

PSYCHOLOGY 202: MIND AND SOCIETY

Spring 1992

Tues & Thurs, 2:00 - 3:20, 150 COL

Instructor: Dr. Marjorie Taylor, Rm 201 Straub, 346-4933

Office hours: Wed 1:30 - 2:30; Thurs 9:30 - 10:30
or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Diane Spangler, Room 393 Straub, 346-4964 (x44)

Michael Crowley, Room 385 Straub, 346-4921 (x26)

Textbook: Psychology, 3rd ed., (1991) by H. Gleitman.

New York: W.W. Norton & Company

GENERAL INFORMATION

This course is part of a two-term sequence in introductory psychology. Psychology 201, Mind and Brain, emphasizes learning, perception, language, memory, and the role of neural structures in these psychological processes. The second term emphasizes development, personality, abnormal and social psychology.

EXAMS

There will be two midterm exams, a final exam, and a discussion section grade. The midterms and final together will account for 75% of the grade and the discussion section for the other 25% (but see research requirement below). The midterms and final will be multiple choice. The final exam will include sections testing knowledge of material covered in the first third of the course (also tested in Midterm 1), the second third of the course (also tested in Midterm 2) and the last third of the course. Students who have taken both midterms are only required to complete the section covering the last third of the course. The other two sections will serve as make-ups for missed midterms or opportunities to improve midterm grades. If a student takes a midterm and completes the section of the final testing the same material, the higher of the two scores will be used for the course grade.

Inevitably, some students schedule early flights, arrange weddings, etc, and then wish to take the final exam early. Such arrangements are not possible: **the final exam cannot be taken earlier than the time listed in the university's final exam schedule.** The only make-ups for missed midterms will be given at the time of the final exam, as described above.

Final grades will be based on the total number of points from the three exams and discussion section. Letter grades will be assigned in the following way: The average of the three highest scores will serve as a reference point. If your total number of points is:

90% to 100% of the reference point, you will get an A
80% to 89% of the reference point, you will get a B
70% to 79% of the reference point, you will get a C
60% to 69% of the reference point, you will get a D
Less than 60% of the highest grade, you will get a F

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

The discussion sections, which contribute 25% to your grade, will consist of a mixture of demonstrations, projects and discussions that help clarify the concepts being covered.

NOTE: There will be no discussion section meetings during the week of March 30 - April 3.

LECTURES AND READINGS

Although the instructor has attempted to coordinate the lectures with the readings, they frequently will be independent of each other. Some material will be covered in both reading and lecture, but much of the material in the reading will not be discussed in class and new information not covered in the reading will be presented during class time. The exams will cover material from both lectures and readings.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

Students and faculty run many experiments on such topics as memory, attention, and social interactions. An important part of the introduction to psychology is some understanding of how research is conducted and a partial perspective on this can be gained by participating in research as a subject. Each student must participate in three experiments (for 50 minutes each) or write a short paper on a research topic. To participate in experiments, you use a sign up board on the first floor of Straub Hall and then show up at the time and place indicated. After participating in an experiment, you will be given a signed slip which can be turned in to your discussion group instructor for recording. This procedure will be explained in more detail in class.

If you do not wish to participate in experiments, you can write one 5 page paper that summarizes research articles on a problem of interest. To exercise this option, you must first get approval of the topic from your discussion leader.

Although the research requirement will not be graded (except on a pass-no pass basis if you choose a paper), failure to participate in research (or complete the research paper) will result in an incomplete in the course. Students who wait until the final weeks of the quarter to participate in experiments may find that not enough experiments are being run to allow completion of this requirement. Try to schedule participation in experiments early in the quarter if possible.

COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	TOPIC	READING
March 31	Introduction to course	Chapter 1 & Appendix
April 2, 7 & 9	Cognitive & language development	Chapter 14
April 14	Family Socialization	Chapter 15
April 16	Child abuse	Chapter 10
April 21	FIRST MIDTERM	
April 23	Emotion	Chapter 11
April 28 & 30	Altruism & aggression	Chapter 12 Ch 13 (pp. 494-510)
May 5	The diagnosis of psychopathology	Chapter 19
May 7	Treatment of a disorder	Chapter 20
May 12	SECOND MIDTERM	
May 14 & 19	Obedience & conformity	Ch 13 (pp. 510-530)
May 21	Individual differences	Chapter 16
May 26	The psychology of gender	Chapter 17
May 28 & June 2	Intergroup relations	Chapter 18
June 4	Summary	
Wednesday, June 10, 1:00 - 3:00 FINAL EXAM		