

Psychology 201: Mind and Brain

Winter 2012 (CRN # 25193), Tues/Thurs 4:00-5:50, 150 Columbia

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Sereno

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Office hours: Mon 2:30-3:30, Wed 4:00-5:00, and by appointment

Teaching Assistants (GTFs):

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Office hours: Wed 2:00-4:00 and by appointment

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Office hours: Thursday 12:00-2:00 and by appointment

If you think you have a question that could be answered by the teaching assistants, please try them first. If your last name begins with A-K, contact Devin Howington; if your last name begins with L-Z, contact Robbie Ross.

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

Required Materials: *Psychological Science* by Gazzaniga, Halpern, & Heatherton (2010, 3rd 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). The publisher of your textbook maintains a web site for students (for example, it contains chapter reviews, flashcards and other resources to help you learn the material in the textbook): <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/psych/psychsci3/>.

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. It is very important that you bring your iClicker with you to *every* class! You will need to follow directions on Blackboard under "Course Information" to register your iClicker and directions on the ZAPS website to register for ZAPS. You must register for both by **Friday Jan 20th**.

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 or additional appointments.

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%), the *Class Participation grade* (5.5%), and the *Research Participation grade* (4.5%). 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, excluding your lowest score which will be dropped from the average), the class participation grade (5.5% of your grade), and the research participation grade (4.5% 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 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. Most of 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. You will need to register with ZAPS, using the class ID (HQ4KA3F4) and your student ID number so you get credit for doing the activities. Many of these activities consist of participation in a short experiment followed by a few online questions, which need to be answered on Blackboard. You do ZAPS assignments on your own time, outside of class. Your Online Lab Grade will be based on participation in the experiments and correctly answering the associated questions.

Class Participation and Attendance (5.5%): Although this is a large class, technology has created ways for me to get some idea of what you're thinking and whether topics are clear to you. Periodically, during class, I will ask questions and you will answer with your iClicker. If you are in class when the questions are asked, you will get participation points for answering. Unless otherwise announced, I will use the iClicker answers only to tell me more about overall class understanding or as a tool for class demonstrations. The number of iClicker questions per class will vary; your attendance grade will be determined by the percentage of clicker questions you complete. (In order to get 100% of participation points, you will not be required to answer all 100% of the clicker questions throughout the term; I anticipate answering about 95% of them will be considered full points.)

Research Participation (4.5%): Part of this course is learning about research being conducted in the field of psychology. One of the best ways for you to learn about psychology research is to experience it firsthand by participating in some of the high quality psychology research being conducted at the University of Oregon. Psychology and Linguistics researchers run many experiments on varied topics (e.g., perception, attention, memory, language, psychological coping, 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 (Ida Moadab), hscoord@uoregon.edu with questions. More details about participating in research studies will be provided in class.

For ethical reasons, the university and I can neither 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 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 1/2 hour tutorial you can complete, so that doing two of the article reading sessions, 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 studies 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.

Two of the 4.5 hours of the research requirement must be completed by **midnight on Friday, Feb. 10**. The other 2.5 hours must be completed by **midnight on Friday, March 16**. **PLAN AHEAD:** To complete the research requirement, you must schedule your time slots in advance. A failure to schedule timeslots for completing the research requirement in time for both the Feb. 10th and March 16th deadlines will result in a permanent loss of the points in the course.

Electronic Access: You have up to FOUR different kinds of “logging in” for this class. Here’s a summary and quick reference:

- 1) To access Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uoregon.edu>), for course information, online ZAPs quizzes, and grades, use your UO username (“Duck ID”) and password.
- 2) To access ZAPS, to do the online activities, you first need to register here: <http://www.wwnorton.com/gateway/register.asp?site=zaps> – this will require the registration code that you purchased from the bookstore and also the ZAPS class ID (HQ4KA3F4). After registering, you will log in using your email and the password you create. Go to the “About Me” section and enter both the ZAPS class ID and also your student ID number (probably begins with 951 or 950). Do this by Friday Jan. 20!
- 3) To register your iClicker, follow the directions on the PSY 201 Blackboard site (under “Course Information”). Use your “Duck ID” (which is your e-mail username, e.g., mine is “msereno”). The clicker ID can be found on the clicker itself (if the clicker ID number is unreadable, consult with one of the TAs). You only have to do this once, but you must do it before Jan. 20.
- 4) If you choose to satisfy the research requirement by doing studies, you need a SONA ID, which you can get by following the directions on the SONA website: <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>.

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/>).

SUMMARY OF GRADED ACTIVITIES - Percentage of Final Grade:

4 in-class Midterms, (20% each, except 10% for the lowest score) = 70%

ZAPS online activities = 20%

Participation and Attendance = 5.5%

Research Requirement (4.5 hours) = 4.5%

----- = 100%

Final grades will be curved up depending on the final distribution. FYI, the Psychology Department's Undergraduate Education Committee informs instructors that over the past 10 years, the Department's average distribution of grades at the 200-level has about 23% A's and about 35% B's.

Course Outline:

<u>Week&Day</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1 1/10 1/12	Introduction + History Research Methods	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
2 1/17 1/19	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 1/24 1/26	The Nervous System EXAM #1	Chapter 3--Brain Plasticity (pp. 120-128) + pdf posted on Blackboard
4 1/31 2/2	Sensation Sensation	Chapter 5--Psychophysics (pp. 179-186) + Sensory Processing (pp. 187-212) Pdf posted on Blackboard--Neural Coding
5 2/7 2/9	Perception Perception	Chapter 5--Depth Perception (pp. 213-224) Chapter 5--Perceptual Processes (pp. 224-231)
6 2/14 2/16	EXAM #2 Attention	Chapter 7--(pp. 281-285)
7 2/21 2/23	Learning Learning	Chapter 6 Chapter 6
8 2/28 3/1	Memory EXAM #3	Chapter 7--(pp. 286-304 & 325-327)
9 3/6 3/8	Memory Language	Chapter 7--(pp. 305-325) + Chapter 8--(pp. 332-339) Pdf posted on Blackboard--Basics
10 3/13 3/15	Language EXAM #4	2 Pdfs posted on Blackboard--Aphasia + Ape Language
11 3/20	*Makeup EXAMS	1:00pm Tuesday of Finals Week in 150 Columbia

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

Other Important Due Dates:

Friday **Jan 20 at midnight:** You must register your iClicker on Blackboard & for ZAPs on the ZAPs website.

Friday **Feb 10 at midnight:** Two of the 4.5 hours of the research requirement must be completed.

Friday **March 16 at midnight:** The other 2.5 hours of the research requirement must be completed.

Online Lab (ZAPS & Book) Quizzes Schedule:

Go to the ZAPS website to access the ZAPS labs and to Blackboard to take the associated quizzes. All quizzes open at 6:00pm on the scheduled opening day and close at midnight on the due date (the due date is always on a Friday at midnight). The lab schedule is set up to correspond with similar topics discussed in class.

Quiz#	Week	Lab	*ZAPS	Opening Date	Due Date
1	2	Basic Statistics	N	T Jan 17	F Jan 20
2	2-3	Synaptic Transmission	Y	TH Jan 19	F Jan 27
3	2-3	Split-Brain	Y	"	"
4	4	Lateral Inhibition	Y	T Jan 31	F Feb 3
5	5	Ponzo & Ames (2 labs)	Y	T Feb 7	F Feb 10
6	6	Stroop	Y	T Feb 14	F Feb 17
7	6	Spatial Cuing	Y	"	"
8	6	Visual Search	Y	"	"
9	7	Classical Conditioning	Y	T Feb 21	F Feb 24
10	8	Memory Span	Y	T Feb 28	F March 2
11	8	Iconic Memory	Y	"	"
12	9	Mental Rotation 2-D	Y	T March 6	F March 9
13	9	Encoding Specificity	Y	"	"
14	9-10	False Memory	Y	TH March 8	F March 16
15	9-10	Sentence Verification	Y	"	"

***Note:** An “N” (for “No”) indicated under the “ZAPS” column means that you should consult your class notes and book rather than accessing ZAPS to answer the quiz questions. A “Y” (for “Yes”) means that the assignment is a ZAPS lab.

Note: Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.