

**The Science of Psychology
Psych W1001
Fall 2008
Syllabus**

General Information

Instructor: Brian C. Rakitin
Course Hours: Monday/Wednesday 6:10-7:25
Course Location: 501 Schermerhorn
Office Hours: Monday 4:20-6:00, or by appointment
Office Location: 356 Schermerhorn or in classroom
Phone: 212-305-7476
E-mail: br130@columbia.edu
Website: <https://courseworks.columbia.edu/>

Teaching Assistants

Name	Kirstin Appelt	Jason Buhle	Ashleigh Aviles
Office Hours	Wednesdays 2:00-4:00	TBA	Tues 10:00-12:00
Office	329 Schermerhorn	324 Schermerhorn	318c Schermerhorn
email	kca2102@columbia.edu	jtb2102@columbia.edu	aia2105@columbia.edu

Please feel free to stop by during any of our office hours. If you would like to make an appointment with any of us, it is usually best to contact us by e-mail, or you can try to check in with us before or after class.

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of psychology, the science of mind. The course begins with an overview of psychology as a whole and an introduction to research methods. From that point, the course is structured to cover the broad subjects that comprise psychology using a “levels-of-analysis” approach, asking questions about the mind and human behavior through the study of biology, the individual, and social situations. Along the way we will discuss, genetics, the brain and nervous system, perception and attention, learning & memory, thinking, motivation and emotions, development, personality, mental disease, and interpersonal relationships.

Degree requirements:

- PSYC W1001 will meet the first (Science of Psychology) requirement of the following programs: the Psychology major or concentration in the College and in G. S.; the psychology portion of the Neuroscience and Behavior major in the College and in G.S.; the Psychology minor in Engineering; the Psychology Post-bac
- PSYC W1001 will count as a single term of the science requirements of the College and G. S.

Readings

The course textbook is Gazzaniga, M. S, & Heatherton, T. F. (2006). *Psychological Science, 2nd Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.: New York (ISBN 0-393-92497-1). It is available for purchase at the Columbia University Bookstore. No other edition of the text is acceptable.

The textbook website at www.wwnorton.com/psychsci includes resources for study and review. Check it out!

Important tips for the reading:

- Keep up with the textbook reading. It is challenging and will probably take more time than you expect. You will not be happy (and you will probably not do as well) if you try to read several chapters just before an exam.
- You are expected to read all of the assigned material, including accompanying figures, before the class in

which the material is discussed.

- Much of the material in the text will not be covered in class. The exams will cover ALL of the assigned textbook material INCLUDING TOPICS NOT COVERED IN CLASS.
- Some small amount of required readings, and all optional readings, is not in the text. These readings will be available on-line at the course website on Courseworks, or on reserve at the psychology library.

Powerpoint slide presentations will be available on Courseworks for all lectures. These files are provided for your convenience, to make taking notes in class easier. They are an outline of the lecture only, and in no way are a substitute for class attendance. All materials in those files are copyright of Norton & Company, Inc., Professor Rakitin, or other sources. You may not redistribute this material under any conditions. I make no promises that the material in the slides will not be altered prior to class as I continually attempt to improve and clarify the lectures.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is an important part of this course. In addition to lecture material, classroom presentations will include videos and demonstrations. Much of this material will not be presented in the text.

501 Schermerhorn is an e-classroom with wireless internet access. With more and more students bringing computers and other networked devices to class, it is critical that students be considerate of their classmates. Do not play games, surf the web, or conduct other non-class related activities during class. Disruptive students may be asked to leave the classroom. All cell phones must be turned off at the beginning of class.

Mandatory Meetings with TA

In order to foster better communication between students and the Teaching Assistants (TA), I'm requiring that each student meet with one of the TAs prior to the first Exam. Each student must make the maximum effort to meet with the TA during his or her regularly scheduled office hours. If that is not possible alternate arrangements will be made.

Exams

There will be three exams. Each exam will cover 1/3 of the course material. The third exam will be administered during the final exam period scheduled by the Columbia University registrar. It will cover the last third of the course material. Each exam will include multiple-choice questions, definitions, diagrams to be labeled, and short answer questions.

Exam 1 – Wednesday, October 1st, 6:10-7:25

Exam 2 – Wednesday, November 5th, 6:10-7:25

Exam 3 – Monday, December 15th, 7:10-8:25 PM

If you will be unable to attend any of the exams, please let me know as soon as possible. Vacation travel plans are not an acceptable reason for missing an exam. If you miss an exam due to documented illness or family emergency, you will be permitted to take a make-up exam with permission from your dean and me. You must contact me with your intention to take a make-up exam as soon as possible, preferably by the day of the exam. Make up exams will be scheduled no later than 3 class days after the exam, and exam times are subject to the availability of the teaching assistants.

Extra Credit Assignments

Each of the three exams will include extra credit questions that will address the optional readings. No other extra credit assignments will be provided or accepted.

Experimental Participation

An important element of the course will be learning about the ways that psychologists conduct research – both by learning about long-established research paradigms and by learning about current investigations. Towards these ends, all introductory psychology students are required to participate as experimental subjects for 3 hours in faculty-sponsored research.

A member of the psychology department will be visiting our class to explain the details of the Columbia University Introductory Psychology subject participation requirement.

Written Assignments

There will be three short written assignments that will require some reading beyond the textbook. Handouts describing the assignments will be distributed the first week of class. Readings will be on reserve in the Psychology Library or on Courseworks.

Written Assignment 1 – due Monday, September 29th, in class

Written Assignment 2 – due Wednesday, October 29th, in class

Written Assignment 3 – due Monday, December 8th, in class

Grading

Neither written assignments nor the exams will be graded on a curve. Exam grading is based on a scaling formula that considers the range of raw test scores. Written assignment grading is subjective but uses a grading scheme that will be provided with the assignments. Based on past experience we expect that 35% of students will receive A's and 45% will receive B's. However, those numbers will vary depending on individual achievement.

Your total number of points for this course will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1 – 25%

Exam 2 – 30%

Exam 3 – 30%

Written Assignments – 10%

Experimental Participation – 5%

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Also, stop by the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Lerner Hall, Suite 802 to register for support services, if you have not done so already. Students who are eligible for extra exam time should be certain to fill out the appropriate paperwork at the Office of Disability Services. Once I have received confirmation of your status, I will be able to make arrangements for additional exam time. Note that ODS often requires 2 weeks to process an application, so don't wait until midterm week to get in touch with them.

Schedule of Classes (Subject to change!)

Date	Day	Topic	Reading
Sept. 3	Wed	Introduction to the science of psychology	Textbook Chapter 1
Sept. 8	Mon	Research Methodology	Textbook Chapter 2
Sept. 10	Wed	Genetics and Biological Foundations I	Textbook Chapter 3
Sept. 15	Mon	Genetics and Biological Foundations II	Textbook Chapter 3
Sept. 17	Wed	The Brain & Consciousness I	Textbook Chapter 4
Sept. 22	Mon	The Brain & Consciousness II	Textbook Chapter 4
Sept. 24	Wed	Sensation, Perception, and Attention I	Textbook Chapter 5
Sept. 29	Mon	Sensation, Perception, and Attention II, 1st Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapter 5
Oct. 1	Wed	Exam 1 (regular class time)	
Oct. 6	Mon	Learning & Reward	Textbook Chapter 6

Oct. 8	Wed	Memory I	Textbook Chapter 7
Oct. 13	Mon	Memory II	Textbook Chapter 7
Oct. 15	Wed	Thinking and Intelligence	Textbook Chapter 8
Oct. 20	Mon	Motivation I	Textbook Chapter 9
Oct. 22	Wed	Motivation II	Textbook Chapter 9
Oct. 27	Mon	Emotions & Health I	Textbook Chapter 10
Oct. 29	Wed	Emotions & Health II, 2nd Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapter 10
<i>Nov. 3</i>	Mon	<i>Election Day – No Class</i>	
Nov. 5	Wed	Exam 2 (regular class time)	
Nov. 10	Mon	Human Development - Children	Textbook Chapter 11
Nov. 12	Wed	Human Development - Aging	Textbook Chapter 11
Nov. 17	Mon	Personality	Textbook Chapter 12
Nov. 19	Wed	Disorders of Mind & Body I	Textbook Chapter 13
Nov. 24	Mon	Disorders of Mind & Body II	Textbook Chapter 13
<i>Nov. 26</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Day Before Thanksgiving – No Class</i>	
Dec. 1	Mon	Treating Disorders of Mind and Body	Textbook Chapter 14
Dec. 3	Wed	Social Psychology I	Textbook Chapter 15
Dec. 8	Mon	Social Psychology II, 3rd Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapter 15
Dec. 15	Monday	Exam 3 (Remember – 7:10 – 8:25 PM!)	
