

SYLLABUS

PSY 202H: Honors Mind and Society, Winter 2007

Course instructor

Prof. Sanjay Srivastava

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Office hours: Wed 11-12 in Straub 327

or after class until 2pm

Lab instructor

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Office hours: TBA

Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Psychologists rely on empirical means – systematic observation and experimentation – to learn about the human condition. This course introduces students to topics in clinical, personality, social, and developmental psychology. Together, this course and its companion, Psychology 201H, provide a broad introduction to the core areas of psychology.

This course has two primary goals. The first goal is for students to learn some of the important knowledge (concepts, facts, theories, ideas) in the field of psychology. Among the issues to be addressed are: How does the mind organize and use information about the self and other people? How are individuals influenced by their social situations? How do children learn about the world? What are the biological and environmental factors that shape personality? What are the causes of mental illness? The second goal is for students to learn how psychologists discover and create the basic knowledge of the field. Thus, we will consider not only what psychologists know, but how they know it. You will begin to learn how to critically evaluate claims about the human mind and behavior made by scientists, media figures, and others.

As an honors course, 202H is appropriate for students who are considering a career in psychology or other natural or social sciences, as well as any student who would enjoy and thrive in an intellectually challenging classroom environment. The smaller class size offers more opportunities for interaction and discussion. Lab sections are geared toward hands-on experience conducting psychological research.

Readings

The textbook for this class is *Psychological Science* (2nd edition) by Gazzaniga & Heatherton. It is available either in printed form or as an e-book. Additional readings will be posted or linked from the course Blackboard site.

Tests will cover material from the readings that is not part of planned classroom discussions. This means that you should (a) come to class prepared to ask questions about anything in the readings you do not fully understand, and (b) be prepared to be tested on all aspects of the readings.

Class meetings

Class meetings will include a mixture of lecture and discussion. Our meetings will serve several goals: to explain or demonstrate especially important ideas covered in the readings, to present or discuss extensions or applications of ideas, and to cover important or interesting topics that are not addressed in the text. I will sometimes assign homework related to topics that we are discussing in class.

In order to make our class meetings work, I expect you to complete readings and homework before the class meeting for which they are assigned, and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Lab section meetings

You will carry out a collaborative research project in the lab section. The entire class will work together on planning the project and collecting and analyzing the data. Each student will then individually write a paper based on the lab project. You will receive more information about the lab project from your lab instructor.

Course Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

40%	Quizzes (10% each, lowest dropped)
30%	Analysis papers (10% each)
10%	Class participation and homework
20%	Lab grade

Quizzes

There will be five quizzes, starting on Thursday of Week 2 and then every second Thursday after that. Quiz questions may cover material only presented in the readings, only presented in class, or presented in both places. Each quiz is worth 10% of your total grade; the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Analysis papers

Each analysis paper is a 500-700 word examination of a specific idea or theme. Papers will be graded both on the quality of the writing and on the quality of the ideas and arguments that you present. Each paper is worth 10% of your total grade.

Class participation and homework

This will be a small class, and active class discussions are an important part of the experience. Your attendance and participation in class meetings will therefore be part of your grade. I will occasionally assign exercises or other homework to be completed outside of class; some of these

assignments may be used as the basis for class discussions, so it is important that they be completed on time. Class participation and homework together make up 10% of your grade.

Lab grade

Your lab grade will be based on participation in lab sections, as well as your work toward the lab project (including active contribution in planning and running the collaborative project, as well as your individual lab project writeup). The lab section will comprise 20% of your total grade. Your lab instructor will provide additional details about grading of the project and other lab assignments.

Other information

Missed quizzes

My policy of allowing you to drop your lowest quiz score without penalty is intended to cover any circumstances for which you might miss a quiz. **This includes emergencies.** Therefore, you are strongly advised not to skip any quizzes unless you have a compelling reason. If you miss two quizzes, I will drop one of them and score the other as a zero.

Late assignments

Late assignments will be penalized by one full letter grade (for example, from a B+ to a C+) the moment the deadline passes, and an additional full letter grade every 24 hours thereafter.

If a genuine emergency prevents you from turning in an assignment on time, you must notify me within 24 hours or as soon as is possible, and you must provide documentation.

Academic integrity

All quizzes are “closed book” and must be completed by you alone.

All papers and other assignments must be written by you alone. For the lab project, you will collect data and discuss the project with your classmates, but your paper must be written on your own. If you are unclear about the expectations for any aspect of this course, please ask!

You bear **full and final responsibility** for knowing the definitions of various forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication. Information about UO’s policies is available on the Student Judicial Affairs website (click on About Cheating) at:
http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm

General guidelines to avoiding plagiarism are available at the library website:
<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities send me a letter indicating what accommodations you will need. Further information is available online at <http://ds.uoregon.edu>.

Changes to this syllabus

I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus at any time. Changes may be announced in class or on the Blackboard site.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	DUE DATES	READING
<u>Week 1</u>	<i>Intro and methods</i>		
Jan 9	Introduction		Ch. 1, 2
Jan 11	Research methods		
<u>Week 2</u>	<i>Mental representations and problem-solving</i>		
Jan 16	Mental representations		pp. 293-318
Jan 18	Decisions and problem-solving	Quiz 1	
<u>Week 3</u>	<i>Social psychology</i>		
Jan 23	Self-knowledge, attitudes, social perception		pp. 607-634
Jan 25	Milgram video	Paper 1	
<u>Week 4</u>	<i>Social psychology (continued)</i>		
Jan 30	Social influence		pp. 634-657
Feb 1	Pro- and antisocial behavior	Quiz 2	
<u>Week 5</u>	<i>Evolution and social behavior</i>		
Feb 6	Evolutionary principles		Evolution 101 (see note)
Feb 8	Evolution and social behavior	Paper 2	
<u>Week 6</u>	<i>Emotions and stress</i>		
Feb 13	Emotions		Ch. 10
Feb 15	Stress, coping, and health	Quiz 3	
<u>Week 7</u>	<i>Development</i>		
Feb 20	Cognitive development		Ch. 11
Feb 22	Social development	Paper 3	
<u>Week 8</u>	<i>Personality</i>		
Feb 27	Personality theories		Ch. 12
Mar 1	Personality research	Quiz 4	
<u>Week 9</u>	<i>Psychopathology</i>		
Mar 6	Psychopathology: Foundations, mood disorders		Ch. 13
Mar 8	Psychopathology: Other disorders		
<u>Week 10</u>	<i>Psychopathology (continued)</i>		
Mar 13	Treatment of psychopathology		Ch. 14
Mar 15	Conclusions and final thoughts	Quiz 5	
Mar 19	Lab project paper due no later than 10:00 AM at the Psychology Department main office		

Note: The evolution reading is Parts 1-3 of “Evolution 101” on the Understanding Evolution website:
http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/0_0_0/evo_toc_01