

Psychology 201: Mind and Brain

Summer 2008: M/T/W/R/F 10:00-11:50am, 146 Straub

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Office hours: Thursday 2:00-4:00 (or by appointment)

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 history of psychology, research methods, the nervous system, sensation, perception, attention, learning, memory, language, and psychopathology.

Course website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> **PSY 201 (Summer 2008; 41695), Mind and Brain.** This site will provide important supplemental information for the course (syllabus, lecture slides, study guides, grades, etc.). You must have a University of Oregon email address and be registered for this course in order to log on to Blackboard. If you do not have an email address, go to Microcomputer Services, located in 151 McKenzie Hall; you will also find useful information on their website (<http://micro.uoregon.edu/>). If you are having difficulty with Blackboard, please visit the Information Technology Center (ITC) on the second floor in the Knight Library (<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/systems/kitc/>).

Required Text: Psychology by Peter Gray (2007, 5th edition) is required. A copy of the text is on reserve at the Knight Library.

Course Format: The material in this course will be presented through a combination of assigned readings from the textbook, class lectures, in-class discussions, class activities, videos, 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 you actively participate during class as well as comprehend and retain the material. Each of the non-lecture parts of the course (discussions, textbook, labs, presentations, videos) 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 the instructor *before* the day that you miss so we can discuss your options for making up the class material. Questions and comments about course material are strongly encouraged in class and during office hours or personal appointments.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on:

Exams (66% total)

Labs (15%)

Participation (9%)

Research Requirement (10%)

Exams (66%): There will be 4 multiple choice examinations. The final exam 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 comprehensive final exam will be given. **NO make-up 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 considered your lowest score and 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 (15%): Part of the requirement for the course is to participate in labs. There will be 4 labs which will occur during the regularly scheduled class time (see below for dates of labs); these labs require **write-ups**, which you will do as homework (see below for due dates). The final lab grade is an average of performance on the best 3 out of 4 write-ups (your lowest score will be dropped; each of the remaining 3 lab assignments will count for 5% of your grade). 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** (even if you miss more than one lab). It is to your benefit to participate in all lab sessions because they will help you learn the material for the exams. However, if you miss a lab/write-up, that 0% score will be considered your lowest score and will be dropped from the average.

Participation (9%): Part of the requirement for the course is to participate in class activities. Some examples of class activities include group discussions and exercises, pop "quizzes", games, reading checks, among other activities. To get credit, you must actively participate, turn in relevant work, and be present in class the day of the activity. There will be **NO make-ups for missed class activities**. If you are not in class, you will not get participation points for that day. It is to your benefit to participate in all class activities because it 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. It is to your benefit to make a decision during the FIRST week of class about which option you will complete.

Option 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 9:00 pm on Friday July 18, 2008.** 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 second 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 (I recommend signing up on SONA and registering for your first experiment during Week 1).

In order to encourage you to understand the researchers' topics and hypotheses, you are required to complete a Research Experience Report (RER) on TWO of the studies you complete. RERs will be completed electronically on Blackboard. You must participate in a study BEFORE you complete the RER, so please prepare ahead of time and sign up for studies before the RER due dates (see below for RER due dates). The RERs will be graded on the level of thought put into your answers and clarity of writing. Each RER is worth 5% toward your grade. *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 do NOT 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.*

Option 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. The paper should be 5 pages (not including a title page and references), double spaced, 12 point Times or Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins. The paper should follow APA format for citations and references (for examples see: <http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html>). In the paper, you will elaborate on 1 of 2 topic options. You will choose one of the topics and put it in the context of what you have learned in class lectures, labs, and text reading and/or compare and contrast the different articles. This paper will be graded on the level of thought put into your work and clarity of writing about your chosen topic. I am looking for a thoughtful, critical analysis of current psychological research.

This paper is due no later than 9:00 pm on Wednesday, July 16, 2008. You may turn in the paper as an email attachment (the file should be .doc, .docx, or .pdf), or you may turn in a hard copy in class or to the Main Psychology Office (Straub 131). If you turn in a hard copy of your paper to the Main Psychology Office, please make sure to write your name and my name on the first page of the paper and ask the secretary to leave the paper in my mailbox. This paper will be worth 10% of your grade (the points you receive on this paper will substitute for the points you would have received for participating as a research subject and completing the 2 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 **9:00 pm on Friday, July 18, 2008.**

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 3 page paper (based on research articles we will give you) to earn 3% extra credit towards your final grade. You must turn in (via email) this extra credit paper by **9:00 pm on Friday, July 18, 2008.** If you would prefer to turn in a hard copy of your paper, it is due to the Main Psychology Office (Straub 131) by 4:00 pm on Friday, July 18, 2008.

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. With advanced planning, adjustments are relatively straightforward. Adjustments at the last minute can be problematic and sometimes are not possible. Please let me know in advance, even if you are not sure that your condition will require accommodation (for example, if you have a physical disability that may require you to miss class, but you aren't sure it will). You are strongly encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>) if you have a non-documented condition that creates difficulty for you as a student.

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 to language difficulties, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own. Collaborative learning is encouraged, especially during labs and studying for exams. However, **each student must submit separate work (no photocopies or word-for-word copying)**. No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. **Cheating** is defined as providing or accepting information on a quiz or exam, plagiarism or copying anyone's written work, or allowing someone else to copy your work. In addition, lying to try to get points (e.g., lying about having turned in an assignment on time) is considered academic dishonesty and will be treated as cheating. Students who cheat or plagiarize will fail the course, and UO's student conduct coordinator will be informed. 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.

Eugene '08 Olympic Trials: This summer (between June 26, 2008 and July 10, 2008) will be an exciting time in Eugene because of the 2008 Olympic Trials! The UO campus, especially the area around Straub Hall will be VERY busy (they are expecting over 30,000 people!). Although competitions will only be held during three class days (June 27, June 30, and July 3), the festival and other events may present some challenges for our class, such as noise, street closures, and lack of bicycle and automobile parking. Straub Hall will remain locked during the Olympic trials, and only students, faculty, and staff will be allowed in the building. The ONLY unlocked entrance to Straub Hall will be the door on Onyx Street marked with a small brown sign that says "Psychology Department" – this is the door nearest to the Main Psychology Office. There may also be some unforeseen challenges due to the events; therefore, we will all need to be patient with this unique situation. You may need to make special arrangements to get to campus and Straub Hall. The Olympic Trial events are NOT a valid excuse for lateness, missing class, or missing an exam, so please prepare ahead of time. For more information about the events and how they may affect you, see: <http://pmr.uoregon.edu/current-uo-news/eugene-08>

Important Due Dates:

Lab write-up #1 due	Monday 6/30 (in class)
Lab write-up #2 due	Monday 7/7 (in class)
RER #1 due	Wednesday 7/9 (9:00pm - Blackboard)
Lab write-up #3 due	Monday 7/14 (in class)
RER #2 due	Wednesday 7/16 (9:00pm - Blackboard)
Research Requirement - Paper Option	Wednesday 7/16 (9:00pm by email)
Lab write-up #4 due	Friday 7/18 (in class)
Research requirement - 4.5 Credit Hours	Friday 7/18 (9:00pm)
Extra Credit	Friday 7/18 (9:00pm)

****If you turn in an assignment at the Main Psychology Office – Straub 131 (instead of directly to me in class or via email), please make sure to write your name and Alison Shawber on the paper.**

Course Outline:

<u>Week & Day</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1 Mon (6/23)	Introduction and History of Psychology	Chapter 1
Tues (6/24)	Research Methods	Chapter 2
Wed (6/25)	Nervous System – Neurons (Lab #1: Neural Impulse – write-up due 6/30)	Chapter 5 (pp. 133-149)
Thurs (6/26)	Nervous System – Brain	Chapter 5 (pp.150-177)
Fri (6/27)	EXAM #1	
2 Mon (6/30)	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 7
Tues (7/1)	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 7 & 8
Wed (7/2)	Sensation & Perception (Lab #2: Sensory Threshold – write-up due 7/7)	Chapter 8
Thurs (7/3)	EXAM #2	
Fri (7/4)	Happy 4th of July! NO SCHOOL	
3 Mon (7/7)	Learning	Chapter 4
Tues (7/8)	Memory	Chapter 9 (pp. 303-307 & 315-323)
Wed (7/9)	Memory – (Lab #3: Depth of Processing – write-up due 7/14)	Chapter 9 (pp. 324-339)
Thurs (7/10)	Attention	Chapter 9 (pp. 306-314) and review Chapter 8 (pp. 277-280)
Fri (7/11)	EXAM #3	
4 Mon (7/14)	Language	Chapter 11 (pp.406-421) and review Chapter 5 (pp.159-165)
Tues (7/15)	Language	(Same reading as above)
Wed (7/16)	Psychopathology and Brain Damage (Lab #4: You be the Neurologist – write-up due 7/18)	Chapters 16 and 17 (pp. 625-631)
Thurs (7/17)	Psychopathology and Brain Damage	(Same reading as above)
Fri (7/18)	EXAM #4	