

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE: Section A
PSY 141A, Spring 2018

10:10 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in Olin 204

Instructor

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Office hours: Monday noon – 1:00 p.m., Friday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How does the mind create the reality we perceive? How do experiences shape the brain, and how do processes in the brain influence thought, emotion and behavior? This course investigates these and similar questions by studying the science of the human mind and behavior. The course covers topics such as memory, perception, development, psychopathology, personality, and social behavior. This course focuses on the biological, cognitive, and social/cultural roots that give rise to human experience. Additionally, the course will consider how behavior differs among people, and across situations.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

Gazzaniga, M., Heatherton, T., & Halpern, D. (2016). *Psychological Science* (5th Ed.). New York: Norton.

Non-textbook readings assignments are listed on the schedule below. All non-textbook readings are available through the course's Moodle site (**enrollment key: IntroPsych**). You can sign up for the course Moodle site at <http://moodle2.bard.edu>. You should print non-textbook readings and bring them to class on the appropriate day.

COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE GRADE

Exams (300 points)

For this class, there will be 3 exams. Exam dates are firm but the material covered may vary slightly from the syllabus depending on how the course progresses. Any deviations from the syllabus will be made clear prior to each exam. Exams will contain multiple-choice and short answer questions encompassing material covered in class, the textbook, and assigned readings. Exams will be worth 100 points each. The third exam will be cumulative but the majority of the material (~75%) will be from topics presented after the second exam. Students are expected to take all exams on the schedule dates. In an extreme circumstance, the student should contact me at least 24 hours prior to the exam and I will decide on what will be done. Make up exams will only be scheduled with a written excuse from the Dean of Students or medical professional.

Quizzes (50 points)

There will be 6 unannounced quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will be taken at the start of the class period and cover material presented during the prior class meeting and all readings assigned for that day. Quizzes are worth 10 points each. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Students arriving late to class on days in which there is a quiz will not be permitted to take the quiz. Make-up quizzes will only be scheduled if the student provides advanced warning (minimum of 24 hours) of their absence. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for that quiz.

Observational Study (25 points)

As we will learn in class, observational research is a technique that provides researchers with the opportunity to record and observe behavior in a real-world setting. For this assignment, you will conduct a brief observational study on differences in student behavior in Kline Commons during the morning (8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) and evening (4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.). This assignment will be due on Monday, February 12th. More information will be provided about this assignment during the first week of class.

Writing Assignment (25 points)

For this assignment, you will be asked to summarize and critique the article by Chabris et al (2011) that is available on the course moodle site. You must hand in either a stapled paper-copy of the assignment, or email a word document containing the assignment to thutcheo@bard.edu, prior to the start of class on Thursday, March 7th. Assignments handed in after the start of class will be considered late and will automatically lose 2.5 points. Each additional day late will result in the loss of 2.5 additional points. More specific information about what should go into your summary and critique is available on the course moodle site.

Group Presentation (15 points)

During the second week of class you will be broken into groups of three to four students. On Wednesday, April 18th, each group will be required to give a 5 to 10-minute presentation on one of the “Forty Studies That Changed Psychology” reported by Hock (2013). Groups will be assigned one study to describe for the class. Your presentations should include the background, description of methods, description of results, and explain the significance of the findings. Every group member must participate in the presentation to the class. Failure to present will result in a grade of 0 for that student. Additional information will be provided over the course of the semester.

Research Project (40 points)

An important part of psychological science is the generation of novel hypotheses and designing studies to test these hypotheses. To gain hands on experience with these issues, over the course of the semester you will engage in a research project. There will be three components. First, as a class we will create a survey about smart phones and transactive memory. Second, each student will use the survey to collect data. Students must submit their data in an Excel file to thutcheo@bard.edu prior to the start of class on Monday, April 16th (**10 points**). Third, each individual will write a brief research report explaining the class results due at the start of class on Monday, May 7th (**30 points**). More details about the project will be provided over the course of the semester.

Research Participation (20 points):

One of the best ways to learn about psychology is to see what goes on in the lab: how does psychological science happen; how are hypotheses generated, and how are experiments conducted? A lot of exciting research is happening right here at Bard, and much of it makes use of college undergraduates (e.g. you) as participants. You will earn 10 points for each hour of research you participate in (for a maximum of 20 points). Participation must be completed prior to Friday, May 18th.

To receive credit:

1. Visit <http://bardresearch.sona-systems.com/> and follow the steps to the left where it says “New Participant? Request an account here.” You must use a Bard email to complete this step.

MAKE SURE YOU INDICATE PSY 141A AS YOUR SECTION.

2. Log in with your new id and select an interesting and available study in which to participate.

3. Show up and participate in the study you selected. I will receive an email confirmation of your participation.

Alternative Assignment: If you do not wish to participate in research studies or are under 18 years of age, you may submit an alternative research assignment. Information about this assignment is available on the course Moodle site.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Over the course of the semester there will be four psychology-sponsored colloquia. These talks will be scheduled for Thursdays at 4:45 p.m. I will provide you with a schedule during the first two weeks of class. You can earn a maximum of **4 points** towards your final grade through attendance at one of these talks. To receive credit, attend a talk and submit one question you would have for the speaker to me via email at thutcheco@bard.edu within 48 hours of the talk. Attendance and question submission will earn you a total of 4 points. No more than 4 points of Extra Credit can be earned. If you are not able to attend these talks due to your schedule, please speak to me about an alternative assignment for equal credit.

GRADING BREAKDOWN***POINT ALLOCATION***

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Quizzes (5 X 10 points)	50
Observational Study	25
Writing Assignment	25
Group Presentation	15
Research Report	40
<u>Research Participation</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Points	475

GRADING SCALE

A = 100.0000% – 93.0000%
A- = 92.9999% – 90.0000%
B+ = 89.999% – 87.0000%
B = 86.9999% – 83.0000%
B- = 82.9999% – 80.0000%
C+ = 79.9999% – 77.0000%
C = 76.9999% – 73.0000%
C- = 72.9999% – 70.0000%
D = 69.9999% – 60.0000%
F = 59.9999% or less

FINAL GRADE = ((Total Points Earned + Extra Credit)/475) *100

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with a documented disability who need reasonable academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible to discuss your needs. I can only accommodate your needs if you allow me sufficient time to prepare. Informing me of a need on the day of an exam or on the date an assignment is due is NOT sufficient. As stated in the college handbook, “Students who claim physical, learning, or psychological disabilities should register with the Disability Support Coordinator at the start of the semester or as soon as the diagnosis is made.” Additional information can be found on the Bard College Learning Commons website (<http://inside.bard.edu/learningcommons/>).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are assumed to have read the Bard College Handbook and are familiar with the school’s policies regarding Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty. Violations of these policies are taken extremely seriously and one violation will result in a failing grade for the course and a referral to the Dean of Students for further action. Specific violations include (but are not limited to):

- Use or provision of prohibited assistance during quizzes or exams
- Sharing of writing assignments
- Plagiarism (which includes **both** the use of **words** and **ideas** without attribution)

Psychology 141A Schedule – Spring 2018

All readings, assignments, and lecture topics dates are subject to change. Exam dates are final.
G: Gazzaniga textbook; Bolded reading assignments are available on Moodle.

Date	Topic	To Read Before Start of Class	Due at Start of Class
Mon. January 29	Intro. to Psychological Science		
Wed. January 31	Res. Methods in Psychology I	G: Chapter 1 pp 1- 27	
Mon. February 5	Res. Methods in Psychology II	G: Chapter 2 pp 33 - 56	
Wed. February 7	Res. Methods in Psychology III	G: Chapter 2 pp 57 - 68	
Mon. February 12	Biological Psychology I	G: Chapter 3 pp 75 - 95	Observational Study
Wed. February 14	Biological Psychology II	G: Chapter 3; 96 - 113; Damasio (2006)	
Mon. February 19	Sensation and Perception I	G: Chapter 5 pp 173 - 181; Sacks (1985)	
Wed. February 21	Sensation and Perception II	G: Chapter 5 pp 182 - 203	
Mon. February 26	EXAM 1		
Wed. February 28	Learning I	G: Chapter 6 pp 221 – 238; Siegel (2016)	
Mon. March 5	Learning II	G: Chapter 6 pp 239 - 260	
Wed. March 7	Attention	G: Chapter 4 pp 132 - 141; Chabris et al. (2011)	Writing Assignment
Mon. March 12	Memory I	G: Chapter 7 pp 265 - 284	
Wed. March 14	Memory II	G: Chapter 7 pp 285 – 301; Grierson (2003)	
Mon. March 19	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK		
Wed. March 21	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK		
Mon. March 26	Thinking and Intelligence I	G: Chapter 8 pp 316 - 328	
Wed. March 28	Thinking and Intelligence II	G: Chapter 8 pp 338 - 351	
Mon. April 2	EXAM 2		
Wed. April 4	Data Collection Discussion		
Mon. April 9	Emotion	G: Chapter 10 pp 403 – 422; Dutton & Aron (1974)	
Wed. April 11	Human Development I	G: Chapter 9 pp 357 - 372	
Mon. April 16	Human Development II	G: Chapter 9 pp 374 - 383	Data Submission
Wed. April 18	Group Presentations		
Mon. April 23	Social Psychology I	G: Chapter 12 pp 495 – 508; Kassin & Kiechel (1996)	
Wed. April 25	Social Psychology II	G: Chapter 12 pp 510 - 534	
Mon. April 30	NO CLASS: ADVISING DAY		
Wed. May 2	Abnormal Psychology	G: Chapter 14 pp 599 - 609; Hock (2013)	
Mon. May 7	Language	Watch: Patricia Kuhl Ted Talk (link on moodle)	Research Report
Wed. May 9	NO CLASS: BOARD WEEK		
Mon. May 14	NO CLASS: BOARD WEEK		
Wed. May 16	FINAL EXAM		