

## **PSYC 100: Honors General Psychology (Fall 2016)**

**Where: Gore 218**

**When: TR 9:30-10:45am (sect. 080), 11:00-12:15pm (sect. 081)**

**Textbook: *Psychology*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Gleitman, Gross & Reisberg.**

Prof. Jared Medina

Wolf 216

[jmedina@psych.udel.edu](mailto:jmedina@psych.udel.edu)

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

TA: Alison Goldstein

McKinly 152

Office Hours: Thursday, 1:30-2:30pm

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

### **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 **Sakai**. You will be updated of any changes via e-mail.

## **Grading**

Please note that I do not allow students to re-do an assignment if they get a poor grade. However, I do weight grades such that you will get a bonus if your paper and/or exam grades improve over the course of the semester.

### **Exams (70% of grade)**

The 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.

### **Paper assignment(s) (20% of grade)**

You will be given a paper assignment (or assignments), which will evaluate your ability to think critically, think scientifically and write clearly. Late assignments will result in a lower grade – one grade level per day late (e.g. A to A-, A- to B+, etc.). Assignment details and due date will be announced during the semester.

### **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. Furthermore, there may 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. Guidelines for completing the research requirement can be found at <http://fleen.psych.udel.edu/newdoc.php>. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the research requirement – it is your responsibility to finish this. Failure to finish the requirement will result in an incomplete grade.

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

From the University of Delaware Code of Conduct:

Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, images, or data as one's own. When a student submits academic work that includes another's words, ideas, images, or data, whether published or unpublished, the source of that information must be acknowledged with complete and accurate references and, if verbatim statements are included, with quotation marks as well. By submitting work as his or her own, a student certifies the originality of all material not otherwise acknowledged. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- i. The quotation or other use of another person's words, ideas, opinions, thoughts, or theories (even if paraphrased into one's own words) without acknowledgment of the source; or
- ii. The quotation or other use of facts, statistics, or other data or materials (including images) that are not clearly common knowledge without acknowledgment of the source.

In this class, some of your written assignments will involve reading, summarizing and understanding journal articles in the scientific literature. When doing so, you can't take passages verbatim from the source journal article without attribution. Here are some fundamental principles to use to avoid plagiarism (taken from "Avoiding plagiarism in the Natural Sciences", Haverford College):

- First, it is never, ever acceptable to use the text (phrases, sentences, or paragraphs) of another author without direct, unambiguous attribution (citation).
- Second, because quoting is not a common feature of scientific writing, paraphrasing is a very important skill to develop. It takes practice. Even experienced scientists, who must paraphrase often, find this challenging.
- Third, whenever you use an idea of an author, even if you haven't used that author's wording, you must cite the source. An exception is "common knowledge", and is addressed further below.
- Finally, it is important to recognize that these principles are not simply principles of academic honor. One does not, cannot gain a true education without following them. Achieving ownership of an idea - and ownership of the words, images, citations, and creations that communicate that idea - is the all-important outcome of a good education.

In short, there is no excuse for plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Furthermore, cheating on an exam will result in an F and will be reported to Office of Student Conduct.

## Course Schedule

Note that this schedule is subject to change – all changes will be made on Sakai and announced in class. Textbook readings are marked by pages or chapters. Other readings are either marked by name and are available on Sakai 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.)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
8/30	Psychology as a Science	
9/1	Psychology: Theory and Methods	Shaffer & Merrens 2003
9/6	Psychology: Experimentation	
9/8	Freud	p 606-612
9/13	Skinner	Watson & Chomsky
9/15	Descartes & Cognition	p 85-103
9/20	The neuron and the eye	p 160-177
9/22	Sensing	
9/27	<b>Exam 1</b>	
9/29	Attention & Perception	p 192-212
10/4	Memory	Schachter
10/6	Language	Pinker reading + p 379-95
10/11	Thinking	Marshmallow study ( <a href="#">1</a> and <a href="#">2</a> )
10/13	Infant Cognition (Alison)	TBA
10/18	Reasoning & Rationality	p 341-364
10/20	Reasoning & Rationality	p 51-66, <a href="#">Stafford (online)</a>
10/25	Sex & Love	p 75-82, 534-541
10/27	<b>Exam 2</b>	
11/1	Attraction	
11/3	Emotions	<a href="#">Harlow (online)</a>
11/8	<b>NO CLASS (Election Day)</b>	
11/10	Self	Milgram 1963
11/15	Other	<a href="#">Festinger &amp; Carlsmith 1959 (online)</a>
11/17	OPEN	
11/22	<b>NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)</b>	
11/24	<b>NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)</b>	
11/29	Differences: Personality	Chpt. 11
12/1	Differences: Intelligence & Genetics	
12/6	Psychopathology	Chpt. 16
12/8	Psychopathology	
12/??	<b>Exam 3</b> (during finals week; date/time to be posted by Registrar in mid-October)	