

# Preliminary Syllabus Subject to Change: Check Periodically

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY—Spring 2019 (830:377:01), Index: 04817

**Schedule:** Tuesday and Friday, Second Period (10:20-11:40am), Tillett Hall Room 232 (Livingston)

**Instructor:** Richard J. Contrada, Ph.D. [contrada@psych.rutgers.edu](mailto:contrada@psych.rutgers.edu) Office Hours: By Appointment

**TA:** Patrick Barnwell [patrick.barnwell@rutgers.edu](mailto:patrick.barnwell@rutgers.edu) Office Hours: By Appointment

**Required readings** are from primary sources and provided online through *Sakai*. There is ***no required textbook***. **Optionally**, you may wish to read any of the standard health psychology texts, including but not limited to those written by: Brannon & Feist, by Taylor, or by Sarafino & Smith. The more recent the edition, the better, and ***be aware that coverage of topics and certain facts and figures will differ between text books and my lecture***, though on balance any text will help you with major topics. Copies of useful texts may be available in the library.

**To see and download this syllabus:** Sign in to the class website on *Sakai*.

**Main Sakai portal** <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Sakai will contain course materials including this syllabus, readings, lecture outlines, assignments, polls, practice quizzes, and exam review/preparation guides. Students are responsible for all information and materials on the course Sakai web pages. In addition, because information/materials are subject to change, ***students should check Sakai at least twice a week*** for changes and announcements and in response to email notifications about such changes. ***Email notifications are sent to your Rutgers email account.***

Materials will be made available in Sakai under “***Resources***” unless otherwise indicated.

**Lecture Outlines:** Available in Sakai Resources. Although not always possible, they are usually posted the evening before each class. They ***outline*** some (***not all***) of the material presented in class. It is strongly recommended that you download/print these outlines, bring them to class, and take notes using the comments feature (“Sticky Notes”) in Adobe Reader (or they can be copied into MS Word where you can take notes; or they can be printed and notes taken by hand).

**Videos:** Often (not always) shown in class and usually available on Sakai or elsewhere online.

**Assignments:** Posted in Sakai *Resources* (***not*** in Sakai *Assignments*), but submitted through Sakai *Assignments* unless otherwise indicated. ***Graded.***

**Online Exercises:** Some can be completed ***only in class*** and require Internet access with a laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Some are ***required*** and some will earn ***extra credit***.

**Bonus Questions:** These will usually be presented at the end of each exam and may involve optional video or reading material outside of class made available before the exam. Correct answers on those questions will add points to the exam score. There will be no penalty for incorrect answers on these bonus questions.

**Learning Goals:** It is my purpose in teaching this class to foster your familiarity and understanding of:

1. The history, basic assumptions, main topic areas, concepts, and methods of Health Psychology
2. The relationships between health psychology and more traditional areas of psychology
3. How to think critically about psychology and health
4. The relationship between laboratory and non-laboratory research in health psychology
5. The contributions of disciplines other than psychology to understanding behavior-health relationships
6. Social, cultural, economic, and political ramifications of health and psychology
7. How to write clearly and cogently about health psychology topics
8. How to improve your own health related behaviors and those of family and friends
9. How to manage illness problems experienced by yourself, friends, and family members
10. How to be a critical consumer of health- and psychology-related information presented in the media
11. Academic, professional, and other career opportunities in psychology, health, and medicine
12. Evolving/emerging/future problems of health/illness and health care and possible solutions

**Note:** These represent [Psychology Department learning goals](#) as they relate to Health Psychology

## Class Schedule Outline

Month	Day	Class #	Topic	Assignment #
January	22	1	Overview/Introduction to Health Psychology	#1 (2 points)
	25	2	Health and Disease in the United States Today	
	29	3	Theory and Research Methods	
February	1	4	Health Behavior Theory	#2 (3 points)
	5	5	Illness Cognition and Self-Regulation	
	8	6	Doctor-Patient Interactions	
	12	7	Hospitals	
	15	8	Stress I	#3 (2 points)
	19	9	Stress II	
	22	10	Exam I	
	26	11	The Immune System	
March	1	12	Psychosocial Factors/Stress Moderators I: Personality	#4 (2 points)
	5	13	Psychosocial Factors/Moderators II: Relationships	
	8	14	Pain	
	12	15	Stress Reduction	Journal 1 Due
	15	16	Cardiovascular Diseases	#5 (2 points)
	19		Spring Break No Classes	#6 (3 points)
	22		Spring Break No Classes	#7 (2 points)
	26	17	Cancer	
	29	18	HIV/AIDS	
April	2	19	Health Disparities	#8 (4 points)
	5	20	Exam II	
	9	21	Tobacco	
	12	22	Alcohol	
	16	23	Marijuana	
	19	24	Sex	
	23	25	Music; Positive Emotions	
	26	26	Eating/Weight Regulation	
	30	27	Exercise; Body Image	
May	3	28	Questionnaire Norms; The Future; Review	Journal 2 Due
	15	Final	8am to 11am Tillett 232 (pending confirmation)	

### Notes

Topic coverage, assignment due dates, and exam dates are subject to change

First Class: Tuesday, January 22

Last Class: Friday, May 3

Exam III: Tentatively scheduled for *Wednesday, May 15, 8:00am – 11:00am, Tillett Room 232*  
(Subject to confirmation)

**Note:** This Exam begins 8:00 IN THE MORNING

Assignments: Approximate dates assignments are opened

Points for each assignment are out of a possible 20 points for the semester

Journals: Approximate dates assignments are due (Journal 1: #1-4; Journal 2: #4-8)

## **Sakai Assignments: How to submit your Assignment Journals via Sakai:**

1. Download Assignments 1 through 4 from Resources the week each is posted
2. To learn the most from each assignment complete it as we cover the relevant material
3. Use MS Word or another word processor to complete the assignment
4. Save a copy for your notes—assignments contain material for which you are responsible
5. Combine Assignments #1 through #4 into a single MS Word Document titled “Assignment Journal 1”
6. Log in to Sakai (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>)
7. Click on the Course tab: “HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY 01 S19” or “01:830:377:01 S19”
8. Click on "Assignments" tab on the left
9. Click on “Assignment Journal 1”
10. Scroll down to the text box
11. Copy and paste your assignments into the text box
12. Make sure it can easily be read and that there are no problems with special characters, formatting, or font
13. Click "Submit"
14. Be sure you see a screen that says that your assignment was submitted.
15. Repeat steps 1 to 14 for Assignments #5 through #8, but...
16. Submit them as one document (“Assignment Journal 2”) by copying and pasting into the appropriate text box

## **Exam Details**

Three exams

From 50 to 75 multiple-choice and true-false questions each

Exam I covers material from the first set of classes

***Exams II and III cover material since the previous exam (i.e., NOT CUMULATIVE)***

## **Exam preparation**

Study guides and practice quizzes will be provided for each of the exams. There is also a document presenting useful suggestions about how to prepare for any exam.

## **Determination of Final Grades:**

Exam grades are combined and together count for about 85%\* of the final course grade.

Assignment grades are combined and together count for about 15%\* of the final course grade.

\*These percentages (85% and 15%) are subject to change depending on class performance and the number of online exercise we have.

## **Student-Teacher Agreement**

This syllabus defines a set of expectations that you acknowledge and with which you indicate understanding and agreement as a student in this course. Please read the entire syllabus carefully and let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

1. Please contact the **TA and Instructor** with questions about **course material**. The best way to do this is by **posting your question to the chat room** where others may benefit from your asking them. The **TA** should be contacted for all matters relating to **course mechanics** such as registration, assignments, exams, grade issues, personal issues, and the like.
2. This class necessarily involves material having to do with anatomy, sickness, disability, death, and personal behaviors such as sex and drug/alcohol use that are related to health.
3. **Please do not talk during class**; it is disruptive in a lecture room this size. Also, please mute cell phones and do not take calls during class. If you must arrive late, please enter through the back door; if you must leave early, please sit in the back near an exit door and leave that way.

4. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** This is because **the vast bulk of course material will be presented in class and will not be available from other sources.** This will include some in-class exercises that cannot be made up if the class is missed. If you must miss a class, get notes, and find out if you missed any announcements about changes in exam dates, lecture topics, etc. **The Sakai chat room is a good way to find other students to exchange notes.** If you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.
5. If you have trouble downloading materials from Sakai, please use the “Contact Us” tab on the left side of the Sakai website, email [sakai@rutgers.edu](mailto:sakai@rutgers.edu), and/or get help at one of the University computer labs, because it is unlikely that I will be able to help since the issues are usually local to your PC/browser/printer. Sometimes the problem is solved by: (a) making sure you respond to a question about copyright issues in a window that may be open but hidden somewhere on your screen; (b) saving the file before opening; (c) upgrading to the latest version of relevant software (e.g., Adobe Reader).
6. Exam format is multiple choice/true-false and requires scantron sheets; students must provide a #2 pencil.
7. You must bring a picture ID (student ID or driver’s license) to the exams.
8. **It is expected that you will be in attendance for all exams as scheduled** (or rescheduled, as may be necessary, and if so will be announced in class and on Sakai) and not make plans or commitments that will create schedule conflicts. Students who miss an exam because they are physically unable to take it as scheduled must inform me in advance of the exam or as soon as possible afterward and may request a make-up. If granted, the make-up will include short essays and other open-ended questions. There must be documentation of severe illness or other emergency, such as a letter from a physician that includes a phone number so that the physician can be contacted for verification. The letter must be received by the instructor within one week of the missed exam. Unexcused absences will result in the deduction of points from the exam grade. Make-up exams are always scheduled **after** the regular exams and at the convenience of the TA.
9. **In-Class Exercises** that are missed **cannot be made up under any circumstances.** For out-of-class assignments **there will be a deduction in credit if submitted up to 1 week late without a documented excuse as outlined above for exams.** Credit for assignments submitted more than 1 week late, if any, will be worked out on a case-by-case basis.
10. **Exercises and assignments must be completed based on the student’s own, independent work.** Plagiarism is unacceptable. **Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy:** <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>. For additional information and resources regarding plagiarism see the information and links at the end of this syllabus.
11. Because the instructor for this course may not be on campus after the end of the semester, all students must complete all assignments and take all exams prior to the end of the semester to receive a grade.
12. All grades will be posted electronically. Students are responsible for contacting the TA in a timely fashion if they believe they have not received credit for submitted assignments/exams they have taken.
13. **It is expected that students will complete course evaluations for this class.** Course evaluations, both the ratings and especially the comments, provide critical feedback for improving courses and for helping students to make decisions about course selection. Over the past many years, student evaluations have led to many improvements in Health Psychology. Please help your fellow/future students by providing evaluative ratings and comments when the time comes at the end of the semester.

14. ***All grades are final and non-negotiable.*** Some students may feel they “just missed” the next highest final course grade, for example, because they were sick or under a lot of stress during exam periods. But remember, you will have come that close to the next highest grade based in part on fairly easy assignments, extra-credit exercises, and exams that include bonus questions. Also, if I were to lower the cutoff to raise the letter grade for a student who “just misses” the next highest grade, there would be another student who scored slightly lower who now would “just miss” the new cutoff, and the logical conclusion would be to keep lowering the cutoff until everyone receives an “A”. Such grades would be meaningless.
15. ***There are no individualized extra credit opportunities.*** I cannot negotiate extra credit opportunities for individual students because it would not be fair to the others. And I cannot work separately with each student until all students are satisfied with their grades. Note that many of the assignments and exercises are simple and only require following straightforward directions; several do not even have right or wrong answers, and just require thoughtfulness and effort in expressing your beliefs/opinions. A lot of information will be provided to guide efforts to prepare for the exams, including practice quizzes, specifics about what will and will not be covered, and study guides. And you can earn extra credit on bonus exam questions, even by guessing the correct answer. Please do not contact me to request further extra credit opportunities or just to let me know you were not satisfied with your grade. I do not under any circumstances offer individualized “extra credit” opportunities because I believe a grading system is only fair if it is based on the same exams/assignments for all students.
16. The lectures and course web page are my personal intellectual property. I view the sale or purchase of these materials as a violation of copyright laws.

### **Student-Wellness/Support Services**

**Just In Case Web App:** <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS):** [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

(848) 932-7884/17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students’ efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA):** [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

(848) 932-1181/3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

**Disability Services:** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

(848) 445-6800/LSH, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the

accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Scarlet Listeners:** (732) 247-5555/<https://rutgers.collegiatelink.net/organization/scarletlisteners/about>  
Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

(Adapted from the spring 2010 syllabus for Prof. Andy Egan's 01:730: 252 Eating Right:

The Ethics of Food Choices and Food Policies)

**Longer version:** Cheating or plagiarizing deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on the unacknowledged words or ideas of someone else. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over fellow students who are graded on their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. Suspected cases of cheating/plagiarism may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. I advise you to familiarize yourself with University policy on Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy: "Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit." To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources without proper attribution.

**A SPECIAL NOTE:** Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. **All** information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask for guidance from your TA.

### **Useful Links**

Online schedule of classes: <http://sis.rutgers.edu/soc/>

Building search: <http://rumaps.rutgers.edu/>

Plagiarism/Documenting your work:

General academic integrity Link: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Academic integrity resources for students: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

The Camden plagiarism tutorial (INTERACTIVE):  
<http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>

Consult don't plagiarize: Document your research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident. [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid\\_plagiarism](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism)

Online learning tools from Rutgers University Libraries including Rutgers RIOT, Searchpath and RefWorks: <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials>

Academic support programs: <http://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-support>

### Final Exams:

Policies: <http://nbregistrar.rutgers.edu/facstaff/examrules.htm> and  
<https://www.sas.rutgers.edu/cms/sasoue/policies-resources/exams/15-policies-resources/policies/65-final-exams-policies>

Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>