

General Psychology

Instructor: George Chavez

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays
12:00pm-1:00pm (*or by appointment*)

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Time & Place: Mondays & Wednesdays 3:20pm-4:40pm,
Beck Auditorium (Livingston Campus)

Course Description:

If you have little knowledge of what psychology is, it's likely that the first image that pops into your head is of an old, white-bearded man, suspiciously peering at you through thick glasses, grimacing through a wooden pipe. You might be surprised to learn that the world of psychology is both vast and largely unexplored. This course will introduce you to the many areas within psychology, the various discoveries psychologists have so far made, and future possibilities for growth. You may find that the understanding of psychology as the *study of behavior and experience* is indeed much easier to relate to than just a man in an armchair.

Requirements:

- READ required readings for class
- ATTEND lectures
- COMPLETE the three exams given throughout the course
- TAKE the semi-weekly online (sakai) quizzes

Textbooks and Readings

- Kalat, J. W. (2008-11) **Introduction to Psychology**
 - 9th edition!

Classroom Rules

- Turn off cell phones!!
- You may use laptops, but only for taking notes or looking up relevant class materials. I decide and can clearly tell what is *relevant* and what is not. I can and will ban the use of laptops in class if I see your privileges abused.

Grading

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| 60% | Exams (3 exams, so 20 points each exam) |
| 30% | Sakai quizzes (Each of 6 quizzes is worth 5 points. You receive 2 points for just completing them) |
| 10% | Attendance (randomized call) |

Exams: Three multiple choice exams will be given throughout the semester. Exam material will be approximately 70% lecture and 30% book. Note that the lecture and book overlap *heavily*, so these are approximations. **Each** exam is 25% of your grade and NON-cumulative.

Sakai Quizzes: I will be posting online quizzes on sakai throughout the semester. A total of 6 quizzes will be assigned during the semester. In general, quizzes will be posted for a full week and you must take them before the due date to receive credit. You will receive partial credit just for completing them! You may only complete each quiz ONCE, and may not RETRY. You can use your notes/book as you see fit. You can take online quizzes together if need be—but know that simply copying answers is not to your advantage. Some of these questions may be on the exams. . .

Attendance: You are an enormous class. Rather than calling out nearly 400 names every class, I'll be calling out a random assortment of students (around 20) during certain classes. I will be calling everyone's name once during the entire course, but you will not know in advance when I will be calling your name. If you want to be sure you'll be there when I call your name, it's safest to come to every class, but it's your call. Yes, this counts for 10% of your grade.

Extra Credit: I offer extra credit in-class and online during the semester. If the extra credit is in-class, I will not let you know when I'll be offering them in advance, so you should try to come to every class. No, you cannot retake extra credit at a later date. If the extra credit is online, I will let you know both in class and on sakai. For online extra credit, there is a limited timeframe during which you are allowed to complete the credit. Usually very limited (e.g. within two hours). If you are not able to complete it within that timeframe, you will not receive credit for it. Completing one extra credit assignment will give you ½ a percentage point on your final grade—a pretty good deal. Occasionally, they can be fun too.

Discussion Posts: I will be posting questions on the sakai web forums under "Class Discussions" throughout the semester. Responding to these prompts is OPTIONAL. Really, discussion posts allow you all to respond/participate a bit more insightfully than you might otherwise be able to in a 400 person class. I like hearing what my students have to say, so speak your mind! You might be rewarded.

Other Issues

Research Participation. All *General Psychology* sections require either research participation or an alternative paper assignment. The vast majority of students elect to participate in experiments because it is more fun and it benefits your understanding of the research process. Check the course web site regularly to make certain that you will have an opportunity to

complete the requirement well in advance of the end of the semester. Descriptions of experiments and sign-up opportunities are all done via on-line registration:

<http://researchpool.rutgers.edu/>

You must complete 5 RPU credits in order to receive full credit. Completing all 5 RPUs will sustain your grade, while failing to do so will drop you 1 letter grade.

Questions about grades: If you have a question about your grade in the class, please come to me before the last two weeks of class. If you come in those last weeks, it will be far too late for you to do anything to improve your grade.

Plagiarism: Under no circumstances will I tolerate cheating on any of the exams. You will automatically fail the exam and have my undivided attention for the rest of the course. Do not do it. If you want a review of the University policy on cheating: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Missing Class: If you must miss a class, I provide all the lecture slides online. HOWEVER, I do have slides and mention examples that are only present IN CLASS (in other words, not on the sakai lecture slides or in the book). You will only know what material is class-specific if you have actually gone to class. You might do well to get notes from another student if you are absent.

Schedule

Below is the schedule for General Psychology. Please refer to the **Reading** section to find out what readings are due that day. For instance, take a look at the following:

| Week | Date | Topic | Reading |
|------|------|---|---|
| 2 | 9/8 | Thursday Class! (Monday Schedule) Specializations in psychology & history of psychology | Ch. 1 Module 1.1 A Brief Ch. 1 Module 1.2 |

This means that you should read Chapter 1 Modules 1.1 and 1.2 by the time class starts. No, there are no in class quizzes, but you will have a significantly easier time following lectures if you've read the material beforehand. In general, I will do my best to post lecture slides before the class. Special notices are typed in **bold**. For instance, when class is canceled. The chapter we are focusing on during that lecture is in *italics*.

| Fall 2011 Schedule for General Psychology (Chavez) | | | |
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| Week | Date | Topic | Reading |
| 1 | — | | |
| 2 | 9/7 | Introductions. Syllabus. Sakai. <i>What is Psychology?</i> | |
| | 9/8 | Thursday Class! (Monday Schedule) Specializations in psychology & A Brief history of psychology | Ch. 1 Module 1.1 Ch. 1 Module 1.2 |
| 3 | 9/12 | The science of man: Scientific methods in psychology | Ch. 2 Module 2.1 Ch. 2 Module 2.2 |
| | 9/14 | <i>Biological Psychology</i> Neurons: Action potentials, neurotransmitters | Ch. 3 Module 3.1 |
| 4 | 9/19 | <i>Biological Psychology</i> Drugs and the brain | Ch. 3 Module 3.2 Ch. 3 Module 3.3 |
| | 9/21 | <i>Memory</i> SQ1 Due | Ch. 7 Module 7.1 Ch. 7 Module 7.2 Ch. 7 Module 7.3 |
| 5 | 9/26 | <i>Sensation and Perception</i> Vision | Ch. 4 Module 4.1 |
| | 9/28 | <i>Sensation and Perception</i> Hearing, feeling, and perceiving | Ch. 4 Module 4.2 Ch. 4 Module 4.3 |
| 6 | 10/3 | SQ2 Due | Review Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7 |
| | 10/5 | Exam 1 | Exam on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7 |
| 7 | 10/10 | <i>Nature, Nurture, and Human Development</i> Genes and behavior | Ch. 5 Module 5.1 |
| | 10/12 | <i>Nature, Nurture, and Human Development</i> Cognitive development | Ch. 5 Module 5.2 |
| 8 | 10/17 | <i>Nature, Nurture, and Human Development</i> Social development, and social influences on development <i>Learning</i> Introduction to behaviorism | Ch. 5 Module 5.3 Ch. 5 Module 5.4 Ch. 6 Module 6.1 |
| | 10/19 | <i>Learning</i> Classical and Operant conditioning | Ch. 6 Module 6.2 Ch. 6 Module 6.3 Ch. 6 Module 6.4 |
| 9 | 10/24 | <i>Cognition and Language</i> Attention, categorization, and decision-making SQ3 Due | Ch. 8 Module 8.1 Ch. 8 Module 8.2 |
| | 10/26 | <i>Cognition and Language</i> Language | Ch. 8 Module 8.3 |
| 10 | 10/31 | <i>Intelligence</i> What is intelligence? Can you measure it? | Ch. 9 Module 9.1 Ch. 9 Module 9.2 |

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| | 11/2 | <i>Consciousness</i> The conscious and unconscious mind | Ch. 10 Module 10.1 Ch. 10 Module 10.2 |
| 11 | 11/7 | SQ4 Due | Review Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, & 10 |
| | 11/9 | Exam 2 | Exam on Chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, & 10 |
| 12 | 11/14 | <i>Emotions, Stress, and Health</i> <i>Motivated Behaviors</i> Motivations and goals | Ch. 12 Module 12.1 Ch. 12 Module 12.2 Ch. 12 Module 12.3 Ch. 11 Module 11.1 |
| | 11/16 | <i>Social Psychology</i> Introduction to social psychology Social perception and influence | Ch. 13 Module 13.1 Ch. 13 Module 13.2 Ch. 13 Module 13.3 |
| 13 | 11/21 | <i>Social Psychology</i> | TBA |
| | 11/23 | Cancelled! (Thanksgiving) | |
| 14 | 11/28 | <i>Social Psychology</i> Relationships and authority <i>Personality</i> Introduction to personality SQ5 Due | Ch. 13 Module 13.4 Ch. 13 Module 13.5 Ch. 14 Module 14.1 |
| | 11/30 | <i>Personality</i> Trait theories and personality measurement | Ch. 14 Module 14.2 Ch. 14 Module 14.3 |
| 15 | 12/5 | <i>Abnormal, Therapy, and Social Issues</i> Abnormal psychology and psychotherapy | Ch. 15 Module 15.1 Ch. 15 Module 15.2 |
| | 12/7 | <i>Specific Disorders and Treatments</i> Psychological disorders | Ch. 16 (all Modules) |
| 16 | 12/12 | SQ6 Due | Review Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16 |
| | 12/23 | Final Exam (12:00pm-3:00pm) | Exam on Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16 |