

SYLLABUS

Lecture: Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:50, 150 GEO

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

Instructor: Lew Lewin  
259 Straub  
686-4964, 686-4921

Teaching Asst's: Anne Boylan  
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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 selected 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."

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 25 to 35% 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, which is optional, 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, 5-question multiple-choice test on the assigned article and to discuss this article. Each question is worth 3 points, for a total of 15 points. 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. In order to receive points on the test, you must attend the entire discussion section. Discussion section will or will not meet as follows:

Week of:

Apr. 3	- No meeting	May 15	- will meet
Apr. 10	- No meeting	May 22	- will meet
Apr. 17	- will meet	May 29	- will meet
Apr. 24	- will meet		
May 1	- will meet		
May 8	- will meet		

You are required to attend 5 of the 7 meetings, each worth 15 points, for a total possible 75 points.

3. Events: You must attend 2 special events on the following dates: Tues

May 2 and Tues May 30. You will receive 5 points for each one you attend, for a total of 10 points. In order to get credit, you must arrive not more than 10 minutes late and stay until sign-up sheets are passed around.

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

3 multiple-choice exams (or final + 1 exam) @ 50 points each	= 150 pts
5 discussions	= 75 pts
2 special events in class	= 10 pts
Bonus 5 points	= 5 pts
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	= 240 pts

A = above 216 pts  
B = 192 to 215  
C = 168 to 191  
D = 144 to 167  
F = below 144

Research Requirement: The Psychology Department (not instructor requirement) requires that you participate in three psychology experiments. A further handout will describe this requirement. If you do not wish to participate in experiments, there is another option which involves reading three articles and writing summaries.

Important: If you fail to satisfy research requirement, you will receive a grade of "Incomplete" until you satisfy the requirement.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit option, please do not ask for such an option. The course is designed to give you ample opportunity to do well.

Please Address Questions Regarding:

- 1) Your test, discussion, and special event scores and discussion readings to your discussion leader.
- 2) Course material, study habits to the instructor or discussion leader.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Th Mar 30 Course description and requirements. Lecture: why study Psychology? Read Chapter 1 and pages 683-687

Tu Apr 4 Lecture: Research methods. Read: pages 36-39, 43-47, and 189-194

Th Apr 6 Lecture: Research methods

Tu Apr 11 Lecture: Basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology

Th Apr 13 Review for Exam 1

Tu Apr 18 Exam 1

Th Apr 20 Lecture: Drug action on the nervous system. Read Chapter 6

Tu Apr 25 Lecture: conditioning and learning

Th Apr 27 Lecture: Conditioning and learning. Read pages 574-584

Tu May 2 Specified event: movie "Harry". Marital therapy case.

Th May 4 Review for Exam 2

Tu May 9 Exam 2

Th May 11 Lecture: Memory. Read Chapter 8

Tu May 16 Lecture: Memory

Th May 18 To be announced

Tu May 23 Review for Exam 3

Th May 25 Exam 3

Tu May 30 Specified event: Memory experiment. Class evaluation.

Th June 1 Review for Final