

Honors General Psychology Spring 2018

Psychology 101:H1
Section H1 meets MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS, 1:40 pm – 3:00 pm
Room 251 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus

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Office: 227 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus
Office hours: Tuesdays, 8 am-11 am
There is no TA for this class



Read the syllabus all the way to the end. It contains important information. On the first day of class, please ask questions about anything you do not understand. Your continued enrollment in the course implies your understanding and acceptance of the information and requirements in the syllabus. The syllabus is essentially a contract. That is why it is so long. Some content is included because it is required.

In the event of a weather or personal emergency, scheduled classes may be presented as VoiceThread lectures and will be posted on Sakai or, if VoiceThread is not working, an audio file of the lecture will be posted.

The format of this class includes lecture, student (informal) presentations, and discussion. It is essential that you do the assigned readings in advance of class meetings, except for the initial class. Your roles as participants in the class will include that of presenter, active listener and discussant. An involved discussant asks questions of me or the presenter, and brings in relevant outside material, and offers thoughtful, informed answers to questions.

Required Text: Gazzaniga, Heatherton & Halpern, *Psychological Science*, fourth or fifth edition. You are extremely unlikely to do well in the course if you do not read the textbook. The bookstore, Barnes & Noble, sells a loose-leaf version and an ebook option. You are responsible for knowing material in the text book even if we do not cover it in class, except for the skipped chapter. There are **required** online chapter quizzes drawn from the textbook. Exams will include multiple choice questions derived from the textbook and from outside readings. If you use the fourth edition or an international edition, the order of some chapters is different.

Required Readings: With the exception of readings currently listed in the syllabus, these will be determined on an *ad hoc* basis and will be drawn from recently published research.

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).

Objectives of the course

1. Students will develop a broad understanding of major topics in contemporary psychology.
2. Students will begin to develop the skills to critically evaluate media reports about behavioral research findings.

3. Students will be introduced to principles of learning and to meta-cognitive skills important for success in life-long learning.
4. Students will be exposed to applications of psychological knowledge and principles in family, social, clinical, educational, and business settings.

Exams: There will be three cumulative exams. The second and final exams will place greatest emphasis on more recently covered material. Percent correct scores on the exams contribute a maximum of 100 points each to your point total.

Presentations in class: You expected to summarize a reading of a very recently published empirical study and present your questions and conclusions to the class. If you are planning on conducting an empirical study (see below), you should present your project results when your data have been analyzed. If you have extreme anxiety about speaking before a group, please speak to me privately. Your presentations and your participation in class discussions will contribute a maximum of 100 points to your point total.

Term paper and annotated bibliography OR empirical study, annotated bibliography and research report: A 7- to 10-page paper or a research report (not including the title page, abstract page or references) on a topic of your choice (approved by me) is required. By the end of the sixth week of class, you should have a definition of your topic and at least four references (you will need more). You will upload your description of your topic and your preliminary annotated bibliography through Sakai. **The deadline for the annotated bibliography is Friday, March 9. Papers or reports must be submitted online, by midnight, Friday, April 27.** A preliminary draft of your paper is not required but may be submitted by email or hard copy up until April 20. Preliminary drafts will be reviewed in the order that they are received (and I may not get to all of these if everyone waits until the last minute!).

The annotated bibliography is worth a maximum of 10 points. The paper or research report is worth a maximum of 90 points.

Resources for conducting original research: If you have a topic that can be explored by presenting questions or tasks online, you may be able to implement your study on **Qualtrics** (free for students and faculty). If you design a simple experimental task and have some programming skills, you may be able to use **Psychopy** to conduct your experiment on your computer. **Psychopy** is a free open-source program written in Python that emulates some very expensive software for programming psychological experiments.

JASP is statistical free-ware that you can download. JASP has most of the features of IBM's SPSS.

Do we need IRB approval for conducting original research? Research done as part of a class, with subjects confined to members of the class, that is approved and supervised by the instructor, does not need IRB approval. If you have a really great idea, we may want to submit a proposal to the IRB so that data can be collected from a larger sample of subjects. Most survey research and experimental cognitive or social psychological research is eligible for expedited review and exempt status (which means fairly rapid approval).

Annotated bibliographies, drafts and final papers/reports will be submitted on-line, through Sakai, and your final paper will be automatically submitted to Turnitin.com for analysis. Your final paper must have a similarity index of less than 15%, after the bibliography and direct quotations are excluded. The paper should be written in APA style. There are many websites that summarize APA style. APA's website has a useful tutorial on its style at <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>. Purdue's English department has another very good guide at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. The site also has a useful guide for writing an annotated bibliography at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/>

Academic integrity: Sanctions for cheating in any form can result in failing the course or, for more severe violations, temporary or permanent separation from the university. Familiarize yourself with the university's policies on academic integrity by visiting the following website <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/> and reading the material for students. I take violations of the academic integrity policies very seriously and have

taken action and will take action against students who violate the policies. Keep in mind that cheating on an exam or a paper can completely derail your future plans and ambitions. A history of an academic integrity violation will keep you out of law school, medical school and most graduate programs.

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://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

Required On-line quizzes: There are required quizzes on the Sakai site. Quizzes are required and are part of your grade. Your scores on quizzes will be expressed as percent correct and averaged. Your two lowest scores will be dropped before the average is computed. On-line quizzes have deadlines and cannot be made up.

Before coming to classes read the assigned materials. Your contributions to discussions, as a presenter and a discussant, are a part of your grade. My BS detector is very sensitive. It will be obvious if you have not read the material.

Research participation units (RPU). Participation in research is required, resulting in accumulation of Research Participation Units (RPU). You are required to accumulate at least 7 RPU. There are two options for satisfying this requirement (described below). These are NOT EXTRA CREDIT. Failure to earn RPU POTENTIALLY LOWERS YOUR GRADE. Departmental policy requires that General Psych students either participate in experiments or write two reports summarizing published scholarly research papers. **Failing to get your RPU requirement completed can ruin a good grade.** Follow this link for more details: <http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>. (Ignore the dates for option 2). If you are under 18, you are exempt from this requirement (in fact, you cannot participate in experiments because you cannot give consent), but you must document your age.

According to department policy, if you do not complete the RPU requirement, your point total will be reduced by half a standard deviation before a grade is assigned. Assume you have accumulated 550 points, earning an A, and the standard deviation is 60 points. Now assume you have not met the RPU requirement. Your point total is reduced to 490 points. This would reduce your grade from an A to a B. Depending on the distribution of points, and how many you've earned, the impact could be even worse. The deadline for completing RPU is the week before classes end. If you choose not to participate in experiments, Option 2 requires two one-page papers, each summarizing a research report published in a recognized psychological journal (I suggest *Psychological Science*). The RPU-Option 2-papers are due **Monday, April 23**, at the latest. Papers must be submitted electronically via the Sakai website. There are not always enough research slots to accommodate all students. Therefore, if you procrastinate on the RPU requirement, you may miss the date for option 2 and not have the opportunity to obtain 7 RPU credits by participating in research. Being a subject in experiments can be interesting, even fun. If you choose not to participate in experiments as a subject, you may use summaries of journal articles you have found for your paper to satisfy Option 2.

Behavior in class: As adults, all students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to learning. However, should your behavior be perceived by me to be disruptive to fellow students in the class, I will ask you to leave the classroom, and if this occurs again, then you or any disruptive student may be judged unable to successfully complete the course with a passing grade. Your cell phone ringer should be set to vibrate, you should not be texting in class, and if you are using a laptop or tablet, it should be to take notes. You should not be having off-topic discussions with other students during class, playing games or watching videos.

Attendance and Absences: Absences for religious observances and participation in university-sponsored events (such as varsity athletics or performance in a university-sponsored ensemble) will be excused and, if necessary, you will be permitted to make up missed work. Otherwise, you are expected to attend all classes unless you are ill. However, there are no explicit penalties for lack of attendance. You may not make up quizzes or exams that you miss without a valid excuse. If you are seriously ill or injured and miss two or more weeks of classes, you should notify your dean because that is likely to affect your grades and

possibly your academic standing. The university has implemented a system for student self-reporting of incidental absences. If you are going to be absent or have been absent, some professors expect you to report that through the system. I don't. A link to the Student Self-Reporting of Absences system is posted below. **I do not read these, but am required to include this information on the syllabus.**

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

The schedule of class meetings and topic coverage is listed below. The dates for exams will not change, barring the zombie apocalypse, hurricanes, blizzards or other disruptions. **Dates for coverage of chapters MAY change.** Exams will not cover chapters we have not covered, but may cover some material in the book that is not discussed in class and may cover material from the readings. Chapter Quizzes are not listed on the schedule below but are due by 5 pm Friday of every week, except for the final week.

Week	Dates	Honors General Psychology 101 Tillett Hall 251 Sakai Online Quizzes every week; 7 RPU credits OR 2 research summaries; required annotated bibliography and term paper, participation in class
1	W Jan 17	Th: Introduction to the course and each other, Chapter 1: Scientific Psychology
2	M Jan 22 W Jan 24	Chapter 2: Research Methodology.
3	M Jan 29 W Jan 31	Chapter 3: Biology and Behavior. Readings: James 1879 Are we automata? In Various Readings folder; Libet 1983 in Potential Future Classics folder; Baumeister 2008 Free will in scientific psychology in Various Readings
4	M Feb 5 W Feb 7	Chapter 4: Consciousness Readings James 1904 Does consciousness exist?
5	M Feb 12 W Feb 14	Chapter 5: Sensation and Perception
6	M Feb 19 W Feb 21	Chapter 6: Learning
7	M Feb 26 W Feb 28	Exam 1 Chapters 1 - 6 and readings Chapter 7 Memory
8	M March 5 W March 7 F March 9	Chapter 7 Memory Annotated bibliography due FRIDAY, before midnight
9	M March 12 W March 14	Spring break 
10	M March 19 W March 21	Chapter 8: Thinking Language and Intelligence
11	M March 26 W March 28	Chapter 9: Human Development (we are skipping chapter 10 Emotions and Motivation)
12	M April 2 W April 4	Chapter 11 Health and Well-Being; start Chapter 12
13	M April 9 W April 11	Chapter 12 Social Psychology Exam 2: Chapters 1 - 12(no 10), with emphasis on 7 - 12
14	M April 16 W April 18	Chapter 13 Personality
15	M April 23 W April 25 F April 27	RPU Option 2 is due by midnight Monday, April 23, if you did not participate in enough experiments to earn 7 RPUs or chose Option 2; M & W: Chapters 14 & 15 Psychological Disorders and Treatment of Psychological Disorders Paper is due before midnight Friday
16	M April 30	Finish Chapters 14 & 15; review if there is time THE LAST CLASS MEETING FOR THIS CLASS
17	Final EXAM	FINAL EXAM Chapters 1 - 15 (emphasis on 1 - 15), + Department Core

Tuesday May 8, 12 pm - 3 pm	Content Exam
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Grading: Grades will be based on a 600 point system, subject to an important exception, as follows:

Exams: maximum of 100 points each

Term paper/research report: maximum of 100 points

Participation: maximum of 100 points

On-line quizzes: Average of weekly percent correct scores, maximum 100 points

The important exception: The paper is an absolute requirement for passing the course. There is a 300 point penalty for failure to turn in an acceptable paper. Grading standards: Remember points are **DEDUCTED** from your total if you do not complete your RPU requirement with either Option 1 (participating in research as a subject) or Option 2 (two one-page summaries of journal articles). Cut-offs for grades are listed below

A: 540 points

B+: 510

B: 480 points

C+: 450

C: 420 points

D: 300 points

Grades: I do not change grades unless a computational error has been made. Begging, crying, attempted bribes (really, students (but not *honors* students) have tried that!) will not work. If you need a certain average to stay in the honors program, to keep financial aid, or just to keep your parents from nagging you, read the assignments before class every week, attend class regularly, participate, start working on your paper early, submit your paper on time, take the quizzes on time, and review frequently by testing your memory for the material. Elaborative encoding, elaborative rehearsal, and distributed review of course material will lead to greatly improved retention of the material and decent grades in this and almost every course.

Missed exams: If you miss an exam, in general you get a zero. Don't miss exams. If you have an unavoidable conflict, let me know ahead of time. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (hospitalization, death in the family) you will have to produce documentation; with acceptable documentation, we can make arrangements for a makeup. Many students claim that a grandparent has died around the time of an exam. You will need to produce a legitimate obituary that lists you as a surviving grandchild in order for this excuse to be accepted.

BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS. If you arrive after the first student has turned in an exam, you will not be admitted to the exam and will have to take a makeup.

Special arrangements: If you are entitled to extended testing time or other testing accommodations, provide me with the documentation from the Office of Disability Services, and I will work with them to arrange alternate administration of your exams and online quizzes. Identify yourself early in the term. If you wait until just before an exam, there may be a considerable delay.

If things go horribly wrong in this course, other courses, or your life: the University has many resources to help you. The faculty and staff want you to thrive at the University and to succeed academically and socially. Ask for help as soon as you realize there is a problem. If you don't know what resources are available, I will refer you.

The transition to life at a large university is difficult for many students. You are not alone and there are resources to help you.

Some of these are listed on the next page.

Student-Wellness 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)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals 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)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

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 when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

