

Science of Psychology

PSYC W1001

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Office Hours: Posted on Courseworks

Welcome to Psychology!! Why do people act the way they do, feel the way they do, think the way they do? We will explore different answers to this question ranging from the biological theories (it's all in the brain) to the social theories (it's all about the influences around us), and examining successes (learning, memory, intelligence, consciousness) failures (psychopathologies) and treatments (biomedical and psychotherapies). Emphasis is placed on scientific analysis of behavior, understanding theories, and interpreting research findings, with the ultimate goal of understanding more about human behavior from a scientific perspective.

Text: *Psychology* by Schacter, Gilbert and Wegner, 2nd Edition. The text is available at both the Columbia Bookstore and at BookCulture. You can also purchase access to an online version from CourseSmart.com at a significantly reduced price relative to a new text. There are three copies of the text available on reserve in the Science Library located in the NWC Building (the new building at 120th and B'way). Supplemental readings will be posted on Courseworks. Please note: the 2nd Edition is quite new (2011 publication) so if you choose to purchase a used text please be sure you get the correct edition.

Exams and Grading: There are 4 exams for this course, 3 midterms and a final. Exams cover lecture, text and supplemental reading material, results of class demonstrations, and any material presented through additional media sources (videos, demonstrations, etc.). Each midterm exam will cover the material covered that has not been tested. The final exam will be a cumulative multiple choice exam. The lowest test grade from the 4 exams will be dropped, and your course grade will be calculated from the scores on the remaining 3 exams. Course grades are calculated as follows:

Exams = 30% each Written Assignment = 5% Experimental Participation = 5%
The method used for determining letter grades is described in detail in the Grading Policies file posted on Courseworks.

Exams **must** be taken at the scheduled time. ANY unexcused absence from an exam will result in your being asked to withdraw from the class. *There is no option to make up a missed exam for any reason.* If you have an emergency that requires you to miss an exam you must get Prof. Taylor's permission before the exam. If you have an excused absence, that exam will have a score of 0 and will be factored in as your lowest exam score. Missing a midterm means that you are required to take the cumulative final exam.

If you are satisfied with your course grade based on the 3 midterm exams, you may choose not to take the final exam; the final exam will then count as your lowest exam score.

Please see the Exam Policies document posted in Courseworks for a complete description of all exam policies for this course.

Final Exam Scheduling: The final exam will take place at the time determined by the University Registrar. *Please note: The projected date for our final is on Thursday, Dec. 22st. I cannot give an alternate exam time to accommodate travel arrangements.*

Short Answer Quiz: In the Test & Quiz section of Courseworks a typical exam short answer question will be available from 5 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 21st until 5pm on Friday, Sept. 24th. You must log in and answer this question during this time. Your grade on this question will be part of Midterm #1. Comments on your answer and a complete answer to the question will be posted on Courseworks prior to Midterm#1. These comments should help you understand how to answer the similar style of question that you will find on the midterms.

Written Assignment: Find a popular press account of a psychological finding. Read the original report, and provide a critique of the secondary (popular) report. Specific details on the written assignment are posted in Courseworks, along with directions for submitting the assignments electronically. Late assignments are only accepted for one week and will only receive half credit.

Research Participation: This semester you will have the opportunity to experience first-hand what happens in a psychology research project by participating in experiments currently being conducted by faculty members and graduate students in the Psychology Department. A representative from the Psychology Department will stop by our class early in the semester to describe this requirement. A summary of this information is posted on Courseworks. If you are under 18 years old, and will not turn 18 before the end of the term, or if you have ethical objections to the experimental research requirement, please see Prof. Taylor by Sept. 30th to arrange an alternate assignment. If you have any questions about the requirement or getting credit for your experiments please contact Jen Silvers (jas2222@columbia.edu).

General Tips and Advice: Course attendance, and on-time arrival, is most strongly recommended. Please be considerate of your classmates by not arriving late or departing early. If you are late please do not disrupt other students - sit in the back or on the edge of the classroom. PowerPoint slides from each lecture will be posted on Courseworks, but these outlines are brief and are not meant to substitute for attendance. You are responsible for all material covered in the course. If you miss a lecture, please find a classmate willing to share course notes.

501 Schermerhorn is an e-classroom with wireless internet access. Please be considerate and resist the temptation to play games, surf the web, or conduct other non-class related activities during the lecture. All cell phones must be turned to silent mode at the beginning of class.

Keep up with the reading in the text. The book has a great deal of information and it will probably take longer than you think to read and study each chapter. Use the lecture slides and the study questions from each lecture to prepare for the exams. Some study questions will cover material not covered in lecture. The study questions at the end of each lecture will include all possible exam topics – if you thoroughly understand and can answer these questions you should do quite well in the course. Your text is a resource, not something to memorize. Refer to the Study Tips file posted on Courseworks for more hints on how to effectively prepare for exams.

Disability Services: If you require accommodation for a disability, please notify the Office for Disability Services and your instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the first exam. If you believe you are eligible for testing accommodations you must register with ODS as soon as possible.

Important Dates:

September 21 nd	Short Answer Quiz opens at 5pm
September 24 th	Short Answer Quiz closes at 5pm
October 4 th	Midterm #1 *
October 11 th	Last day to drop a class (BC, CC, GS, GSAS, CE)
November 3 th	Midterm #2 *
November 17 th	Last day to declared P/D/F option
November 18 th	Written Assignment due
December 8 th	Midterm #3 *
December 22 st	Projected Final Exam Date

** I have tried to consider religious observance while planning the midterm exam dates. If I have inadvertently scheduled an exam for a date when your religious observance requires that you not participate in school activities please see me within the first two weeks of the class.*

Course Schedule

Sept. 6, 8	Course Introduction, Research Methodology in Psychology Neuroscience and Behavior
Sept. 13, 15	Neuroscience and Behavior Sensation and Perception
Sept. 20, 22	Sensation and Perception Consciousness
Sept. 27, 29	Consciousness Memory (Note: this material will be included on Midterm #2)
Oct. 4, 6	Midterm #1 (Chapters 1 through 5) on Oct. 5th Memory
Oct. 11, 13	Learning
Oct 18, 20	Emotion and Motivation
Oct. 25, 27	Language and Thought
Nov 1, 3	Intelligence Midterm #2 (Chapters 6 through 10) on Nov. 3th
Nov 8, 10	University Holiday (Nov. 8 th) – <i>No Lecture</i> Development
Nov 15, 17	Personality Social Psychology <i>Note: Written Assignment is due by Friday, Nov. 18th at 5pm</i>
Nov. 22, 24	Social Psychology University Holiday (Nov. 24 th) <i>Happy Thanksgiving!!</i>
Nov. 29, Dec. 1	Psychological Disorders Treatment of Psychological Disorders
Dec. 6, 8	Stress and Health Midterm #3 (Chapters 11 through 16) on Dec. 8th
Dec. 22	<i>Projected Final Exam Date</i>

** Changes to this schedule will be announced in lecture*