Summer, 2010

Course Syllabus for General Psychology 1001
Monday - Friday 11:00am - 1:05pm

Instructor: Joe Berta
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 4:15pm – 5:15pm
Office Phone: (303) 492-1701

Office: Muenzinger E236
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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. Each test is worth 1/3 of your final grade. Your grade can range from 0% to 100%. The following chart lists the letter grade equivalent to the final scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>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>

Each test grade will NOT 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 and the lectures. The final exam is not cumulative.

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 two (2) articles from the Annual Editions: Psychology 08/09 and write a short summary about each article. Two copies of this collection are on reserve in the library (available at the circulation desk). 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 given) 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

Then print 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 Incomplete (I) 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.
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

July 6  Prologue: The Story of Psychology
July 7  Prologue: The Story of Psychology/Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
July 8  Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
July 9, 12, 13  Chapter 2: The Biology of Mind
July 14  11am to 11:50am - Test #1/Noon to 1:05pm - Chapter 6: Sensation and Perception
July 15, 16  Chapter 6: Sensation and Perception
July 19, 20, 21  Chapter 3: Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind
July 22, 23, 26  Chapter 7: Learning
July 27  11am to 11:50am - Test #2/Noon to 1:05pm - Chapter 8: Memory
July 28, 29  Chapter 8: Memory
July 30  Chapter 5: Developing Through the Life Span
August 2, 3  Chapter 16: Social Psychology
August 4, 5  Final Exam