Course Syllabus for General Psychology 1001-300
Fall, 2012

Instructor: Joe Berta
Office: Muenzinger E236
Office Phone: (303) 492-1701

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 2:00pm - 2:50pm

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 3:15 pm – 4:15pm
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Class Wikisite: Go to "psych.colorado.edu/wiki," scroll down to “Miscellaneous,” 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 one-third 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; the final exam score cannot 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>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 any four (4) articles from the Annual Editions: Psychology 10/11 (or 08/09 or 09/10) collection and write a short summary about each article. This collection is on reserve in the library; available at the library’s 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 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 Incomplete 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 26 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, give me a letter from Disability Services soon so that I can make appropriate arrangements. 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 something out.

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 27    Overview of the course
Aug 29, 31 Prologue: The Story of Psychology
Sep 5, 7, 10, 12 Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
Sep 14, 17, 19, 21 Chapter 2: The Biology of Mind
Sep 24    Test #1
Sep 26, 28 Chapter 2: The Biology of Mind (continued)
Oct 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 Chapter 6: Sensation and Perception
Oct 12, 15, 17, 19 Chapter 3: Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind
Oct 22    Test #2
Oct 24, 26 Chapter 3: Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind (continued)
Oct 29, 31
Nov 2     Chapter 7: Learning
Nov 5, 7, 9 Chapter 8: Memory
Nov 12    Test #3
Nov 14, 16, 26, 28 Chapter 5: Developing Through the Life Span
Nov 30
Dec 3, 5    Chapter 16: Social Psychology
Dec 7, 10, 12, 14 Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders
Final Exam Monday, December 17, 4:30pm