

**Mind and Brain  
Psychology 201, Fall 2009  
(crn 15041)**

*This is still tentative, thus please check frequently for updates on the web page.*

**Time/Location:** Tuesday - Thursday, 8:00AM – 9:50AM; 150 COL, Prerequisites: None

**Instructor:**

**Ulrich Mayr**, office 341 Straub Hall, email: [mayr@uoregon.edu](mailto:mayr@uoregon.edu), phone: 346 4959, office hours: Mondays 10:30 am -12:00 pm or by appointment

**Graduate Teaching Fellows:**

**Kara Braun**: 349 Straub Hall, email: [kara@uoregon.edu](mailto:kara@uoregon.edu), office hours: Fridays 11-12.

**Arielle Morganstern**: xxx Straub Hall, email: [ariellem@uoregon.edu](mailto:ariellem@uoregon.edu), office hours: xxx

**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:**

Gazzangia, Halpern, & Heatherton. Psychological Science 3e Paperback + ZAPS Online Labs Access. 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. I will provide on the course web site specific page numbers that need to be covered to do well in the exams.

*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 \$33.75 new, or for \$25.50 used. The bookstore buys your clicker back for half the sales price. 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 (PSY202), which emphasizes development, personality, abnormal and social psychology, Mind and Brain is part of a two-term sequence in introductory psychology.

**Course requirements**

Grades for this course will be based on four different requirements in each of which you can achieve 100 points. Note, however, that for the course grade, the 100 points are weighed differently across the four requirements (see Grading).

*Biweekly Quizzes (60% of total grade):* Usually Tuesdays (starting Oct. 13), a 20-30-minute, 20 to 30-question multiple-choice quiz will be presented. Each quiz will actually consist of two components, one for each of the preceding two weeks of lessons. In total, there will be five such double (or ten individual) quizzes. The last double quiz will be on the day of the final

(Friday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>). On that date, there will also be one additional 15-question quiz that covers the entire course. The lowest scoring two individual quizzes will be automatically dropped—only the final quiz covering the entire course cannot be dropped. Each quiz counts 10% of the total quiz grade. Quiz scores will be curved with regard to the distribution of scores for that quiz in the entire class. Curving will proceed in roughly the following manner: The top 15% of scores will receive an A (90-100 points), the next 25% will receive a B (80-89 points), the next 30% will receive a C (70-79 points), the next 10% will receive a D (60-69 points), the remaining scores will receive an F (0-59 points).

In each class session, I will ask you to respond to a number of multiple-choice questions by using your IClickers. Your responses will not count towards your grade. However, some of these questions will appear in the actual biweekly quiz (sometimes in a slightly changed manner). Thus, it is a good idea to pay close attention to these in-class quiz questions!

All make-up quizzes will be presented on the day reserved for the final. You can only make up quizzes for which you were sick and you can present me a doctor's statement (No Exceptions!). The Make-up exams will consist of open-ended questions covering the material of the missed quiz.

*Lecture Attendance (10% of total grade):* Lecture attendance will be taken through your IClicker responses (So don't forget your Clickers!). To have a lecture session counted as "attended" you need to provide an answer to all questions during that session (no matter whether correct or incorrect). To get the full attendance credit of 100 points you will need to attend at least 12 of the 19 lectures in this term (i.e., 66%). Given the relatively large number of "free misses" I will not accept excuses for additional misses.

*Participation in Online Labs (20% of total grade):* Part of your experience with this class will be an online component in which you perform activities associated with the material covered during lectures. The activities will be delivered through a web-based program called ZAPS, which is part of the book package when bought through the UO Bookstore. Many of these activities consist of participation in a little experiment and a few online questions that need to be answered on Blackboard. Your Online Lab Grade will be based in equal parts on participation in the experiments and correctly answering the associated questions. We will devote about 30 minutes at the end of lectures to introducing these activities and discussing the results of the experiments in which you participate. These sections of the lecture will be presented by the Graduate Student Teaching Fellows.

**NOTE: THIS COMPONENT WILL BE UPDATED SOON—CRITICAL DETAIL WILL CHANGE ACCORDING TO NEW RULES -----**

*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 four requirements according to the following formula:  $\text{Total} = (6 \times \text{Quiz} + 1 \times \text{Attendance} \times 2 \times \text{Lab} + 1 \times \text{Experiments})/10$ . This ensures the percentage weighting of requirements given above.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

This is a very large class. Students in large classes often believe they are invisible, that they will not be noticed anyway, and that any one's individual behavior does not count. Not true! You can make a difference by listening attentively, by asking questions, and by contributing to discussions. I will make every effort to facilitate classroom interactions and I promise that each and every question will be addressed. Individual students who participate actively will be noticed even in a class of 400+! For example, I routinely target students for research assistant positions simply on the basis of their in-class contributions and their performance on quizzes. Just as actively engaged students have a positive influence on the classroom environment, activities like continued talking to your neighbor, texting, coming late, leaving early, personal grooming, reading your newspaper, sleeping, or cell phone use (very bad!) can be extremely disruptive. PLEASE make sure that you and your fellow students get your money's worth out of this course and simply abstain from such activities.

### **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>.

### **Outside-Classroom Contact:**

One way to work against the big-class anonymity is by establishing direct contact outside class. If you have any issue, question, or comment, please do not hesitate to come to my office hours (or make an appointment)--even if you just want to say hello and introduce yourself. In particular when it comes to issues related to your academic achievement, the earlier you come the better. Of course, you can also take advantage of the TA's office hours and there will be a FAQ section on the Blackboard course web page where you can post questions and will usually get an answer within 24 hours.

**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

<u>date</u>	<u>topic</u>	<u>reading</u>	<u>lab</u>
Sep-29T	Introduction, history  Bring your Clickers!	chap 1 Please read whole chapter, but main focus is on pp. 10-13 and pp. 16-22	
Oct-1 R	Scientific method	chap 2	
Oct-6 T	Scientific method	chap 2	
Oct-8 R	Brain basics	chap 3	
Oct-13 T	<b>Quiz Week 1 and 2</b> Brain	chap 3	
Oct-15 R	Evolution and Learning	chap 3	
Oct-20 T	Learning	chap 6	
Oct-22 R	Learning	chap 6	
Oct-27 T	<b>Quiz Week 3 and 4</b> , perception	chap 5	
Oct-29 R	Perception	chap 5	
Nov-3 T	Perception	chap 5	
Nov-5 R	Change blindness	chap 4 and 7	
Nov-10 T	<b>Quiz Week 5 and 6</b> , Attention	chap 4 and 7	
Nov-12 R	Memory <i>1<sup>st</sup> RER quiz is due</i>	chap 7	
Nov-17 T	Memory	chap 7	
Nov 19 R	Memory	chap 7	
Nov-24 T	<b>Quiz Week 7 and 8</b> , Memory	chap 7	
Nov-26 R	Thanksgiving		
Dec-1 T	Intelligence	chap 8	
Dec-3 R	Intelligence and Expertise <i>2<sup>nd</sup> RER quiz is due</i>	chap 8	
Dec-7 Monday (8am)	<b>Quiz Week 9 and 10, Recap Quiz, makeup Quizzes</b> , All of these quizzes will be carried out online on the first Monday of finals week. Further instructions will follow.		

