

SYLLABUS

Lecture: Mon., Wed., Fri., 2:30-3:20

Discussion (one section only): Mon: 11:30, 12:30  
Tue: 12:30  
Wed: 9:30, 11:30  
Fri: 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

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Text: Roediger, Rushton, Capaldi, & Paris, Psychology, Little, Brown & Co., Second-Edition.

Course Description: Psych 204 is the first course in a two-course, introductory psychology sequence called "Psychology as a Social Science." Psych 205 is the second course.

Purpose: This course will provide you with a general introduction to psychology -- a survey of major topics in psychology, approaches to gathering and evaluating evidence about the causes and correlates of behavior, and the means by which psychological knowledge is or can be applied to the "real world." In this course we will cover about half of the book, while the second course will cover the second half of the book.

Objectives: The three major objectives of this course are:

1. Knowledge of psychology This includes: awareness of major psychological approaches to the study of the behavior of organisms, particularly humans, major problems in psychology, their origins, and persons who contributed to the effort to provide solutions, knowledge of research findings, concepts, and basic terminology, and an understanding of methodology in psychology.
2. Development of scientific values This includes: stimulation of intellectual curiosity about human and animal behavior, an appreciation of the scientific method and its limitations, and an increased sophistication in the ability to evaluate generalizations or allegations on the basis of relevant evidence.
3. Personal development The least tangible of the three goals but perhaps the most enduring. This would include: increased understanding and tolerance of the behavior of other people, better understanding of the forces acting upon you to limit or control your freedom of choice and action, stimulation of curiosity about why people (and you) act as they do, development of intelligent skepticism about accepting "psychological truths" and a sense of responsibility about the future directions and applications of psychological research.

Each of the topics covered in this course is treated in greater depth in upper-level courses in the Psychology Department.

Lectures: The lectures supplement and clarify material in the text. They will cover material not dealt with in your text or extend and refine material that is covered in your readings.

Grading Criteria: Your grade in the course will be based on three criteria: 1) Exams, 2) Discussions, 3) Attendance at specified events (i.e., movies, demonstrations) in class.

1. Exams: Evaluation of your performance in this course will partly involve multiple-choice examinations that cover the content of the text and lectures with somewhat more emphasis on the text (typically 35 to 50% of the exam questions will come from material covered only in lecture). There will be three exams during the quarter, and a comprehensive two-hour final exam. Each hour exam will be worth 50 points; the final exam will be worth 100 points. In determining your grade, I will substitute your score on the final for your two lowest scores on the hour exams (if your final score is less than your two lowest scores on the hour exams, no substitution will be made). If your performance on the three hour exams suits your needs, then you may choose not to take the final.

a. Study questions: Study questions will be provided for each reading assignment in the book. The study questions are important, because you will only be tested on material from the book (there is also material from the lecture) that is covered by the study questions. Make sure you write out the answers for the study questions (these are for your use and will not be collected).

b. Missed tests: No make-up examinations will be given. Exams will only be given at the scheduled times. You may miss as many as two (2) exams without actually losing points, but you would have to take the final exam to substitute for these missing exams. IF you take the final to substitute for missing exams, then, of course, the final cannot be used to substitute for "low" exam scores. If you take the final, you must take it at the scheduled time.

c. Reviewing exams: You can review your tests only during the teaching assistant's office hours, and only during the five (5) school days following the day that the exam results are posted.

2. Discussion: The discussion sections provide you with the opportunity to discuss the implications of psychological findings on social institutions and social policy. On the assigned weeks (specifics below) you will meet with your discussion leader, one of the teaching assistants, to take a brief, 3-question, multiple-choice test on the assigned article and to discuss this article. The article will be provided a week prior to the discussion meeting. Your grade will be determined by: 1) your score on the test and, 2) your participation in the discussion. You will be graded as follows: No participation - 0 points; some participation - 1 point; significant participation - 2 points. Thus, per each discussion meeting you can earn a total of 5 points. Discussion section will or will not meet as follows:

Week of:

Sept. 26 - No meeting	Nov. 7 - will meet
Oct. 3 - No meeting	Nov. 14 - will meet
Oct. 10 - will meet	Nov. 21 - No meeting (Thanksgiving)
Oct. 17 - will meet	Nov. 28 - will meet
Oct. 24 - will meet	Dec. 5 - will meet (makeup)
Oct. 31 - will meet	

Thus, there will be 7 (last week is makeup) meetings, each worth 5 points, for a total possible 35 points.

3. Events: There will be 3 events on the following dates: Mon., Oct. 31; Wed., Nov. 9; Mon., Dec. 5. You will receive 10 points for each one you attend. The only acceptable excuse is a note from a doctor or from student infirmary stating that you were unable to attend class.

Grading and Grading Scale: Your grade will be based on:

3 multiple-guess exams (or final + 1 exam) @ 50 points each	= 150 pts
7 discussions	= 35 pts
3 events in class	= 30 pts
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	= 215 pts

A = 189 to 215 pts  
B = 168 to 188  
C = 147 to 167  
D = 126 to 146  
F = 125 and below

Extra Credit: You can gain a maximum of 3 points for participating in three psychology experiments (one point for each experiment). A further handout will describe the process for this extra-credit. If you do not wish to earn extra credit by participating in experiments, there is another option available. This involves reading three articles and writing summaries.

An Invitation: Please feel free to ask me during class or office hours about any concerns you have regarding your grade, tests, or psychology in general. Please feel free to raise questions during lecture or discussion. I welcome your comments, feedback, and suggestions.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Monday, September 26	Course Description and Requirements Read: Chapter 1 and pages 683-687
Wednesday, September 28	Lecture: An Overview of Major Schools of Psychology
Friday, September 30	Lecture: An Overview of Major Schools of Psychology
Monday, October 3	Lecture: Research Methods Read: pages 36-39, 43-47
Wednesday, October 5	Lecture: Research Methods
Friday, October 7	Lecture: Research Methods/Basic Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology
Monday, October 10	Lecture: Basic Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology
Wednesday, October 12	Review for Exam I
Friday, October 14	Exam I
Monday, October 17	Lecture: Drug Action on the Nervous System
Wednesday, October 19	Lecture: Drug Action on the Nervous System Read: Chapter 6
Friday, October 21	Lecture: Conditioning and Learning
Monday, October 24	Lecture: Conditioning and Learning
Wednesday, October 26	Lecture: Conditioning and Learning
Friday, October 28	Case Presentation: Marital Therapy
Monday, October 31	Movie: "Harry"; Marital Case Presentation
Wednesday, November 2	Review for Exam II
Friday, November 4	Exam II
Monday, November 7	Lecture: Memory Read: Chapter 7
Wednesday, November 9	Lecture: Memory
Friday, November 11	Memory Experiment in Class
Monday, November 14	Memory Experiment Discussion
Wednesday, November 16	Lecture: Language
Friday, November 18	Lecture: Language
Monday, November 21	TBA
Wednesday, November 23	No Class

Friday, November 25	No Class -- Thanksgiving
Monday, November 28	Review for Exam III
Wednesday, November 30	Exam III
Friday, December 2	TBA
Monday, December 5	Movie: to be announced
Wednesday, December 7	Review for final
Friday, December 9	Review for final