



Society for the Teaching of Psychology (APA Division 2)
OFFICE OF TEACHING RESOURCES IN PSYCHOLOGY (OTRP)

Department of Psychology, Georgia Southern University, P. O. Box 8041, Statesboro, GA 30460-8041

PSYCHOLOGY 101
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2000

Section B: TTH 10:35-11:50

Dr. Rory O'Brien McElwee
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Office hours: Monday, 2:00 – 3:00
 Wednesday, 9:30-11:30
 Friday, 1:00-2:00
 and by appointment

Course Description:

This course addresses the basic principles of psychology, the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. Among the topics surveyed in the first semester are research methodology, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, consciousness, memory, thought, and language. Throughout the course is an emphasis on developing an understanding of psychology as the science of human thought and behavior and to critically evaluate “common sense” knowledge about how people function.

Course goals:

- To abandon misconceptions about the field of psychology and to appreciate its breadth and scientific rigor.
- To develop an understanding of the scientific methods used in psychological research.
- To become familiar with basic psychological terminology and current knowledge.
- To gain an understanding of psychology's role in modern culture.
- To learn about psychology and critical thinking not only from the readings and from the instructor, but also through interactions with your colleagues.
- To come to share my enthusiasm for studying the human mind and behavior.

Text:

- Required: Bernstein, D. A., Clarke-Stewart, A., Penner, L. A., Roy, E. J., & Wickens, C. D. (2000). Psychology. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Recommended: Lebie, L., Allman, A., & Bernstein, D. A. (2000). Study Guide for Psychology. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Attendance:

Attendance at all classes is expected. A class roster will be placed on the wall beside the door. Please initial the class roster before each class meeting. Some of the material presented in class does not appear in the text book, but will be covered on exams. If your attendance is erratic, I will schedule a conference with you to determine why. Frequent absences can adversely affect your grade in this course.

Evaluation:

Reading Assignments: You are expected to do all reading assignments prior to coming to class. If students are unprepared, I will incorporate pop quizzes into the course.

Exams: There will be four non-cumulative exams during the term and a self-scheduled cumulative final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions, and will cover material from the readings as well as from class lectures and discussions.

Laboratory Exercises: You will participate in four laboratory exercises and will turn in written responses to questions for each. See separate handout for details.

Participation in Research Projects: Opportunities to serve as participants in student and faculty research projects may be available. These provide excellent opportunities to learn first-hand about the research process in psychology. To compensate you for participation that takes places outside of class time, you will be awarded three points toward your final grade for any studies in which you participate.

Late Assignment/Missed Exam Policy: Except for health or family emergencies, all exams must be taken and all work must be turned in on the dates listed here (unless explicitly changed by the instructor). In the interest of fairness for all students, make-up tests will not normally be given and late assignments will be subject to significant grade penalties except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies.

The final grade will be computed as follows:

	Date	Chapters	Weight
Exam 1	9/19	1-2	100 points
Exam 2	10/12	3-5	100 points
Exam 3	11/7	6-7	100 points
Final Exam	self-scheduled	8-9 & cumulative	150 points
Lab Reports	see schedule		<u>100 points</u>
			550 points total

Final grades will be computed as a percentage of the possible points you earned:

A	93-100%	511-550 points	C	73-76.9%	401-422 points
A-	90-92.9%	495-510 points	C-	70-72.9%	385-400 points
B+	87-89.9%	478-494 points	D+	67-69.9%	368-384 points
B	83-86.9%	456-477 points	D	60-66.9%	330-367 points
B-	80-82.9%	440-455 points	F	0-59.9%	0-329 points
C+	77-79.9%	423-439 points			

HONOR CODE

Please note that all exams and written assignments in this course are pledged work under the R-MWC honor code. I encourage you to study with other students in the class for the exams and to discuss course material with them. However, your exams and papers must be your work alone. It is, however, permissible to have someone who is not enrolled in this course proofread your papers for you. Please note that it is a violation of the honor code in this course to look at exams from other offerings of this course, whether concurrent or past, regardless of the instructor of the course. It is also a violation of the honor code to provide me with false information in order to obtain special consideration for an illness or personal problem. If you need clarification about how the honor code applies in this course, I will be happy to meet with you to discuss it.

Class Schedule

(Subject to some modification. However, dates of exams will not change.)

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	
			chapter	pages
1	T 8/29	Introduction to the Course		
	Th 8/31	History of Psychology	1	1-16
2	T 9/5	Contemporary Psychology	1	16-25
	Th 9/7	How Psychologists Think	2	26-30
3	T 9/12	Research Methodology	2	30-40
	Th 9/14	Research Methodology: Statistics & Ethics	2	40-50
4	T 9/19	EXAM 1		
	Th 9/21	Biopsychology: Neuroanatomy	3	51-82
5	T 9/26	Biopsychology: Communication Systems	3	82-94
	Th 9/28	Sensation: Introduction and Vision	4	95-121
6	T 10/3	Sensation: Hearing & Other Senses	4	121-136
	Th 10/5	Perception: Psychophysics and Organizational Principles	5	137-157
7	T 10/10	Perception: Recognition and Attention	5	157-173
	Th 10/12	EXAM 2		
8	T 10/17	FALL BREAK		
	Th 10/19	Learning: Classical Conditioning	6	174-184
	T 10/24	Learning: Operant Conditioning	6	184-197
10	Th 10/26	Learning, Cognition, & Culture	6	197-212
	T 10/31	Memory: Stages and Processes	7	213-234
	Th 11/2	Memory: Retrieval and Forgetting	7	234-248
11	T 11/7	EXAM 3		
	Th 11/9	Cognition: Reasoning and Problem-Solving	8	249-270
12	T 11/14	Cognition: Decision-Making	8	270-274
	Th 11/16	Critical Thinking and Nonhuman Language	8	274-288
13	T 11/21	Other topics in Language		
	Th 11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
14	T 11/28	States of Consciousness	9	288-298
	Th 11/30	Sleep and Dreaming	9	298-306
15	T 12/5	Hypnosis and Drugs	9	306-320
	Th 12/7	Course Wrap-Up		

Final Exam -- Self-scheduled