

Mind and Brain

Psychology 201SCS, Fall 2008

(crn 14544)

/Please check frequently for updates on the web page./

/ /

Time/Location: Tuesday – Thursday, 12:00PM ? 1:20PM; 142 STB

Instructor:

*Ulrich Mayr, *office 341Straub Hall, email: mayr@uoregon.edu
<mailto:mayr@uoregon.edu>, phone: 346.4959, office hours: Monday
10:15–11:00 am or by appointment*_**

Graduate Teaching Fellows:

Dave Kuhns: 407 Straub Hall, email dkuhns@uoregon.edu
<mailto:agraham2@uoregon.edu>, office hours: Tuesday 2–4pm

Course Web Site:

Please enter course web page through <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>.
If
you have problems accessing your blackboard account (which is
automatically created through your enrollment in this course, please
contact the Information Technology Center in Knight Library
(<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/>, phone: 346.2681).

Material:

Special Print of/ Psychology/, 4th Edition by Peter Gray. This
textbook is available as a special, black and white issue at the UO
Bookstore. This is a cheaper than the newer 5th Edition, but its
also
better. If you think you need colors you can try to get the 4th
Edition online. However, do not get the 5th Edition?it does not

match

up in terms of page numbers and content!. A copy of this book will be on reserve at the Knight Library. Although a strong attempt is made to coordinate lectures with readings, they will be frequently independent of each other. Some material will be covered by both, but some material

will be covered only in the lecture and some will appear only in the book. The exams will cover material from both lectures and readings. Please be prepared to spend a substantial amount of time outside of class on studying and reading in order to do well in this course.

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/Clickers/: Clickers are little hand-held transmission devices that allow you to provide an immediate response to questions I pose in class. They are sold at the UO Bookstore for \$32. Clickers are used more and more at the UO and it is likely that you will need one beyond this class. If not, the bookstore buys it back for \$16. It is very important that you have your Clicker with you on the first day of class!*__*

Course Overview

In this course, we look at the neural and psychological basis of motivation, perception, attention, learning, and memory. Together with Mind and Society (202), which emphasizes development, personality, abnormal and social psychology, Mind and Brain is part of a two-term sequence in introductory psychology. There is a lot of basic knowledge

that needs to be covered in this course, but we will also apply this knowledge to interesting problems, such as "What is art?" or "Do we have free will?".

This course will be accompanied by a lab course in which you have the opportunity to elaborate in various ways on concepts taught in class.

A large part of the lab time will be spent on helping you with your small-groups research project.

Course requirements

Grades for this course will be based on three different requirements in

each of which you can achieve 100 points. Note, however, that the 100 points are weighed differently across the four requirements (see Grading).

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/Midterms (50% of total grade): /There will be three midterms, which will consist of a mixture of essay and multiple-choice questions.

Essay

questions will be sampled from a larger set of questions that you will receive one week prior to the exam. Also, a small number of multiple-choice questions will be posted on the course web page after each session. A considerable portion of the multiple-choice questions in

the midterms will be taken out of the pool of posted questions. //

Make-up exams will be presented on the day reserved for the final. Participation in make-up exams requires a doctor's statement (or equivalent). Make-up exams will consist of open-ended questions covering the material of the missed quiz.

/Class Participation (10% of total grade): /In class you will be teaming

up in small groups and will prepare specific questions prior to some of

the classes. The answer will be combined with your overall participation and attendance into a general class participation grade.

/Lab sections and project (30% of total grade): /You will participate in

lab sessions that accompany the main lecture. As part of the lab session

you will perform a research project in a small group. You will need to

submit material documenting your activity and a final report. Your grade in this component is determined both by attendance and completion

of small lab assignments and by the quality of your completed project.//

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/Research Participation (10% of total grade)/:In order to receive credit

for this course, you will have to participate in /4.5 credits/ offered

through the Department of Psychology. Most experiments take one hour or less. Your participation contributes to scientific knowledge and gives you hands-on experience in the process of psychological research. After each study you participate in you can take an online quiz about methodological and theoretical aspects of that experiment. You only have to do two such quizzes in total to ensure a maximum score. This means that you need to do at least two different studies, no matter how long each one takes. The quizzes will be posted on the Blackboard course site around the second week of class (see "Assignment: RER Quizzes"). There will be one quiz for each study you participate in (i.e., for the first study click on "Experiment Quiz 1"). For each of the two quizzes you can get a maximum of 50 points.

Failure to participate in the experiments will result in issuance of an "Incomplete" grade for this class. In order to have this Incomplete changed to the grade you earned in this class, the missing experiments have to be completed /within one quarter/ of the end of this class. After that time, incomplete grades will be changed to no pass. For experiments you did not complete during the class term, there will be no opportunity for participating in graded RER quizzes.

/To avoid an incomplete, please begin early in the term with the experiments. In the past, students who began late have often encountered scheduling problem and sometimes have been unable to do all the experiments. /

/You can sign up for experiments online. To do this, go to <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~hscoord//>

Students who do not wish to participate in experiments have the option of writing a research paper instead. This paper needs to integrate information from four different published journal papers provided through your TA. If you wish to pursue this option, you must contact your teaching assistant by the /fourth week/ of class.

Grading:

The final grade is computed by integrating the grade points from the

three requirements according to the following formula: $\text{Total} = (6 \times \text{Midterm} + 3 \times \text{Project} + 1 \times \text{Experiments})/10$, which ensures the percentage weighting of requirements given above.

Intellectual Honesty:

You may be required to submit writing assignments to SafeAssign. SafeAssign is a software tool designed to help students avoid plagiarism and improper citation. The software encourages original writing and proper citation by cross-referencing submitted materials with an archived database of websites, essays, journal articles, and other published work. The instructor may in some cases also submit your work to SafeAssign or some other plagiarism analysis and detection program. By enrolling in this course you grant the instructor permission to do so. If you are ever unsure about whether a behavior constitutes cheating, please ask me or the teaching assistant. It would also be wise to read the university's policy on academic dishonesty at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm>.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. [Counselor for Students with Disabilities: Hillary Gerdes, 346-3211, TTY 346-1083, hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu <<mailto:hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu>>]

Tentative Class Schedule*

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date

topic

reading

Lab

Sep-30 T

Introduction, history**

chap 1

week 1: methods (1st assignment)

Oct-2 R

Scientific method

chap 2

Oct-7 T

Brain basics

chap 5 (143–165)

week 2: brain

Oct–9 R

Brain basics

chap 5 (143–165)

Oct–14 T

Evolution

chap 3 (53–71, 81–95)

week 3: Memory project (generating research question)

Oct–16 R

Learning

chap 4 (p. 97–123)

Oct-21 T

Learning

chap 4 (p. 97-123, 131-133)

week 4: Memory project (generating study design)

Oct-23 R

Midterm 1, Motivation

chap 5 (187-199)

Oct-28 T

Sleep**

chap. 5 (208-221)

week 5: carry out research

Oct-30 R

Perception of basic features,

chap 7, 8 (233–238, 275–281, 288–297)

Nov–4 T

Perception of scenes

chap 8 (297–300, 307–316)

week 6: Memory project (return study design work sheet, data collection completed and discussion of write-up)

Nov–6 R

Top–down, bottom–up, objects/faces

/1st RER quiz is due/

chap 8, 9 (303–308, 329–336)

Nov-11 T

Attention

chap 8 (329-336)

week 7: executive control

Nov-13 R

What is Art?

Nov-18 T

Midterm 2, Memory

chap 9 (325-329, 336-346)

week 8: levels of processing (2nd lab assignment)

Memory Project paper due

Nov 20 R

Memory

chap 9 (325–329, 336–346)

Nov–25 T

Memory

/2nd RER quiz is due/

chap 9 (346–365)

Nov–27 R

Thanksgiving

Dec-2 T

Free Will

chap 10 (367-385)

week 10: Presentation of memory projects

Dec-4 R

Intelligence and* *Expertise

chap 10 (362-381)

Dec-12 F

Midterm 3 and Makeups,

