Course Syllabus for General Psychology 1001-200
Fall, 2006

Instructor: Joe Berta
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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 3pm – 4pm
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Class Website: Go to "psych.colorado.edu" Click on "Courses" Click on "Course Wikis" Scroll down to “Prof-Berta” Click on “Prof-Berta” Click on this course


Grades: Your final grade will be calculated from your scores on three tests and from your recitation grade. Each test and the recitation grade is worth 25% of your final grade. Three midterm tests and a final exam will be given during the semester. The lowest grade on the midterm tests will be dropped. If you miss a midterm test the grade for that test will be dropped. You may not miss more than one midterm test and EVERYONE MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM. Your grade can range from 0% to 100%. The following chart lists the letter grade equivalent to the final scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94% to 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% to 93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87% to 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84% to 86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77% to 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74% to 76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% to 73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67% to 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64% to 66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 63%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A test grade will NOT be curved. Nor will the recitation grades be curved. However, if the average (mean) final grade of the class is below 78%, percentage points will be added to each student’s grade to bring the class average up to 78%. For example, if the final class average is 74%, 4% (78% - 74% = 4%) will be added to each student’s final score. If the final class average is 78% or above no percentage points will be added to the final grade (also, no percentage points will be subtracted).

Tests: Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions. The questions will cover material from the textbook, the lectures, and the recitations.

Recitations: You are required to attend a recitation once a week starting with the week of January 30. The recitations may include lectures, discussions, demonstrations, videos, and reviews. You will be graded for the recitation (the grade will include attendance); this grade will make up 25% of your final grade. You CANNOT drop your recitation grade and replace it with a midterm test score. Your recitation teacher will give you the details of the grading.

Research Participant/Paper: You must serve as a participant for research studies or write papers on topics in psychology in order to receive a grade. The information about the experimental participation option is given in the handout, "Psychology 1001 Student Information Packet for the Experimental Participation Option and the Term Paper Option."

If you select the term paper option instead of participation in experiments you must choose and read four (4) articles from the Annual Editions: Psychology 04/05 collection and write a short summary about each article. This collection is on reserve in the library. After reading an article, write a 1 to 2-page paper summarizing the article. Each paper should include (if appropriate):

1. the main point or conclusion of the article
2. the evidence the author uses to support this conclusion
3. the evidence (if any is give) that does not support this conclusion
4. the author’s response (if any) to this contrary evidence
5. your opinion of the validity of the main point or conclusion

When printing your papers skip lines, use a font no larger than 12 point, and leave margins no wider than one inch on the sides, top, and bottom of the paper. Turn the papers in to Joe Berta by the end of the semester.

If you do not complete one of the two options you will be given an IF for the class. If you do not complete one of the two options within one year after the class has ended the grade will be changed to an F. In order to encourage you to complete this requirement early, if either option is completed by October 20 four (4) percentage points will be added to your final exam score (for example, if you scored 80% on the final exam, you will receive an 84%).
Disability: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)

Religious obligations: If you have religious obligations that conflict with the schedule below see me and we can work out something.

Honor Code: The University has an Honor Code. Follow it.

Aims of the Course:
(1) to learn the major topics and findings in psychology
(2) to learn how psychologists study behavior and thinking
(3) to learn how to critically examine claims about behavior and thinking ranging from psychological theories and therapies to psychic phenomena and alien abductions

Tentative schedule of lecture topics and tests

Aug 28
Aug 30
Sep 1
Sep 6, 8, 11, 13
Sep 15, 18, 20, 22
Ep 25
Sep 27, 29
Oct 2, 4, 6
Oct 9, 11, 13, 16
Oct 18, 20
Oct 23
Oct 25, 27
Oct 30
Nov 1, 3
Nov 6, 8, 10
Nov 13
Nov 15, 17, 27
Nov 29
Dec 1
Dec 4, 6, 8
Dec 11
Dec 13
Final Exam

Overview of the course
Prologue: The Story of Psychology
Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
Chapter 2: Neuroscience and Behavior
Test #1
Chapter 2: Neuroscience and Behavior
Chapter 5: Sensation
Chapter 6: Perception
Chapter 7: States of Consciousness
Test #2
Chapter: States of Consciousness
Chapter 8: Learning
Chapter 9: Memory
Test #3
Chapter 4: The Developing Person
Chapter 18: Social Psychology
Chapter 15: Personality
Chapter 16: Psychological Disorders
Chapter 17: Therapy
Tuesday, December 19, 10:30am