

**General Psychology**  
**01:830:101:01**  
**Spring 2020**  
**Monday/Wednesday, 2:50-4:10 PM, Scott Hall room 135**

**Instructor:** Rachel Rubinstein, Ph.D.  
**Instructor email address:** [rachrubi@psych.rutgers.edu](mailto:rachrubi@psych.rutgers.edu)  
**Office:** Tillett Hall, room 303  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12-2 PM or by appointment

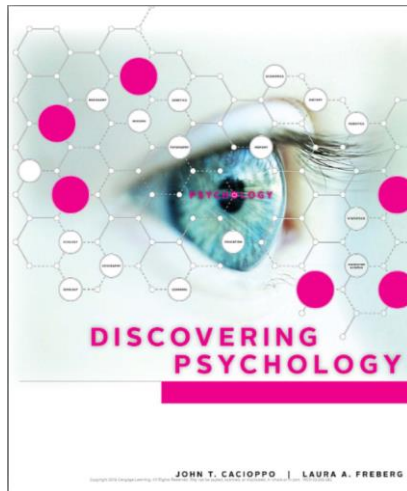
**Graduate Student Teaching Assistant:** Ana Bennett  
**TA email address:** [anb136@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:anb136@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)  
**TA office hours:** TBA

**Course website:** If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website through Canvas. There you will find slides and resources as they become available. Lectures and any relevant resources will be posted before each class.

**Required Instructional Resources:**

**Textbook:**

Cacioppo, J. T., & Freberg, L. (2019). *Discovering Psychology: The Science of Mind* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning  
ISBN-13: 978-1337561815



**Clicker app:** Reef iClicker

**Download:** <https://www.iclicker.com/students>

2 week free trial, and then \$14.99 for a 6-month subscription

## Important Dates

The course begins on 1/22/2020, the last class is on 5/04/2020, and the last day to drop the course without a "W" grade is 1/28/2020. Final exam is on 5/13/2020, 12-3 PM.

## Course Description

The goal of this course is to introduce you to theories and research in several major subfields of psychology: biopsychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, personality psychology, social psychology, and clinical psychology.

## Course Objectives

- Identify and understand major concepts and theories within various subfields of psychology
- Understand the basic scientific method and how it is used in psychological research
- Apply psychological principles to everyday life

## Learning 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)

## Course Format

**Attendance.** We will meet twice weekly for 80-minute classes. Classes will consist of lectures, videos, demonstrations, extra credit clicker questions, and discussions. Because exams will include information covered in class that is NOT covered in the reading material, I strongly recommend attending every lecture or getting comprehensive notes from classmates if you miss a class.

**Readings.** You are expected to read the assigned textbook chapters BEFORE the class where we will cover them. My lectures will overlap with what is covered in the text, and it will help you immensely to keep up with the readings so that the terms and concepts are already familiar to you during lectures.

## Evaluation

**Exams:** There will be four in-class exams consisting of multiple choice questions: three hourly exams and a final exam. The first three exams will cover material we have learned in that section of the course. The final will be cumulative; it will cover material from the whole semester. Test material may be taken from the required readings, class lectures and discussions, in-class demonstrations, and videos shown in class.

However, I understand that everyone has an off day sometimes, so to make sure this does not influence your grade too much, I will drop your lowest exam score (including the final exam). This also means that you can miss one of the four exams without penalty.

- **Make-up Exams:** Make-up exams will not be permitted without advance permission and/or documentation of an unavoidable circumstance (e.g., a doctor's note, an obituary or funeral notice, police report, etc.). Makeup exams will be taken during group makeup sessions to take place on Friday afternoons during the semester (stay tuned for specific dates/times/locations!).

**Clicker extra credit:** The Reef iClicker app allows for class participation in our large class, and will allow me to assess whether you understand the material that is being taught. When a question is presented on the PowerPoint during lecture, you will answer on Reef. Some questions will be opinion-based, and everyone will receive credit for these questions ("clicker opinion questions"). Others will be factually based ("clicker factual questions"); for these questions, you will only receive credit if you get the question correct. For each day there are clicker questions, you earn points, which you can keep track of on the Reef app. At the end of the semester the proportion of points you receive (out of the total available for the semester) will be multiplied 100, and this will be added to your average exam percentage score. You can earn a maximum of 3% added to your exam average.

It is important that you purchase your Reef subscription as soon as possible. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lectures will count as practice. Starting with the 4<sup>th</sup> lecture of the semester, responses will count toward your grade.

Note: Because we will be using the Reef app, you will need to bring either a laptop or a smartphone to each class session.

### Research participation

Since experimentation is a prime source of information for the field of psychology, contact with experimental procedures is required for all General Psychology students and may be fulfilled through one of the following two options. **Non-fulfillment of this requirement will result in a deduction from your final course grade** total equal to one-half standard deviation of the class distribution of total points. **This could lower your final grade a full letter grade (i.e., A to B, B to C, etc.).**

**Option 1:** This method requires you to participate in several experiments for a total of 3-1/2 hours, equaling seven Research Participation Units (RPUs). Each experiment will provide a specific number of RPUs, allocated in half-hour units, which will be indicated in the experiment's description. You may choose to participate in any number of experiments, provided that you obtain a total of seven RPUs. **The last day for participation is one week prior to the last day of classes (Apr. 27).** Note that 1 RPU will be given in exchange for each ½ hour of participation, except in the case of on-line studies that do not require students to come to a lab. On-line studies will award ½ RPU per ½ hour of on-line study participation. Moreover, students are not allowed to receive more than 2 RPUs by engaging in on-line studies (i.e., two hours maximum). You will need to register yourself by going to the main Human Subject Pool System page (<https://rutgers-researchpool.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>) and clicking on "Request an Account". Make sure that you carefully enter your correct email address and 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 RPUs assigned to you.

**\*\*Note:** You need to be at least 18 years old to participate in the majority of the research studies. If you will not turn 18 by early in the semester, you should complete this course requirement with Option 2.

**Option 2:** Students who are unwilling or unable to participate as subjects in experiments (Option 1) may fulfill this requirement by submitting summaries of two published research articles. Details of this assignment can be found here:

<https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/general-psych-requirement/831-option-2-two-summaries-of-two-published-research-articles>). Please follow the instructions carefully.

Please be sure that your papers contain no plagiarism; all papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com. The first summary must be submitted to your instructor (via Canvas) by March 4. Students who miss that deadline must fulfill the requirement via Method 1. The second summary is due on or before Apr. 22.

More information about both options is located here:

<https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/general-psych-requirement>. Please read these rules carefully before beginning either your research participation or your papers.

### Grading

**Exam 1: 50 points**

**Exam 2: 50 points**

**Exam 3: 50 points**

**Exam 4 (cumulative): 50 points**

**Total: 150 points (1 exam dropped)**

**Extra credit:** up to 3% will be added to your exam average from Reef questions, depending on your attendance and performance (described above)

### Computing and Assigning Final Grades

- Add up your 3 highest exam grades (each is out of 50) and divide by 150
- Multiply this decimal by 100, and then add your Reef percentage points.
- Grades will be assigned as follows (**source: standard Rutgers undergraduate grading scale**) and **no exceptions will be made for any reason:**

A: 90.0 -100.0%

B+: 85.0-89.99%

B: 80.0-84.99%

C+: 75-79.99%

C: 70-74.99%

D: 60.0 - 69.99%

F: 0.0 - 59.99%

### Additional Information

**Office hours:** Office hours are a time that I set aside to be available for you, so I strongly encourage you to come to office hours with questions or concerns about course material, assignments, or anything relevant to psychology! If you cannot meet during my office hours, we can arrange another time to meet.

Please note, though, that if you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a **classmate**, not from the instructor or the TA. If you wish to review your exams, you will need to attend the TA's office hours for that.

**Laptops:** While laptops or smartphones are necessary for class due to Reef, please **do not use them to surf the internet, text, etc. during class**. This not only detracts from your ability to learn, but from that of other students around you.

**Tone and civility:** This class aims to foster a learning environment that promotes and values respect for others and their viewpoints. The topics we'll learn about in this class are easily relatable to everyday life, making students inclined to share their own anecdotes and experiences. I welcome and encourage that – indeed, that's one of the most exciting and unique aspects of this class. But as such, it is imperative that students behave in a respectful and considerate way to their fellow classmates. Inappropriate, disruptive, or offensive interpersonal behavior is not acceptable.

**General etiquette:** Please come to class on time and wait until the lecture is over to start packing up. You may think you're quiet, but when 220 people start shuffling it can be quite disruptive!

#### Class Calendar\* (Subject to change)

Date	Topic/Event/Deadline	Reading
Wednesday, January 22	Syllabus review and introduction to the course	
Monday, January 27	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2
Wednesday, January 29	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2
Monday, February 3	Biopsychology	Chapter 4
Wednesday, February 5	Biopsychology	Chapter 4
Monday, February 10	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5
Wednesday, February 12	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5
Monday, February 17	Consciousness and sleep	Chapter 6
Wednesday, February 19	Catch up and (time permitting) review	
Monday, February 24	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6</b>
Wednesday, February 26	Emotion and motivation	Chapter 7
Monday, March 2	Learning	Chapter 8
Wednesday, March 4	Learning <b>RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OPTION 2, 1<sup>st</sup> PAPER DUE ON CANVAS 11:59 PM</b>	Chapter 8
Monday, March 9	Memory	Chapter 9
Wednesday, March 11	Personality	Chapter 12
Monday, March 16	<b>NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK</b>	
Wednesday, March 18	<b>NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK</b>	
Monday, March 23	Catch up and (time permitting) review	
Wednesday, March 25	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Chapters 7, 8, 9, 12</b>

Monday, March 30	Life span development	Chapter 11
Wednesday, April 1	Life span development	Chapter 11
Monday, April 6	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Wednesday, April 8	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Monday, April 13	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
Wednesday, April 15	Psychology of Gender	
Monday, April 20	Catch up and (time permitting) review	
Wednesday, April 22	Exam 3, Chapters 11, 13, and Psych of Gender lecture  RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OPTION 2, 2 <sup>nd</sup> PAPER DUE ON CANVAS 11:59 PM	
Monday, April 27	Psychological disorders DEADLINE FOR OPTION 1 RESEARCH PARTICIPATION COMPLETION	Chapter 14
Wednesday, April 29	Psychological disorders	Chapter 14
Monday, May 4	Review for final exam	
Wednesday May 13, 12-3 PM	<b>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM</b>	

\*Please complete all readings *before* class!

### ***Academic Accommodations:***

#### **Disability Services**

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

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. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Should you require academic accommodations.

***\*\*Please provide me with the appropriate documentation from the Office of Disability Services at least one week prior to any request for specific testing accommodations.***

### **Academic integrity**

Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers 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 unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction.

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at:  
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

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 (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- 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 nontextual 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!

### **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](http://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 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)**

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

**Scarlet Listeners**

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

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