

**PSY 201: Mind & Brain**  
**Summer 2004 • MUWHF • 10:00 - 11:50 AM • 146 Straub**

***Instructor: Georgina Parra, B. A.***

Office: Straub 398 • Office phone: 346-4947 ☎

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 12:30 - 1:30, or by appt.

e-mail address: gparra@uoregon.edu (best way to reach me) ✉

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***COURSE DESCRIPTION:***

This course is part of a two-course sequence: PSY 201 and PSY 202. Each course gives you an introductory overview of different aspects of the field of psychology, which is the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. In PSY 201 we will cover the following topic areas: the nervous system; sensation & perception; learning, memory & cognition; and language & intelligence. The goal of this course is to have students sample many of the domains of psychology in preparation for taking other, more focused, courses in the discipline.

***GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:***

- To gain an understanding of the broad range of phenomena investigated by psychologists.
- To become knowledgeable about the different perspectives that psychologists use as frameworks for conducting and interpreting psychological research.
- To understand the research methods used by psychologists to study mental processes and behavior.
- To understand the interactive roles of biology and culture in shaping psychological processes.

***REQUIRED TEXT:*** 📖

Westen, D. (2002). Psychology: Brain, Behavior, and Culture (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

***CLASS FORMAT:***

Classes will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and/or group exercises. In order to be fully engaged and to participate in each class session, it is essential that you read and think about the material to be covered in lecture **before** you come to class. This will enhance your learning experience.

**Please note:** Lecture material is **selective**. We will not cover everything in the text in class, and new material (not in the text) will be introduced in class. So, if you miss a class, it will be very important to get the class notes from another student. 📋 ✎

***RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:***

Empirical research is an important aspect of the field of psychology. As a psychology student it is helpful to have an idea how research is conducted. Therefore, there is a **research requirement** for this class. Failure to complete this requirement will result in an Incomplete in this course. You may fulfill this requirement in 1 of 2 ways.

1. Participate in the Human Subject Pool in four experiments (one hour each) **and** complete a questionnaire for each experiment. The research questionnaires can be accessed through Blackboard. Further information about the human subjects pool can be obtained at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord/>. The online system that is used to sign up for experiments can be found at: <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>.
2. Write a 5 page paper that reviews four research articles (selected by the department). You must notify me by Friday, **6/25/04**, if this is the option you select.

### **GRADING:**

The course is divided into four units, each about one week in length. There will be an in-class exam at the end of each unit, making a total of four exams. The exams will be non-cumulative. That is, the material covered on each exam will include only the material contained in a single unit. Each exam will be worth 60 points and will contain 30 multiple choice questions (1 point each) and 3 short-essay questions (10 points each). Exam questions will cover material from **both** class lecture-discussions **and** assigned readings. Again, if you miss a class, it will be important to get class notes from another student.

Each week, there will be an in-class quiz consisting of 15 questions. Quizzes will be administered mid-week, every Wednesday. The quiz will cover material either discussed in class or on the reading list. There will be 15 total possible quiz points per week, for four weeks, resulting in a total possible of 60 quiz points.

Your final grade will be calculated using your four highest scores, from the four exams and the cumulative total of your quiz grades. Failure to take an exam or quiz will result in a zero grade on that assessment. Because we are dropping either one exam score or your cumulative quiz scores, whichever is lower, **there will be no makeup exams or quizzes.**

Total number of exam points possible	= 240 (60 points each exam x 4)
Total number of quiz points possible	= 60 (15 points each quiz x 4)
Lowest exam or cumulative quiz score	<u>- 60 (DROPPED)</u>
	<b>240 points possible</b>

Your final grade will be based on the following scale:


Percentage	Letter grade	Percentage	Letter grade
98- 100%	A+	78 - 79	C+
93- 97	A	73 - 77	C
90 - 92	A-	70 - 72	C-
88 - 89	B+	68 -69	D+
83 - 87	B	63 - 67	D
80 - 82	B-	60 - 62	D-
		Below 60	F

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

**Students with disabilities:** If you are having difficulty and are in need of academic support because of a documented disability, whether it be psychiatric, learning, physical, hearing, or vision, you may be eligible for academic accommodations. Please talk to me at the end of the first class.

**Experiencing a problem?:** If you are having any difficulties with the class -- such as dealing with the material, making it to class on time, attending class, doing poorly on the exams, or dealing with other students -- please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together toward resolving the issue.

**CLASS SCHEDULE: LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Lecture topic</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b> 
<b>Introduction</b>	Mo 6/21	Introduction: Psychology, is it all in your head? The Emergence of a Psychological Science	<b>Modules 1-5</b>
<b>Unit I:</b>	<b>The Nervous System</b>		<b>Modules 6 &amp; 7</b> <b>Module 22, pp. 334-341</b>
	Tu 6/22	Brain and Behavior: Up Close and Neuronal	
	We 6/23	Brain and Behavior: One Brain or Two? <b>QUIZ #1</b>	
	Th 6/24	Inside the Black Box & Altered States	
	Fr 6/25	<b>EXAM #1</b>	
<b>Unit II:</b>	<b>Sensation and Perception</b>		<b>Modules 8-11</b>
	Mo 6/28	Overview of Sensory Processes	
	Tu 6/29	Sensation: a) Vision as a model Sensory System b) What your nose knows-The Olfactory System	
	We 6/30	Perception: Organization and Interpretation <b>QUIZ #2</b>	
	Th 7/1	Perceptual Paradoxes and Illusions	
	Fr 7/2	<b>EXAM #2</b>	
<b>Unit III:</b>	<b>Learning, Memory and Cognition</b>		<b>Modules 12-17</b>
	Mo 7/5	<b>NO CLASS-HOLIDAY</b>	
	Tu 7/6	Conditioning: Classical and Operant	
	We 7/7	Short, Long-term and Working Memories <b>QUIZ #3</b>	
	Th 7/8	Remembering, Misremembering and Forgetting	
	Fr 7/9	<b>EXAM #3</b>	
<b>Unit IV:</b>	<b>Thought, Language &amp; Intelligence</b>		<b>Modules 18-20</b>
	Mo 7/12	Mental imagery: Does the mind think in pictures?	
	Tu 7/13	Language	
	We 7/14	Logical Reasoning, Problem Solving and Decision Making <b>QUIZ #4</b>	
	Th 7/15	Intelligence: What is it and how do we measure it?	
	Fr 7/16	<b>EXAM #4</b>	