 for the first paper, and before Tuesday, April 19 for the second).

Disability Services

If you have a documented disability, you must get the paperwork to me (Dr. Aitkin) as soon as possible; I cannot provide accommodations (note-taking; additional time on exams; etc.) without it. Please contact [ODS](#) immediately.

Assessments

Grades will be determined from a combination of activities.

Participation (5%): Participation will be based on in-class clicker questions. In these questions, you may be asked to answer based on your own understanding of the topic, or after discussion with a small group of your fellow students.

Homework (5%): Various assignments, mostly on-line. On-line homework assignments can be found either under "Assignments 2" or under "Tests & Quizzes." (NOTE: The "quizzes" are not quizzes. They are just under this section of Sakai because of formatting issues.) Homework will either be announced in class, or via email.

Aplia (5%): You should have a course code with your text. Please check the Aplia website for assignments.

In-class exams (60%): We will have 3 exams during the semester, one for each module.

Final (25%): Most of the final will focus on the final module of the course, but will also review major material from the first three modules.

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
Participation	5
Homework	5
Aplia	5
First Exam	20
Second Exam	20
Third Exam	20
Final Exam	25
<i>Total Percentage</i>	100

Ten Helpful Hints

1. The most important requirement for doing well in this class is to pay attention in class. Lecture attendance will not be monitored, but understanding the material presented in class is crucial.
2. The course content does refer back to previous lectures/readings so if you miss class, your understanding of material in subsequent classes can be compromised.
3. Ask questions in lecture if you're confused. New material relies on the concepts already developed.
4. Ask questions for information, to test your own knowledge and to develop critical skills. If you're not convinced by an argument, say so. Answer questions that are posed in lecture.

5. Make sure you understand the main points of each lecture and the main points of the reading material. You should be able to understand how specific examples and specific details relate to the main themes. Test yourself by writing a short summary or an outline of the lecture. Don't rely on the feeling that you know what's going on. See if you can state the main points.
6. Each lecture refers to material from prior lectures. Review your notes, with special emphasis on the main themes, before coming to class.
7. The second most important requirement for doing well in this class is to pay attention to the reading. When reading the text, pay particular attention to the key words and to the graphs and figures. This is where the authors are putting the most important information.
8. Pace your reading wisely. Do not leave it all for the last minute.
9. For individual help, see me after class, or during office hours, or make an appointment.
10. If you would like to discuss exam performance, bring your exam to office hours. Often there is a pattern to the errors that can be diagnosed only by examining your performance. In the interest of fairness to all, no questions will be answered during exams. To do so is equivalent to giving some students help or hints at the expense of other students.

Electronics Policy

There is NO cell phone use (no texting; messaging; browsing) during class.

No laptop use in class EXCEPT for note-taking. In recent years the frequent use of laptops for activities unrelated to class has become a problem. Students are often unaware of how distracting to the instructor and to other members of the class these activities are. Since attention to the class is a requirement, the policy of no irrelevant laptop use will be enforced by deductions of points from the grade. If this policy proves to be insufficient to prevent irrelevant and distracting laptop use, then I will prohibit all laptop use during class.

Recording

No electronic recording of the lecture is allowed. This includes photos, videos, audio recording, cell-phone-based, and any other type of electronic recording.

Help Outside of Class

General Psychology can be a challenging course! If you feel concerned about your grasp of the material, please come see me during office hours: these are times set aside specifically for you to ask for help from us outside of class!

Schedule of Topics

Note: This schedule is subject to change

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Assignment (To do before class)</i>
Module 1	1/18	What is this class?	SanaWestonCepeda_2013 (on Sakai)
	1/22	What is Psychology	Chapter 1
	1/26	Research Methods	Chapter 2, pp 25-48
	1/29	Statistics	Chapter 2, pp 49-56
	2/2	Personality Theories and Traits	Chapter 14, pp 459-481
	2/5	Personality Assessment	Chapter 14, pp 482-492;

	2/9	Abnormal Psychology	Chapter 15
	2/12	Review	
2/16		Exam 1	Module 1
Module 2	2/19	Neurons	Chapter 3, pp. 57 - 74
	2/23	Brains & Genetics	Chapter 3, pp. 75 - 100 <i>Note: first paper topic due if choosing this option</i>
	2/26	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4
	3/1	Intelligence	Chapter 9 <i>Note: First Paper due if choosing this option</i>
	3/4	Consciousness	Chapter 10
	3/10	Consciousness (con't) and Review	
3/11		Exam 2	Module 2
3/12-3/20	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK		
Module 3	3/22	Classical & Operant Conditioning	Chapter 6, pp. 185 - 209
	3/25	Variations of Learning; Types of Memory	Chapter 6, pp. 210 – 218 Chapter 7, pp. 219 - 230
	3/29	Using Memory; Attention	Chapter 7, pp. 231 – 254
	4/1	Thinking & Language	Chapter 8
	4/5	Thinking & Language (con't)	
4/8		Exam 3	Module 3
	4/12	Development	Chapter 5
	4/15	Social Behavior and Social Perception	Chapter 13, pp. 419 – 436
	4/19	Attitudes and Interpersonal Behavior	Chapter 13, pp. 437 -458 <i>Note: second paper topic due if chose this option</i>
	4/22	Motivated Behaviors	Chapter 11
	4/26	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 12 <i>Note: Second Paper due if chose this option</i>
	4/29	Stress & Coping (con't) and Review	

Final Exam

Our final is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 10, from 8 pm to 11 am**. Please note that [final exam schedules are set by the University](#), (will open in a new window) and cannot be changed.

If you have a conflict as defined [here](#) (item 4) and you plan on rescheduling this class's final exam, please see Dr. Aitkin as soon as possible.

Make-up Policies

Make-up exams will be given if the exam is missed for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness).

There will be no make-ups or extensions for homework, participation, extra credit, or experimental credits.

Final Letter Grade Value

All grades submitted to the University are final.

Course grades will be calculated from the grades you earn on the various assessments in the course, and will be based on the percentage system as follows:

A	90% or higher
B+	87 - 89.99999999
B	80 - 86.99999999
C+	77 - 79.99999999
C	70 - 76.99999999
D	60 - 69.99999999
F	0 - 59.99999999

These cutpoints will apply to everyone. No adjustments in cutpoints will be made for individual students.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor, and only to the entire class.

E-mail Policies

The best way to contact me is through email. Please note that due to Federal Regulations protecting your privacy, I cannot respond to emails sent from non-Rutgers email accounts, and you will get an auto-response saying as such.

Include the course and section number in the subject, and your full name in the email itself.

Please note that lengthy or complex issues will not be discussed over email. Grades will never be discussed over email, for your own privacy.

Feel free to send me an email at any time! However, be aware that I am rarely available immediately, and it may take up to a full business day for me to respond. If I haven't responded after two business days, please re-send the email.

Participation Details

The participation points are to help you! It is important to pay attention in class, so you know when the professor moves into covering material you aren't yet fully comfortable with. The participation questions are to help you focus on the lecture material, and help you suss out where you still need to do more work, or need help.

There will be 2-5 participation questions per actual class (i.e. not on exam days). Generally, you will get one point for answering. If there is a correct answer, you will earn an extra credit point for answering correctly. There will also be more questions than are necessary for full credit. This is so you don't need to worry if you get sick and miss a day!

Please note, however, that entering answers from another student's clicker counts as "unauthorized assistance" as listed in the Academic Integrity policy. This will be treated as a violation of AI for both you and the student whose clicker you are using.

Homework and Aplia Details

The Sakai-based homework and the Aplia assignments are to help you! Doing them will help you reinforce what you do know, and will show you what you need to study more.

Although you are encouraged to discuss material with your classmates, you may not discuss or share answers: all work handed in must be your own.

As with Participation, there will be more opportunities than needed to get full credit. This way, if you are forced by circumstances to miss an assignment or two, you'll still have the opportunity for full credit!

Please note: any homework or Aplia assignments that are either opened or completed during class time will earn a penalty of three times the maximum value of that assignment.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will incur penalties as described in the University Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found [here](#) (will open in a new window).

Websites for Psych 101

These are various websites you may find helpful both for this class and others in your college career.

Please note that Sakai does not always work perfectly with certain browsers, and you may have trouble getting to the various websites by clicking on the link. If you do have this problem, please copy and paste the addresses into a new window.

[Research requirement](http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules) (Psych 101 only): <http://psych.rutgers.edu/undergrad/rpurules>

[Final Schedule](https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/exam-scheduling): <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/exam-scheduling>

[Academic Integrity](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy): academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy

[Tips on how to email professors](http://mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html): mleddy.blogspot.com/2005/01/how-to-e-mail-professor.html