

# Psychology 201: Mind and Brain

Winter 2011 (150 Columbia): Tues/Thurs 4:00-5:50

**Instructor:** Dr. Margaret Sereno  
211 Straub (346-4915), [msereno@uoregon.edu](mailto:msereno@uoregon.edu)

**Office hours:** Mon 2:30-3:30 & Wed 4:00-5:00 or by appointment

**Graduate Teaching Fellows:**

**Alex Bies:** 219 Huestis Hall, email: [bies@uoregon.edu](mailto:bies@uoregon.edu), phone: 346-6302,  
office hours: Thurs 12-1 & Fri 2-3. **For students with A-K last names.**

**Katie Janowski:** 353 Straub Hall, email: [kathrynj@uoregon.edu](mailto:kathrynj@uoregon.edu), phone: 346-4966,  
office hours: Wed 12-2. **For students with L-Z last names.**

**Course Content:** This course covers experimental approaches to the study of the human mind and brain. Topics covered include the organization of the nervous system, sensation, perception, attention, learning, memory, and language.

**Course website:** <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> **PSY 201 (Winter 2011; 25038), Mind and Brain**

This site will provide important supplemental information for the course (syllabus, reading, lecture slides, study guides, grades, etc.).

**Required Material:** Psychological Science by Gazzaniga, Halpern, & Heatherton (2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) + ZAPS Online Labs Access. In addition, supplemental reading is posted on Blackboard. A copy of the text is on reserve at the Knight Library (available for a 2 hour checkout period).

**IClickers:** IClickers are small 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. The bookstore buys your clicker back for half the sales price. It is very important that you bring your Clicker with you to class!

**Course Format:** The material in this course will be presented through a combination of assigned readings from the text, class lectures, in-class discussions, and demonstrations. In addition, on-line laboratory assignments will be used to explore 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 your performance – discussions of the material during lecture will be more fruitful if you have at least a general understanding of the material beforehand, helping you to ultimately comprehend and retain the material. Each of the non-lecture parts of the course (discussions, readings, demonstrations, movies, on-line labs) are designed to reinforce ideas and augment concepts presented in lectures.

Questions are encouraged in all parts of the course and students are welcome to stop by my office for questions and/or discussions during my office hours or additional appointments. 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 for which you will usually get an answer within 24 hours.

It is my hope that by the end of this course you will have a new appreciation for how you perceive and interact with the world and how the world influences your behavior.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on *4 Exams* (70% total), the *Online Lab grade* (20%), and the *Research Participation grade* (10%). All grades are determined on a curve. The final grade is an average of performance on the 4 exams (your lowest exam score will count for 10% while the other 3 exams will count for 20% each), the online lab grade (which counts for 20% of your grade), and the research participation grade (10% of your grade).

**Exams (70%):** There will be 4 multiple choice examinations. Each exam will cover material from the lectures and reading assignments for the period immediately preceding the exam. No overall comprehensive final exam is given. Your lowest exam score will count for 10% while the other 3 exams will count for 20% each. **No makeup exams will be given without a valid, excused absence.** You will need to present a documented excuse (e.g., doctor's note, court order, or documented athletic events such as away games for student athletes) for a missed exam in order to take a makeup exam. The documented excuse must be presented before (if possible) or ASAP following the exam. **Makeup exams may be essay-style and will be administered during the final exam period to only those students with previously excused absences.**

**Online Labs (20%):** 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 short experiment followed by a few online questions which 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 an hour a week 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.

**Research Participation (10%):** The psychology department requires that all students enrolled in introductory courses (201 and 202) participate in psychology research. You will be expected to complete **4.5 hours** of research participation. There are two options for completing the research requirement in this course. You can choose one or a combination of both options to complete the 4.5 hours. If you don't 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 (note that UO policy is that all incomplete grades become F grades after one full year).

**Option 1.** You may participate in the Psychology and Linguistics Departments' Human Subject Pool and get experience as a subject in real psychology experiments. Psychology and Linguistics researchers run many experiments on varied topics (e.g., psychological coping, perception, attention, social interaction). An important part of the introduction to psychology is some understanding of how research is conducted and a partial perspective on this can be gained by participating in research as a subject. To participate in experiments, you can sign up on an electronic bulletin board at: <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com> but **start soon!** Most "incompletes" due to research participation are because students procrastinate on this assignment!

When you go to this site, there will be an option for you to request a username and password. Once logged in, you will find a list of studies that are available to you, as well as when and where these studies take place. After participating in a study, you will be electronically credited for the time allotted for that study. *You need to complete 4.5 hours of studies (not necessarily the same thing as 4.5 studies!) of experimental credit by no later than Friday March 11, 2010.*

For further information, see *intro\_presentation.ppt* on the blackboard site, or email the Human Subjects Coordinator, [hscoord@uoregon.edu](mailto:hscoord@uoregon.edu) with questions.

**IMPORTANT OPTION 1 ISSUE:** Note that if you fail to show up to TWO studies without good reason, you will not be allowed to complete Option 1 to meet your Research Participation requirement, and will, instead, need to complete Option 2 to meet your Research Participation requirement and to receive a grade for the course.

**Option 2.** You may also fulfill all or part of the research participation requirement by reading assigned research articles. Each article you read will count as **1 credit** and take about one hour to read thoroughly. You will gain knowledge of the methodology used in psychology studies by reading about, rather than experiencing, the methods.

There will also be a  $\frac{1}{2}$  **credit** option if you choose to complete the research participation requirement without participating in any studies. This will consist of a tutorial and quiz available online that will take about 30 minutes to read and complete. To get more information about this online quiz, ask your instructor or TA.

**Research Experiment Reports (RERs).** In order to ensure that you understand the researchers' topics and hypotheses, you will need to complete a RER electronically on Blackboard after participating in either option, above.

For Option 1, you will need to complete RERs for **two** of the studies you complete; these will be graded. For Option 2, you will be required to complete an RER for **all** of the articles that you read.

Check the schedule for dates and times at which each RER needs to be completed. After that date, 2 points will be deducted for each day the RER assignment is late.

**Extra Credit (up to 1% point to be added to the exam score total):** Pop quizzes (consisting of 1 or 2 questions) which will cover lecture content will be administered in-class periodically throughout the course.

**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. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

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

**Classroom Etiquette:** This is a very large class. Students in large classes often believe they are invisible, that they will not be noticed, and that any one's individual behavior does not count. Not true! You can make a difference by listening attentively, asking questions, and contributing to discussions. I will make every effort to facilitate classroom interactions and to address every question. Just as actively engaged students have a positive influence on the classroom environment, activities like talking to your neighbor, texting, coming late, leaving early, personal grooming, reading the newspaper, sleeping, or cell phone use (very bad!) can be extremely disruptive. PLEASE make sure that you and your fellow students get the most from this course by abstaining from such activities.

**Academic Honesty:** All work submitted in this course must be your own. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. 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 student conduct at: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/>).

## Course Outline:

<u>Week&amp;Day</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1 1/4 1/6	Introduction + History Research Methods	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
2 1/11 1/13	The Nervous System: The Nervous System	Chapter 3--Neurons & Nervous System Organization (pp. 92-110) Chapter 3--Cerebral Cortex (pp. 110-113) Chapter 4--Cerebral Cortex (pp. 133-144 & 165-174)
3 1/18 1/20	The Nervous System <b>EXAM #1</b>	Chapter 3--Brain Plasticity (pp. 120-128) + pdf posted on Blackboard
4 1/25 1/27	Sensation Sensation	Chapter 5--Psychophysics (pp. 179-186) + Sensory Processing (pp.187-212) Neural Coding--pdf posted on Blackboard
5 2/1 2/3	Perception Perception	Chapter 5--Depth Perception (pp. 213-224) Chapter 5--Perceptual Processes (pp. 224-231)
6 2/8 2/10	<b>EXAM #2</b> Attention	Chapter 7--(pp. 281-285)
7 2/15 2/17	Learning Learning	Chapter 6 Chapter 6
8 2/22 2/24	Memory <b>EXAM #3</b>	Chapter 7--(pp. 286-304 & 325-327)
9 3/1 3/3	Memory Language	Chapter 7--(pp. 305-325) + Chapter 8--(pp. 332-339) Basics--(pdf posted on Blackboard)
10 3/8 3/10	Language <b>EXAM #4</b>	Aphasia--(pdf posted on Blackboard) + Ape Language--(pdf posted on Blackboard)
11 3/16	<b>*Makeup EXAMS</b>	<b>1:00pm Wednesday of Finals Week in 150 Columbia</b>

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**\*Note:** There is no Final Exam (pre-approved Makeup Exams are given during the Final Exam slot).

### Other Important Due Dates:

Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> at midnight: *1<sup>st</sup> RER quiz for research or 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RER for the paper option.*

Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> at midnight: *2<sup>nd</sup> RER quiz for research or 3rd and 4th RER for the paper option + Last day for research participation.*

**Note:** 2 points will be deducted for each day the RER assignments are late.