

PSYC 100: Honors General Psychology (Fall 2019)

Prof. Jared Medina

Wolf 223

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30pm-1:30pm and by appointment.

TA: Gus Baker (glbaker@udel.edu)

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 11am-noon

Where: Purnell 235

When: TR 9:30-10:45am (section 080); 11:00am-12:15pm (section 081)

Textbook: *Psychology*, 8th edition, Gleitman, Gross & Reisberg

Other assigned readings will be available on **Canvas**.

Introduction

This course will provide you with an introduction to the core ideas in psychology. Specifically, the “theme” of the class is psychology as a science – i.e. understanding how we use the scientific method in order to develop hypotheses and theories to understand humanity. You will learn the history of psychology and be provided with an overview of different subfields in psychology (e.g. behavioral, cognitive, clinical, personality, abnormal, social, etc.). While learning about these topics, the goal is to provide you with the ability to understand how scientific theories are developed, and to teach you how to critically evaluate scientific research.

Having such a small class will allow for quite a bit of discussion along with lecture. Take advantage of this opportunity! Be prepared by doing the readings before class, and be ready to engage in discussion. Often class discussions will go off on tangents – this is great. The goal is not for class to be an exercise in textbook regurgitation. Instead, I hope that we use this time to gain an appreciation for the scientific method and a fascination with how our incredible minds work.

Course Policies and Procedures

Course Web Page

Important information, including changes to the syllabus, *readings*, upcoming events, links to other resources, etc. will be posted on **Canvas**. You will be updated of any changes via e-mail. Lecture slides will be posted there as well. Please note: the slides do not contain all of the lecture content, and there may be some differences between what is posted on Canvas and what is presented in class. Be sure to attend class!

Grading

Please note that I do not allow students to re-do an assignment if they get a poor grade.

Exams (90% of grade)

The four exams are designed to assess your ability to retain important concepts. But more importantly, they will also test your abilities to think about the implications of results, predictions made by theories, hypothesis testing, etc. They consist primarily of short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions. Exams are **not** cumulative. Make-up exams are only allowed given a documented illness/emergency. Please note that the make-up exam will not be the same as the exam given to the rest of the class (and typically, has more essay content).

Exam grades will be weighted: Your highest two exam scores will contribute 25% to your final grade, your lowest two exam scores will contribute 20% to your final grade.

Class Participation/Pop Quizzes (10% of grade)

This class will involve both lecture and class discussion. It is important that you attend **and** be involved in class! This includes asking questions, discussing readings, and regular attendance. Therefore, there will be a “class participation” component to your grade. This includes being involved in class, and (perhaps) occasional mini-assignments. Furthermore, there could be occasional “pop” quizzes **if** there isn’t sufficient class participation. Note that there is an **inverse correlation** between class participation and the number of pop quizzes. If used, these will cover basic content from the assigned reading. **Do not ignore class participation.** Please note that if you regularly attend class but your class participation in class is minimal, the highest class participation grade you can receive is a B+. (If you are worried about this and are shy – please e-mail me early in the semester and we’ll work something out.) If you miss a fair number of classes without a reason and your class participation is minimal, the highest class participation grade you can receive is a C+.

Finally, to introduce you to the process of conducting psychological research, you will need to participate in research. Please follow the instructions [here](#), and make sure to immediately sign up for [online participation sign-up system](#) to begin the process. Please note that failure to finish the requirement will result in an incomplete grade.

Devices

My policy is no devices (laptops, phones, recording devices, etc.) in class without prior permission from the instructor. First offence: Warning (public or private). Second offence: 2% subtracted from your final grade.

Course Schedule

Note that this schedule **is** subject to change – all changes will be made on Canvas and announced in class. Textbook readings are denoted by pages or chapters. Other readings are either marked by name and are available on Canvas OR are web links ([click on the blue text in the syllabus](#) to access). Please do the readings *before class*, so that you can be prepared to participate in class discussions. (This is especially true for the *non-textbook* readings – these **will** be discussed in class.)

Date	Topic	Readings
8/27	Psychology as a Science	
8/29	Psychology: Theory & Methods	
9/3	Psychology: Experimentation	Shaffer & Merrens 2003
9/5	Freud & Skinner	p 606-612, Watson
9/10	The Cognitive Revolution	
9/12	Broca & the Neuron	p 85-103, 160-177
9/17	Sensation	
9/19	Exam 1	
9/24	Attention & Perception	p 192-212
9/26	Attention & Perception	
10/1	Memory	
10/3	Language	Pinker reading + p 379-95
10/8	Development	Marshmallow study (1 and 2)
10/10	Reasoning	p 341-364
10/15	Rationality	
10/17	Exam 2	
10/22	Irrationality	TBA
10/24	Love and Evolution	p 75-82
10/29	Attraction	p 534-541
10/31	Emotions	Harlow (online)
11/5	Self	Festinger & Carlsmith 1959 (online)
11/7	Other	Milgram 1963
11/12	Differences: Personality	Chpt. 11
11/14	Exam 3	
11/19	Differences: Intelligence & Genetics	Chpt. 11
11/21	Psychopathology: Overview	Chpt. 16
11/26	No class - Thanksgiving	
11/28	No class - Thanksgiving	
12/3	Psychopathology: Mood	TBA
12/5	Psychopathology: Anxiety & Happiness	TBA
TBA	Exam 4 (non-cumulative!)	