

## Psychology 201: Mind and Brain

Summer 2007: M/T/W/R/F 10:00-11:50am, location 105 ESL

**Instructors:** Alison Shawber and Tasha Oswald

**Grader:** Wayne LaPre, wlapre@uoregon.edu

Alison's contact information:

375 Straub, 346-2086, ashawber@uoregon.edu

Alison's Office hours (June 25 – July 9):

Tues and Thurs 1:00-2:00 (or by appt.)

\*Alison will NOT hold regular office hours 7/10 – 7/20

Tasha's contact information:

337 Straub, 346-5770, toswald@uoregon.edu

Tasha's Office hours (July 9 – July 20):

Tues and Thurs 1:00-2:00 (or by appt.)

\*Tasha will NOT hold regular office hours 6/25 – 7/8

**Reading:** Psychology (2007) by Peter Gray, supplemental reading posted on Blackboard.

**Course Content:** This course covers experimental approaches to the study of the human mind and brain. Topics covered include the organization of the nervous system, sensation, perception, attention, learning, memory, and language.

**Course website:** <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> **PSY 201 (Summer 2007; 41587), Mind and Brain.** This site will provide important supplemental information for the course (syllabus, lecture slides, study guides, grades, etc.).

**Required Text:** Psychology by Peter Gray (2007, 5<sup>th</sup> edition) is required. A copy of the text is on reserve at the Knight Library (available for a 2 hour checkout period).

**Course Format:** The material in this course will be presented through a combination of assigned readings from the text, class lectures, in-class discussions, and demonstrations. In addition, laboratory sessions will be used to include experimental research methods. Lecture material and readings will have some overlap, but will not be replications of each other; some lecture material will not be covered in the readings and vice versa. You are expected to do the assigned reading *before* the class period in which it is due. Reading the material before the corresponding lectures will help your performance in two ways: (1) discussions of the material during lecture will be more fruitful if you have at least a general understanding of the material beforehand and (2) helping you to ultimately comprehend and retain the material. Each of the non-lecture parts of the course (discussions, texts, labs, presentations, movies) are designed to reinforce ideas and augment concepts presented in lectures. It is to your advantage to attend every class; however if you must miss class, please talk to an instructor *before* the day that you miss so we can discuss your options for making up the class material. Questions are encouraged in class and during office hours or personal appointments. It is our hope that by the end of this course you will have a new appreciation for how you interact with the world (and how it influences your behavior).

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on:

4 Exams (66% total)

8 Labs (24%)

Experimental subject obligation (10%)

**Exams (66%):** There will be 4 multiple choice examinations. The final grade is an average of performance on the best 3 of the 4 exams (your lowest score will be dropped; each of the remaining 3 exams will count for 22% of your grade). Each exam will cover material from the lectures and reading assignments for the period immediately preceding the exam. No overall comprehensive final exam is given. **No makeup exams will be given.** It is to your benefit to take all the exams. However, if you miss an exam, the score for the missed exam (0%) will be dropped from the average. A make-up exam will be given only in the rare event that you miss 2 exams and have a legitimate excuse for both absences. In this case, you will need to present documented excuses (e.g., doctor's excuse, court order) for *both* missed exams in order to make up the second missed exam.

**Labs (24%):** Part of the requirement for the course is to participate in labs. There will be 8 labs which will occur during the regularly scheduled class time (see below for dates of labs); 4 of the labs will require **in class write-ups** (that will be completed and turned in during class) and 4 of the labs will require **take home write-ups** (that will be due on another day in class; see below for due dates). The final lab grade will be an average of performance on the best 3 out of 4 in class write-ups and the best 3 out of 4 take home write-ups (meaning your lowest in class write-up score and your lowest take home write-up score will be dropped; if you miss 1 in class write-up and/or 1 take home write-up, that 0% score will be considered your lowest and dropped from the average. Each of the remaining 6 lab assignments will count for 4% of your grade for a total of 24%.) You must participate in the labs in order to complete the assignments, thus you must be present in class the day of the labs to participate in them. There will be **no make-ups for missed labs**. It is to your benefit to participate in all lab sessions because they will help you learn the material for the exams.

**Psychology Department Research Requirement (10%):** The psychology department requires that all students enrolled in introductory courses (201 and 202) participate in psychology research (*if you do not complete this requirement, you will receive an **INCOMPLETE** for the course*). There are two options for completing the research requirement in this course.

1. You may participate in the Psychology Department's Human Subject Pool and gain experience as a subject in actual psychology experiments. Students and faculty run many experiments on varied topics (e.g., psychological coping, attention, social interaction). An important part of the introduction to psychology is an understanding of how research is conducted; participating in research as a subject is a valuable way for you to do gain this understanding. **If you choose this option, you are required to participate in 4.5 credit hours of experiments** (not necessarily the same thing as 4.5 studies!), **by no later than 9 pm on Friday July 20, 2007**. To participate in experiments, you will sign up on an electronic bulletin board at: <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>. More information about this requirement will be provided on the first day of class – there is also info posted on Blackboard and at: <http://psychweb.uoregon.edu/undergrad/humansubjects.htm>. It is a good idea to complete your experimental subject obligation as early in the term as possible, since experiments are sometimes hard to find later in the term.

In order to encourage you to understand the researchers' topics and hypotheses, you will need to complete a Research Experience Report (RER) electronically on Blackboard after participating in 2 of the studies you do. Each RER is worth 5% toward your grade. See below for RER due dates. *Please note that even though you only need to complete RERs for 2 studies, you must complete 4.5 credit hours of studies in order to complete this requirement. If you don't*

*complete the requirement, you will get an incomplete in the course. When/if you complete the requirement, you will get the grade you would have earned at the end of the term.*

2. The other option you may choose for completing the research requirement involves reading a packet of articles about psychology research and writing a paper about the research. You must tell your instructors that you are choosing to take this option **no later than Friday, July 6**, so that you can get copies of the articles and the guidelines for the essay. **This paper is due to the undergraduate Psychology Secretary on the first floor of Straub Hall no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, July 18. Make sure to ask the secretary to leave the paper in Wayne LaPre's box (Wayne is the grader for this assignment); also please write your name and Wayne's name on the first page of the paper.** The points you receive on this essay will substitute for the points you would have received for participating as a research subject and completing the RERs.

**Extra Credit (3% possible):** You can earn extra credit by participating in extra experiments. For each credit hour of experiments you earn (beyond the 4.5 credit hours you are already required to complete for this class), 1% will be added to your final grade, up to 3% (i.e., if you complete 7.5 total credit hours, you will earn 3% extra credit towards your final grade). You must complete these extra credit hours by **9 pm on Friday July 20, 2007.**

If (and only if) you have chosen option 2 of the research requirement (i.e., you choose to write a paper instead of participate in experiments), you may write an extra paper (based on research articles we will give you) to earn 3% extra credit towards your final grade. You must complete this extra credit paper by **4 pm on Friday July 20, 2007.**

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Molly Sirois, [sirois@uoregon.edu](mailto:sirois@uoregon.edu), 346-1073) send a letter verifying your disability.

**Students for whom English is a Second Language:** If you are a non-native English speaker and think you may have trouble in this course due of language difficulties, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make special arrangements.

**Academic Honesty:** All work submitted in this course must be your own. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (For more information, see the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: [http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student\\_judi\\_affairs/conduct-code.htm](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/conduct-code.htm)).

**Important Due Dates:**

Lab #2 Take home write-up	Monday 7/2 (due in class)
Lab #3 Take home write-up	Tuesday 7/3 (due in class)
RER #1	Friday 7/6 (9:00pm on Blackboard)
RER #2	Friday 7/13 (9:00pm on Blackboard)
Lab #5 Take home write-up	Tuesday 7/17 (due in class)
Research requirement - Paper Option	Wednesday 7/18 (4:00 pm in office)

Lab #7 Take home write-up  
Research requirement - 4.5 Credit Hours

Friday 7/20 (4:00pm in office)

Friday 7/20 (9:00pm)

\*\*If you ever turn in an assignment to the main Psychology Office (instead of directly to us in class), please make sure to write your name and Tasha Oswald or Alison Shawber on the paper.

### Course Outline:

<u>Week &amp; Day</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1 Mon (6/25)	Introduction and History of Psychology	Chapter 1
Tues (6/26)	Research Methods (Lab #1: Research Concepts – In class write-up)	Chapter 2
Wed (6/27)	The Nervous System (Lab #2: Neural Impulse – Take home write-up, due 7/2)	Chapter 5-- Neurons & Nervous System Organization (pp. 133-153)
Thurs (6/28)	The Nervous System (Lab #3: Sensory Threshold – Take home write-up, due 7/3)	Chapter 5— Cerebral Cortex, Experience, Hormones, & Drugs (pp.153-177)
Fri (6/29)	<b>EXAM #1</b>	
2 Mon (7/2)	Language (Lab #4: You be the Neurologist – In class write-up)	Chapter 5--Aphasia (pp.162-165) & Chapter 11—Language (pp.407-421)
Tues (7/3)	Language & Memory	Chapter 11 (pp.407-421) & Chapter 9 (pp. 303-307 & 315-339)
Wed (7/4)	NO SCHOOL	
Thurs (7/5)	Memory	Chapter 9 (pp. 303-307 & 315-339)
Fri (7/6)	<b>EXAM #2</b>	
3 Mon (7/9)	Attention	Chapter 8--Perceiving Objects (pp. 277-280) + Chapter 9-- Selective Attention (pp. 307-314)
Tues (7/10)	Learning (Lab #5: Depth of Processing – Take home write-up, due 7/17)	Chapter 4
Wed (7/11)	TBA (Lab #6: TBA)	TBA
Thurs (7/12)	TBA	TBA
Fri (7/13)	<b>EXAM #3</b>	
4 Mon (7/16)	Sensation	Chapter 7--Psychophysics (pp. 255-256) + Sensory Processing (pp. 225-230)
Tues (7/17)	Sensation	Chapter 8--Neural Coding (pp. 263-278 & 286-289)
Wed (7/18)	Perception (Lab #7: Depth Perception – Take home write-up, due by 4:00 on 7/20)	Chapter 8--Depth Perception (pp. 292-301)
Thurs (7/19)	Perception (Lab #8: Mental Rotation – In class write-up)	Chapter 8--Perceptual Processes (pp. 280-286 & 289-291)
Fri (7/20)	<b>EXAM #4</b>	

