

**The Science of Psychology
Psych W1001
Spring 2012
Syllabus**

General Information

Instructor: Brian C. Rakitin
 Course Hours: Monday/Wednesday 6:10-7:25
 Course Location: 501 Schermerhorn
 Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 5:00-6:00, 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

TA	E-mail	Office	Office Hours
Marisa Cornejo	mcc2171@columbia.edu	318C Schermerhorn	Thursday 5:15-7:15
Barbie Huelser	bjh2135@columbia.edu	365 Schermerhorn	Monday 3:00 – 5:00 (or by appt.)
Arielle Radin	asr2146@gmail.com	318C Schermerhorn	Tuesday 2:00-4:00
David Schwartz	dzs2104@columbia.edu	318C Schermerhorn	Wednesday 4:30-5:30 Thursday 2:30-3:30 Friday by appointment
Kenzie Snyder	ks2715@columbia.edu	219 Schermerhorn	Tuesday 12:30-2:30

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., and Halpern, D. (2010). *Psychological Science*, 3rd Edition. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.: New York (ISBN 978-0-393-93119-8). It is available for purchase at the Columbia University Bookstore. No other edition of the text is acceptable, but you need not purchase the hardcover edition.

The textbook website at www.wwnorton.com/studyspace 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 few required readings, and all optional readings, are not in the text. These readings will be available on-line at the course website on Courseworks, or on reserve at the science 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 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 RequirementsClass 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 (TAs), 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 – Monday, February 20st, 6:10-7:25

Exam 2 – Wednesday, March 28th, 6:10-7:25

Exam 3 – Monday, May 7th, 7:10-10:00 (projected)

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 a 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.

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 6 credits 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 during the first week of class. Readings will be on reserve in the Psychology Library or on Courseworks.

Written Assignment 1 – due Wednesday, February 15th, submitted via email or courseworks.

Written Assignment 2 – due Monday, March 26th, submitted via email or courseworks.

Written Assignment 3 – due Monday, April 30th, submitted via email or courseworks.

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, preserves the relative distance and ordering of scores among students, and eliminates competition for a fixed number of each letter grade. Students will be permitted to review their exams at times set by the TAs, and contest grading. Professor Rakitin, not the TAs, is the sole final arbiter of contested grades. Written assignment grading is subjective but uses a grading scheme that will be provided with the assignments.

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%

Based on past experience we expect that 35% of students will receive A's and 45% will receive B's as their final grades. However, those numbers will vary depending on individual achievement.

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
Jan. 18 th	Wed	Introduction to the science of psychology	Textbook Chapter 1
Jan. 23 th	Mon	Research Methodology I	Textbook Chapter 2
Jan. 25 th	Wed	Research Methodology II	Textbook Chapter 2
Jan. 30 st	Mon	Biological Foundations I	Textbook Chapter 3
Feb. 1 nd	Wed	Biological Foundations II	Textbook Chapter 3
Feb. 6 th	Mon	The Mind & Consciousness I	Textbook Chapter 4
Feb. 8 th	Wed	The Mind & Consciousness II	Textbook Chapter 4
Feb. 13 th	Mon	Sensation & Perception I,	Textbook Chapter 5
Feb. 15th	Wed	Sensation & Perception II, 1st Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapter 5
Feb. 20st	Mon	Exam 1 (regular class time)	
Feb. 22 rd	Wed	Learning I	Textbook Chapter 6
Feb. 27 th	Mon	Learning II	Textbook Chapter 6
Feb. 29 th	Wed	Attention & Memory I	Textbook Chapter 7
Mar. 5 th	Mon	Attention & Memory II	Textbook Chapter 7
Mar. 7 th	Wed	Thinking and Intelligence I	Textbook Chapter 8
Mar. 12 th	Mon	<i>Spring Break, no class</i>	
Mar. 14 th	Wed	<i>Spring Break, no class</i>	
Mar. 19 st	Mon	Thinking and Intelligence II	Textbook Chapter 8
Mar. 21 rd	Wed	Motivation & Emotion I	Textbook Chapter 9
Mar. 26 th	Mon	Motivation & Emotion II, 2nd Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapter 9
Mar. 28th	Wed	Exam 2 (regular class time)	
Apr. 2 ^h	Mon	Human Development - Children	Textbook Chapter 11
Apr. 4 th	Wed	Human Development - Aging	Textbook Chapter 11
Apr. 9 th	Mon	Social Psychology I	Textbook Chapter 12
Apr. 11 th	Wed	Social Psychology II	Textbook Chapter 12
Apr. 16 th	Mon	Personality	Textbook Chapter 13
Apr. 18 th	Wed	Personality	Textbook Chapter 13
Apr. 23 th	Mon	Disorders of Mind & Body I	Textbook Chapter 14
Apr. 25 th	Wed	Disorders of Mind & Body II	Textbook Chapter 14
Apr. 30th	Mon	Treating Disorders of Mind and Body, 3rd Written Assignment Due	Textbook Chapter 15
May 7th	Mon	Exam 3 (projected)	