

## **Psychology 201: Mind and Brain**

Winter Term, 1992

**Instructor:** Keele, Rm. 221 Straub Hall, Office Hours: 9-11 Tu Th, 2-3:30 Tu Th (except Jan. 6-16) or phone 6-4931.

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### **General Information**

This course is the first term of a two-term sequence in introductory psychology. The first term emphasizes experimental psychology-- topics like learning, perception, language, memory, etc.-- and the second term (taught by another instructor) emphasizes other areas of psychology such as development, social processes, and personality.

### **Exams and Grading**

The course grade will be based on two midterm exams, a final exam, and a discussion section grade. The midterms and final together will account for 67% of the grade and the discussion score will account for 33% of the grade. The midterms and final will be multiple choice. The final will emphasize the last portion of the course following the second midterm, but it will also include questions that cover the earlier parts of the course. The quizzes in the discussion sections may vary in form, but often they also will be multiple choice. Midterms and finals will involve questions both from lectures and from reading, but the quizzes in discussion sections will cover only reading. The final exam cannot be taken earlier than the time listed in the university's final exam schedule (Wednesday, March 18, at 3:15 PM). Inevitably, some students schedule early flights, arrange weddings, etc. and then wish to take the final exam earlier than the scheduled time. Because of university regulations, this is not possible. When makeup exams are required because of illness, the exam may involve essay questions.

Grading will be based on the following point system. The midterms will have 50 questions each and the final will have 60 questions, yielding a potential 160 points. Eighty points can be accumulated from the lab sections, making a grand total of 240 possible points. The minimum number of points for various grades is shown in the table below. For grades within two points of the cutoffs, plusses and minuses will be given. For example, 208 points would yield A-; 207 points would yield B+.

	Grade				
	A	B	C	D	F
<b>Midterms and Final</b>	138	120	95	80	<80
<b>Lab</b>	70	59	48	41	<41
<b>Total</b>	208	179	143	121	<121

## **Discussion/Quiz Sections**

The lectures will be more or less independent of the book with little effort devoted in the lectures to explaining the book. There is no intention for the main instructor to explain what the reading is about. Instead, the reading will be discussed in the Discussion/quiz sections. In each case a quiz worth 10 points will be given on the chapter to be discussed. The quiz will be followed by a discussion. The purpose of the arrangement is to ensure that the students read and study a chapter prior to its discussion. One of the discussion periods will be devoted to an exposition of research methods that will aid in another requirement involving participating in research experiments. The discussion section that meets Monday, Jan. 20 will be cancelled for Martin Luther King Holiday (see calendar for details). Conversely, the discussion sections are not intended to clarify the lectures. Should you have questions about the lectures, you are encouraged to ask questions during lecture or prior to the start of the lecture or see the instructor at another time.

As part of the discussion/quiz requirement, you must participate in three experiments that are ongoing parts of the research program by faculty and graduate students at the University of Oregon. For two of those experiments, lasting up to an hour each, you are simply required to participate. Participation on time will give the full points allowed; late participation will give a lesser number of points; failure to participate will give no points. For a third experiment, you will be required not only to participate but also to write a very brief document describing the purpose of the study, whether it is a true experiment or some other kind of study, and your role in the study. The teaching assistants will in one discussion period describe the differences between experiments, correlational studies and the like and will give more detail on the writeup. If you wish, you can substitute a brief library-based paper for the two participate-only experiments. Again the teaching assistant will give details. Any such paper must be cleared in advance by the teaching assistant. The experiment requiring a brief writeup is obligatory. The experiment that you choose to writeup can be done at any time of the term-- i.e., it could be the first, second, or third participation. Regardless of points earned, you must participate in at least one experiment (or write the equivalent paper) or you will get an incomplete for the course.

The research requirement is one dictated by the Psychology Department. The rationale is two-fold. One reason is that it is important to gain at least a minimal idea in introductory psychology regarding just how research is conducted. This can be done by participating as a subject. The second is a kind of social contract. The vast bulk of psychological research is done with human subjects, much of that with students. Were this not done, there would be substantially less known in the field of psychology. Thus, to engage in learning psychology invokes an obligation to participate in the knowledge production process.

**The point system for the discussion/quiz section is as follows:**

### **Research Participation**

- Experiment 1    5 pts. if done by Jan. 31; otherwise 3 pts.
- Experiment 2    5 pts. if done by Feb. 19; otherwise 3 pts.
- Experiment 3    5 pts. if done by March 6; otherwise 3 pts.
- Additional 5 pts. (maximum--depends on grading) for writeup

of one experiment.

Total points possible for research participation: 20

Quizzes (best 6 of 7 will be graded; max. possible pts.) 60

Grand Total possible points from Lab sections 80

### **Calendar for Discussion/Quiz Sections**

Week 1: no sections meet the first week; study Chapt 1 on own.

Week 2: Chapter 2 (quiz).

Week 3: Chapter 4 (quiz) Note: Monday Jan. 20 is Martin Luther King holiday. Students in the Monday lab should try to attend the labs later in the week. We will also attempt to make other arrangements for students who cannot attend another lab section.

Week 4: Chapter 5 (quiz)

Week 5: Chapter 6 (quiz)

Week 6: Discussion of experiments and procedure to be used in writeup of experiment

Week 7: Chapter 9 (quiz)

Week 8: Chapter 7 (quiz)

Week 9: Chapter 8(quiz)

Week 10: open for general review

Notes: Chapter 1 will not be covered in the discussion sections. It will, however, be covered on the first midterm exam and on the final. Chapter 3 is not assigned for reading and likely will be covered in Psy 202. Chapter 9 is assigned before 7 and 8 where it better corresponds to topics of the lecture.

### **Exemption from Discussion section**

Students who get an A on the first midterm exam (43 pts.) may at their option, attend discussion sections or not. The grading procedure will be as follows: The discussion grades will be completely ignored unless the student continues to participate and in so doing the discussion grades improve the final grade. In the event that the discussion grade would improve the final grade, the higher grade will be given. If continued participation in discussion results in a lower grade, the grade will be based on the midterm and finals, with no consideration of the overall discussion grade. If a student chooses not to continue in the discussion section, the participation in experiments (or the paper option) and the writeup on one experiment are still required. The experimental participation should still be recorded by the original discussion group leader.

### **Reading**

The text for the course is Psychology by Gleitman. The same text very likely will be used in Psych 202 this year.

### **Lecture Outline**

- I. Introduction to Psychology (read chaps. 1 and 2)
- II. The study of learning (read Chapt. 4)
  - A. Habituation: the most primitive form of learning
  - B. Basic concepts of classical and operant conditioning
  - C. The evolution of mechanisms of learning
  - D. The interaction of "instinct" and learning": Biological constraints on learning.
  - E. Application of learning concepts to practical problems.

MIDTERM EXAM (covers lectures and Chaps 1, 2, and 4)

- III. Perception and cognition
  - A. Some topics in sensation and perception (read chaps. 5 and 6)
  - B. Chronometric methods
  - C. Human Factors
  - D. Word Perception and neural mechanisms (read chapt. 9)

MIDTERM EXAM (covers lectures and Chaps. 5, 6, and 9)

- IV. Memory and Skill (read chapters 7 & 8)
  - A. Memory codes
  - B. Processes of storage
  - C. Unusual skills

FINAL EXAM (covers entire term)

### **Important Dates**

1. January 31: first experimental participation due for maximum points.
2. January 20: Martin Luther King holiday-- students in Monday Labs arrange makeup.
3. January 31 (unless postponed): First Midterm Exam
4. February 14: second experimental participation due for maximum points.
5. February 21: (unless postponed): Second Midterm Exam
6. March 6: third experimental participation due for maximum points.
7. March 18 Wednesday: Final Exam at 3:15 PM