

Mind and Brain
Psychology 201, Fall 2012
(crn 15745)

Please check frequently for updates on the web page. Last update: 10/4/12 8:43 PM

Time/Location: Tuesday - Thursday, 10:00AM – 11:50AM; 150 COL, Prerequisites: None

Instructor:

Ulrich Mayr, office 328 LISB Hall, mayr@uoregon.edu, phone: 346 4959, office hours: Monday 1-2 or by appointment.

Graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs)

Devin Howington: office 392, deh@uoregon.edu, phone: 346 0821, office hours: Wednesday 10:30-11:30 and Thursday 8:50-9:50, **for students with A-K last names.**

Arielle Morganstern: office 375 Straub Hall, arielle.shain@gmail.com, phone: 346 2086, office hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30 and Friday 12:30-1:30 or by appointment, **for students with L-Z last names.**

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 Web Site:

Please enter course web page, which is automatically created through your enrollment in this course, in case of problems please contact the Information Technology Center in Knight Library (<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/kitc/>, phone: 346 2681).

Material:

Gazzangia, Halpern, & Heatherton. Psychological Science 4e Paperback + Ebook + ZAPS Online Labs Access (\$109.50). Everything, but without the hardcopy text is 68.25. 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.

IClickers: IClickers 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 \$36.00 new, or for around \$26 used. The bookstore buys your clicker back for half the sales price (if in good condition). **It is important that you have your Clicker with you on the first day of class!**

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 (65.5% of total grade): Usually Thursdays (starting Oct. 4), a 20-30-minute, 20 to 35-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. On the day of the last of these quizzes (Nov 30), there will also be one additional 25-30 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 of the remaining eight quizzes counts 10% of the total quiz grade—the final cumulative quiz counts 20%.

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 if you were not present on the day of the actual quiz. **Make-ups are possible only with an official statement from a doctor or the student health center.** If you miss a class because you are ill, you do not have to let me know at the time of the missed class. However, hold on to your doctor statement so you can present it at the day of the makeup quizzes!

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). In order to get the full attendance credit of 100 points you will need to attend at least 12 of the 19 lectures in this term (not counting the first and the last). Given the relatively large number of "free misses" I will not accept excuses for additional misses (e.g., forgotten clickers). For each lecture less than 12, 20 points will be deducted from your attendance grade.

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.

Participation in Research (4.5% of total grade): Part of this course is learning about research being conducted in the field of psychology. As an instructor, I believe the best way for you to learn about psychology research is to experience it firsthand by participating in the dazzling array of high quality psychology research being conducted at the University of Oregon. Psychology and Linguistics researchers run many experiments on varied topics (e.g., psychological coping, attention, social interaction). To participate in experiments, you can sign up on an electronic bulletin board at: <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>. During your first visit to the site, you will request a username and password. Once logged in, you will find a list of studies that are available to you as well as the time and location of each study (some can be completed online). After participating in a study, you will be electronically credited for the time allotted for that study. Studies range in length from ½ hour to 2 hours or longer. One hour of

participation = 1 credit, and to complete the research requirement, you will need to complete 4.5 credits worth of studies. For further information, see the slides from the PowerPoint presentation about being a research participant on the course Blackboard site, or email the Human Subjects Coordinator, hscoord@uoregon.edu with questions. More details about participating in research studies will be provided in class.

For ethical reasons, the university and I neither can force you to participate in research studies, nor would we wish for you to be uncomfortable participating in studies. For this reason, there is an alternative assignment that you can choose to do instead that involves signing up in advance for 2-hour timeslots to come to the Psychology Department to read psychology research articles and write an essay about them. There is also a ½ hour tutorial you can complete, so that doing two of the article reading session plus the tutorial will equal the same 4.5 hours of time as participating in studies. For more details about completing this alternative, please contact the teaching assistants.

IMPORTANT NOTES: If you fail to show up to TWO studies without good reason, you will not be allowed to participate in research as a way to complete your research requirement. You will instead be required to complete your research requirement by doing the alternative assignment.

All students must complete the research requirement to get a grade in the course. If you do not complete the requirement, you will receive an incomplete in the course until you do. If you do not complete the requirement within a year, the incomplete will be changed to a failing grade in the course, as required by the university registrar.

At least two of the 4.5 hours of the research requirement must be completed by midnight on Friday, Nov. 2. The other 2.5 hours must be completed by midnight, Friday Dec. 7. **PLAN AHEAD:** To complete the research requirement, you must schedule your hours in advance. A failure to schedule timeslots for completing the research requirement in time for both the Oct. 28 and Dec. 2 deadlines will result in a permanent loss of the points in the course. Thus keep in mind: Whether or not you get a complete or incomplete for the research requirement and how many grade points you get for it are two different things. You can make up an incomplete if you absolutely have to within a year (even though it's a real pain!), but you cannot make up lost grade points after the fact.

Grading:

The final grade is computed by integrating the grade points from the four requirements according to the following formula: $\text{Total} = (6.55 \times \text{Quiz} + 1 \times \text{Attendance} + 2 \times \text{Lab} + .45 \times \text{Experiments})/10$. This ensures the percentage weighting of requirements given above. This final grade score will be curved relative to the distribution of grade scores 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). Should curving lead to students getting lower scores than they would be receiving with their absolute grade points, the absolute grade points would be used (in my experience, this is a mere theoretical possibility).

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 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.

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].

Class Schedule as of 10/4/12 8:43 PM. This schedule will be updated very often. Please make sure you always consult the most recent version! ZAPs assignments and precise page numbers of readings will be filled in as we go along. Topics/readings are printed in the same color as the quiz they are relevant for.

<u>date</u>	<u>topic</u>	<u>reading</u>	<u>presentations</u>
Sep-25 T	What is the mind made off? Introduction, history Bring your Clickers!	chap 1	
Sept-27 R	Everybody can be a scientist: Research methods	chap 2 (pp 29-48, 64-69)	Basic Statistics
Oct-2 T	Why you want to avoid concussions: Brain basics	chap 3 (pp 88-100)	ZAPS: Synaptic Transmission
Oct-4 R	Quiz Week 1 and 2 More brain basics	chap 3	ZAPS: Split Brain
Oct-9 T	Evolution of mind	chap 3	ZAPS: Genetics
Oct-11 R	Learning: Classical and operant conditioning	chap 6	ZAPS: Classical Conditioning
Oct-16 T	Learning: Higher forms of learning	chap 6	Book on Learning through Observation
Oct-18 R	Quiz Week 3 and 4, Why you should not diet: Drives and motives	chap. 9	Book on Biological Basis of Learning
Oct-23 T	From neuronal circuits to sensations	chap 5	ZAPS: Lateral Inhibition
Oct-25 R	From objects to art: Perception	chap 5	Zaps: Ames Room
Oct-30 T	Is our conscious awareness an illusion?	chap 5,	ZAPS: Visual Search
Nov-1 R	Quiz Week 5 and 6 Friday this week: Deadline for first 2 credit hours research participation (12 midnight)		ZAPS: Spatial Cuing
Nov-6 T	Driving while talking on your cell phone: Attention	chap 7	ZAPS: Stroop Effect
Nov-8 R	Short-Term Memory, Working Memory	chap 7	ZAPS: Iconic memory
Nov-13 T	How we learn	chap 7	ZAPS: Operation Span
Nov 15 R	Quiz 7 and 8 Explicit vs. implicit memory (guest lecture)	chap 7	ZAPS: Encoding Specificity
Nov-20 T	Forgetting	chap 7	ZAPS: False Memory Task
Nov-22 R	No Class		
Nov-27 T	Intelligence	chap 8	Lab on Mindsets
Nov-29 R	Quiz Week 9, 10 and Cumulative Quiz		

Dec-7	Deadline for final 2.5 credit hours research participation (12 midnight)		
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