

Psychology 204 Introduction to Psychology as a Social Science

M. Posner 225 Straub X 4939 (lv message if no answer)
177 Lawrence
11:30 AM + 1 discussion section

This course will emphasize the relevance of studies of learning, perception and cognition to our understanding of the human in society. Discussions will center around the use of psychological analysis to reflect on questions of value important in the social sciences.

WK	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading
1	Sept 26	Psychology as a Social Science	Text Ch 1
1	Sept 28	History of Psychology	Ch 1
1	Sept 30	Psychological Methods	ch 1

NO DISC. MEETINGS DURING THE FIRST WEEK

2	Oct 3	Biological Psych: Neuron	Text Ch 2
2	Oct 5	: Reflex	
2	Oct 7	: System	

Disc. Is mental illness a brain disease?

3	Oct 10	Visual System	Text Ch 3
3	Oct 12	Measuring sensation	
3	Oct 14	Central influences on detection	

Disc. Is extrasensory perception a useful concept?

4	Oct 17	Pattern recognition	Text Ch 4
4	Oct 19	Recognition of visual words	

4 Oct 21 FIRST MIDTERM

Disc. Review for midterm #1

5	Oct. 24	Focal attention	Text Ch. 5
5	Oct. 26	Sleep and dreaming	
5	Oct. 28	Altered states of consciousness	

Disc. Is hypnosis a special state of mind?

Wk	Day	Lecture Topic	
6	Oct 31	Unlearned behaviors	Ch. 6
6	Nov 2	Classical conditioning	Ch. 6
6	Nov 4	Instrumental learning	

Disc. Should conditioning procedures be used to modify human behavior?

7	Nov 7	Short term memory	Ch. 7
7	Nov 9	Memorizing information	
7	Nov 11	MIDTERM 2	

Disc. Review for second midterm

8	Nov 14	Amnesia	Ch. 7
8	Nov 16	Expertise	
8	Nov 18	Problem solving	Ch. 8

Disc. Can computers think?

9	Nov. 21	Probabilistic reasoning	Ch. 8
9	23	Concepts and thought	Ch. 8
9	THANKSGIVING		

Disc. Can we improve intelligence?

10	Nov 28	Language processing	Ch. 8
10	Nov 30	Measurement of Intelligence	Ch. 11
10	Dec 2	Theories of Intelligence	Ch. 11

Disc. Can we measure intelligence?

11	Dec. 5	Biological influences	Ch. 11
11	Dec 7	Cultural influences	Ch. 11
11	Dec 9	Overview and evaluation	

Disc. Review for final

Final Examination

Textbook Psychology 2nd ed Roedinger, Rushton, Capaldi & Paris

Discussion text: Taking Sides Rubinstein & Slife

Grading:

The grade in this course will be based on 100 points distributed as follows.

Midterm 1 or 2 whichever higher	20 points
Discussion paper 1 or 2 whichever higher	15 points
Attendance and participation	10 points
Final examination	55 points
TOTAL	100 POINTS