

SYLLABUS

PSY 202, MIND AND SOCIETY (SPRING 2008)

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Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Psychologists rely on empirical methods – systematic observation and experimentation – to learn about the human condition. This course, Mind and Society, provides an overview of social cognition and behavior, emotions, development, personality, and psychopathology. Mind and Society has a companion course, Mind and Brain (Psychology 201), which covers perception, learning, memory, and cognition. Together, Psychology 201 and 202 provide a comprehensive introduction to the field. 201 is not a prerequisite for 202.

This course has two primary goals. The first goal is for you 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 you to learn *how psychologists discover and create* that important knowledge. Thus, we will consider not only what psychologists know, but how they come to 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.

The readings, lectures, discussions, and other work are designed to help you achieve these learning goals. The exams will be used to evaluate how well you are meeting these goals.

Readings, Lectures, and Discussion Sections

The **readings** will provide you with a comprehensive survey of important ideas in the field of psychology. To get the most out of the course, you should complete readings before the lecture for which they are assigned. The textbook for this class is *Psychological Science* (2nd edition) by Gazzaniga & Heatherton. It is available in printed form or as an e-book. In addition, you will be assigned to read the Evolution 101 website, which will be linked from Blackboard.

I will use the **lectures** in several different ways: to explain or demonstrate especially important ideas covered in the readings, to present extensions or applications of ideas, and to cover important or interesting topics that are not addressed in the text. Not all important ideas in the readings will be covered in lectures, and not all important ideas from the lectures will be covered in the readings.

Your **discussion section** will be an opportunity for you to ask questions, try out demonstrations, and discuss the ideas that you are learning in your readings and lectures. You must attend the discussion section for which you are registered. Discussion sections will meet during the first week of class.

The **Blackboard website** will be used to make announcements, post grades, and take care of other administrative matters. In addition, some assignments and demonstrations will be posted on the website. Log in at <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>.

Grading and Requirements

Grading will be based on the following criteria and may be curved at my discretion:

20%	Midterm 1
20%	Midterm 2
30%	Cumulative final exam
9%	Discussion section attendance
10%	Discussion section participation and assignments
11%	Research participation and research experience reports (RERs)
(2%)	Extra credit research participation

Midterm Exams and Final Exam

The midterm exams and final exam will be multiple-choice format. Exams will cover material from the lectures and from the readings. This will include material that was only presented in lecture (not in the readings), and material that was only in the readings (not in lecture). The final exam will be **cumulative**. Greater emphasis will be placed on material from weeks 7-10, but there will be exam questions from weeks 1-6 as well.

Our final exam is scheduled by the university for Friday, June 13 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. **You must take the final exam at the scheduled time – you may not take it early or late. Plan your summer travel accordingly.** If you miss the exam, you will receive a zero.

Tips for doing well on the midterms and final exam:

1. Complete all of the readings before the lectures. As you read, make notes of important concepts. Write down questions to ask in your discussion section or in lecture.
2. Attend all lectures. Be an active listener and take your own notes in your own words.
3. Actively participate in all discussion sections, and ask questions about things you don't understand.
4. Before a test, review your notes and the important concepts from the readings.

Discussion Sections

Attendance. You will receive one point for each section that you attend, and you are allowed to miss one section without penalty (total of 9% of your grade). You must attend the section you are registered for. You will not receive attendance or participation credit for attending a different section.

Participation and assignments. In addition to attendance, you will be expected to participate in discussions or activities and to complete assignments in your discussion section or as homework (total 10%). These assignments will be announced by your discussion section leader. If are absent on the day of an in-class assignment, it is your responsibility to find out about it and to contact your discussion section leader for a make-up assignment. If you are absent the day that a homework assignment is due, it is still your responsibility to turn in the homework on time.

Research Participation

Psychology is an empirical discipline: we learn about human nature by studying what real human beings do and say. The UO Psychology Department is an internationally recognized leader in research, and as part of Psychology 202, you will have an opportunity to be a participant in research. By doing so, you will get a firsthand view of how research is conducted. Your participation will also contribute to the accumulation of knowledge in psychology, including material presented in courses like this one.

To participate in experiments, you will need to register through the electronic Human Subjects Pool (HSP) management system at <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>. You need to complete 4.5 credit-hours of experiments by June 6; if you do not complete your hours, you will receive an incomplete for the course. You also must turn in 2 Research Experience Reports (RERs) based on experiments that you participated in. The first RER must be turned in no later than April 25, and the second no later than May 23. RERs together count for 11% of your grade in this class. You will be graded 0-5 on each RER, and you will receive 1 additional point if both are turned in on time. Any RERs not completed by June 6 will receive a zero.

If you wish, you may also earn **extra credit** by participating in up to one hour of additional experiments. Each 1/2 credit-hour of participation, over and above the required 4.5 credit-hours, will earn you an additional 1% toward your class grade, up to a maximum of 2%.

Additional details about how the HSP works will be presented in class. Questions can be directed toward the research participation coordinator, Karyn Lewis.

Alternative assignment. Many students find it rewarding and enjoyable to take part in the HSP. However, you always have the right to refuse to participate in research. If you elect not to participate in the HSP, you will be required to write a series of short papers as an alternative assignment. You must notify Karyn Lewis, the research participation coordinator, no later than Thursday, April 24 in order to receive the alternative assignment.

Other information

Classroom expectations

Psychology 202 is a large class, which means that even small-seeming disruptions can get magnified. For example, it might not seem like a big deal if your cell phone goes off – but if everyone's cell phone went off just once during the term, that would be more than 10 interruptions per lecture!

To keep class running smoothly, please keep in mind these small courtesies during lectures:

- Turn off your cell phone and anything else that could make noise.
- Sit near the front of the room – it will make the large class feel a little less impersonal, and it will be easier to stay involved in what is going on.
- When you are physically present, be mentally present as well. Please do not multitask in the lecture hall. If you really need to sleep, read the paper, groom yourself, send text messages, make out, etc., then do us both a favor and stay home.
- If you find the material boring or confusing, tell me! I take feedback seriously, and I am always interested in finding ways to improve the course.

Missed exams

You must take the final exam at the scheduled time or else you will receive a zero. You may not take an exam early or late to accommodate travel plans or other personal needs.

In the event that a genuine, serious emergency prevents you from taking a midterm exam or the final exam, it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as you can (before the exam if at all possible; otherwise within 24 hours). It is your responsibility to obtain documentation of your emergency. You are not required to give me the details of your emergency: you can go through Student Affairs, and if they tell me you had a legitimate and documented emergency I will take their word for it. Their phone number is 541-346-1137, or see <http://studentaffairs.uoregon.edu>. Remedial action will be determined solely at my discretion.

Academic integrity

All exams are “closed book” and must represent your own independent work. Similarly, all other assignments must be done independently, unless you are explicitly told that it is a group assignment. If you are unsure about what is appropriate or allowed, please ask me or your discussion section leader.

In written academic work, you must cite sources. If you use wording from another source, you must clearly mark it as a quotation and attribute it to the source. If you fail to do so, you will be guilty of plagiarism. Some guidelines for citing sources and avoiding plagiarism can be found on the following webpages:

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/citing/index.html>

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html>

Students guilty of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, etc.), on any assignment, will receive an “F” for the course. Student Judicial Affairs may impose additional sanctions, including expulsion. Further information is available on the Judicial Affairs website:

http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and will accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me during the first week of class. 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 or waive any part of this syllabus at any time.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
<u>Week 1</u>		
Apr 1	Introduction	none
Apr 3	Methods	Ch. 2
<u>Week 2</u>		
Apr 8	Social psychology 1	Ch. 15
Apr 10	Social psychology 2	Ch. 15
<u>Week 3</u>		
Apr 15	Evolution and social behavior	Evolution 101
Apr 17	Genetic bases of social behavior	pp. 73-87
<u>Week 4</u>		
Apr 22	<i>Midterm 1 (covers readings and lectures from Weeks 1-3)</i>	
Apr 24	Thinking	Ch. 8
Apr 25	<i>Deadline to submit first Research Experience Report on time</i> <i>(Note: you need to participate in an experiment BEFORE you can complete an RER, so plan ahead)</i>	
<u>Week 5</u>		
Apr 29	Intelligence	Ch. 8
May 1	Motivation	Ch. 9
<u>Week 6</u>		
May 6	Emotions	Ch. 10
May 8	Stress and health	Ch. 10
<u>Week 7</u>		
May 13	<i>Midterm 2 (covers readings and lectures from Weeks 4-6)</i>	
May 15	Human development	Ch. 11
<u>Week 8</u>		
May 20	Personality 1	Ch. 12
May 22	Personality 2	Ch. 12
May 23	<i>Deadline to submit second Research Experience Report on time</i>	
<u>Week 9</u>		
May 27	Psychological disorders 1	Ch. 13
May 29	Psychological disorders 2	Ch. 13
<u>Week 10</u>		
June 3	Treatment of disorders 1	Ch. 14
June 5	Treatment of disorders 2	Ch. 14
June 6	<i>Deadline to complete research participation hours</i> <i>Also, any RER not turned in by today becomes a zero</i>	
June 13	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM - FINAL EXAM (cumulative)	