

# SYLLABUS

## PSY 202, MIND AND SOCIETY (SPRING 2009)

Prof. Sanjay Srivastava

### Overview

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Psychologists rely on empirical methods – experimentation and systematic observation – to learn about the human condition. This course, Mind and Society, is an introduction to social cognition and behavior, emotions, development, personality, and psychopathology. Mind and Society has a companion course, Mind and Brain (PSY 201), which covers perception, learning, memory, and cognition. Together, Psychology 201 and 202 provide a comprehensive introduction to the field of psychology.

### Readings, Lectures, and Lab Sections

In order to succeed in this class, you should complete all assigned readings, attend all lectures and take good notes at them, and participate in all lab sections. The material presented in these different ways will not always overlap.

**Readings:** You should complete all assigned readings before the associated lectures, and you should review the readings before exams. The textbook for this class is:

Gazzaniga, M. & Heatherton, T. F. (2005). *Psychological Science* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

New York: W. W. Norton.

Note that I have assigned the second edition of the textbook, not the third. Although there is a new edition recently available, I have assigned the second edition to keep the cost reasonable, because there are more used copies in circulation. Other reading assignments will be listed in the schedule.

**Lectures:** Lectures will meet from noon to 1:20 pm in 180 PLC. I will use the lectures in several different ways: to explain especially important ideas covered in the readings, to present extensions or applications of ideas, and to cover topics that are not addressed at all in the text. You should take good notes in class: although I will post my lecture slides after class, the slides will not contain all of the important information from class. If you miss a lecture, you are responsible for getting notes from someone who was there.

**Lab/discussion section:** These sections 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 lab section for which you are registered. Lab sections will meet during the first week.

**Blackboard website:** This course's Blackboard site will be used to make announcements, post grades, and take care of other administrative matters. In addition, some assignments and demonstrations may be posted on the website. You are responsible for all information posted on Blackboard.

**Blog:** This course will have a blog at <http://psy202.blogspot.com>. The blog will include optional readings and notes of interest, as well as more casual discussion and commentary about the course. In addition, if you ask me a question outside of class and I think the answer would be helpful to others, I may post a response on the blog.

## **Grading and Requirements**

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

20%	Midterm exam 1
20%	Midterm exam 2
30%	Final exam (cumulative)
20%	Lab section grade
10%	Two 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 Monday, June 8 at 10:15 AM. **You must take all exams, including the final exam, at the scheduled time – you may not take an exam early or late. Plan your summer travel accordingly.** If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero.

### **Lab Sections**

You will be expected to participate in discussions or activities and to complete assignments in class or as homework. In addition, lab sections will be used as review sessions before exams. The lab section grade will count as 20% of your overall grade in the course. You must attend the section you are officially registered for. Not all lab section weeks count equally toward your grade:

- **Week 1.** Attendance is required, but there is no graded work this week. If you do not attend section, you will lose 1 point from your total lab section grade (unless you provide your GTF with a valid excuse and receive permission in advance).
- **Weeks 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9** are required and graded. Each of these weeks will count as 4% of your total grade in the class, with the lowest dropped. Depending on the week, the grade may be based on homework, in-class quizzes or assignments, participation, or a combination of all of those. The purpose of homework is to prepare you for in-class discussion or activities; therefore, you will *only* receive credit for homework if you attend the class meeting that it is assigned for. If you do not attend, you will receive a zero for that week.
- **Weeks 3, 6, and 10** are optional. These meetings will be used to review for the exams.

I strongly recommend that you attend lab section all 10 weeks. However, note that in theory, this policy allows you to miss up to 4 weeks of section with no penalty (all 3 of the optional review weeks, plus one of the graded weeks which will be dropped). For that reason, we will not allow any additional excused absences – not even for illness or emergencies.

## 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 that goes on at the university. 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.

There are two parts to the research participation requirement: completing of 4.5 credit-hours of experiments, and writing two research experience reports based on experiments that you participated in:

- **Research participation hours.** You will need to complete 4.5 credit-hours of experiments. To participate in experiments, you will need to register through the Sona management system at <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>. If you do not complete 4.5 credit-hours by the end of the term, you will receive an incomplete for the course (see the policy on incompletes on a later page).
- **Research experience reports.** You also must turn in 2 Research Experience Reports (RERs) based on two of the experiments that you participate in. The first RER is due by May 1, and the second is due by May 29. You will be graded 0-5 on each RER. You will automatically lose 1 point on any RER that is turned in between the deadline and June 5. Any RERs not completed by June 5 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%. Extra credit must be completed by June 5.

Additional details about how the HSP works will be presented in class. Questions can be directed toward the human subjects coordinator at [hscoord@uoregon.edu](mailto:hscoord@uoregon.edu).

*Alternative to research participation.* Many students find it rewarding and enjoyable to take part in experiments. However, you always have the right to refuse to participate in research. If you do not wish to participate in any experiments, you will be required to write a series of short papers as an alternative assignment. You must notify your professor no later than Thursday, April 30 in order to receive the alternative assignment.

## **Other important information**

### **Emergency absences from exams**

You may not take an exam early or late to accommodate personal needs such as summer travel plans. If you miss an exam and do not have written documentation of a genuine emergency, you will receive a zero.

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 your professor as soon as you can: before the exam if at all possible; otherwise within 24 hours. **You must provide written, verifiable documentation of your emergency.** To protect your privacy, you are not required to give me the details of your emergency: you may provide documentation to 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>.

In case of an excused absence from an exam, remedial action will be determined solely at my discretion.

### **Incompletes**

If you miss an exam or another assignment, you will receive a grade of zero on the missing work, not an incomplete.

The only time I will assign a mark of “I” (incomplete) is when a student does not complete the required research participation hours by the end of the term AND otherwise has a satisfactory grade (C-minus or better). If this happens, you will be required to make up the missing hours in order to receive a grade.

### **Classroom expectations**

- **Turn off your cell phone.** 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!
- **When you come to class, be attentive and courteous.** Come prepared to focus for the entire length of the class. Please do not leave early or multitask – these behaviors are distracting to others. If you really need to sleep, browse the web, groom yourself, send text messages, make out, etc., then please do not come to class.
- **Give me feedback.** 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.

### Academic integrity

All exams are “closed book” and must represent your own independent work. All assignments must be done independently unless you are explicitly told that it is a group assignment.

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](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm)

Full and final responsibility for academic integrity falls upon the student. If you are unsure about what is appropriate or allowed, please ask your professor or your lab section leader.

### Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and will need 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>		
Mar 30	Introduction	none
Apr 1	Research methods	Ch. 2
<u>Week 2</u>		
Apr 6	Social psychology 1	Ch. 15
Apr 8	Social psychology 2	Ch. 15
<u>Week 3</u>		
Apr 13	Evolution and social behavior	Evolution 101
Apr 15	Genetic bases of social behavior	pp. 73-87
<u>Week 4</u>		
<b>Apr 20</b>	<b><i>Midterm 1 (covers readings and lectures from Weeks 1-3)</i></b>	
Apr 22	Thinking	Ch. 8
<u>Week 5</u>		
Apr 27	Intelligence	Ch. 8
Apr 29	Motivation	Ch. 9
<b>May 1</b>	<b><i>Deadline to submit first Research Experience Report (RER) on time (Note: you need to participate in an experiment BEFORE you can write an RER, so plan ahead)</i></b>	
<u>Week 6</u>		
May 4	Emotions	Ch. 10
May 6	Stress and health	Ch. 10
<u>Week 7</u>		
<b>May 11</b>	<b><i>Midterm 2 (covers readings and lectures from Weeks 4-6)</i></b>	
May 13	Human development	Ch. 11
<u>Week 8</u>		
May 18	Personality 1	Ch. 12
May 20	Personality 2	Ch. 12
<u>Week 9</u>		
May 25	NO CLASS – MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	
May 27	Psychological disorders 1	Ch. 13
<b>May 29</b>	<b><i>Deadline to submit second Research Experience Report on time</i></b>	
<u>Week 10</u>		
June 1	Psychological disorders 2	Ch. 13
June 3	Treatment of disorders	Ch. 14
<b>June 5</b>	<b><i>Deadline to complete research participation hours Also, any RER not turned in by today becomes a zero</i></b>	
<b>June 8</b>	<b>10:15 AM - FINAL EXAM (cumulative)</b>	