

# **Psychology 100: Foundations of Psychology**

*Spring Semester 2008, MWF 9:30-10:30 am , Sharpless 410*

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## Professor

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## Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an appreciation for the scientific approach to the study of human behavior, and to expose students to the range of topics that comprise modern scientific psychology. It is not intended to be a general overview of the field, or any of its disciplines, but rather to prepare students for later work in the Haverford Psychology department by introducing concepts themes and methodologies that are covered in advanced courses in the department. We will investigate human thought and behavior from a variety of different theoretical perspectives, including the biological (evolutionary and physiological), cognitive, social, and personality perspectives. We will also consider the history and methodology of the science of psychology and conclude with an integrative examination of selected topics in psychopathology and health.

## Readings

All readings are available on the course Blackboard site and are identifiable by number (see schedule of readings). They are within Course Documents, in a folder called Readings.

## Course Requirements and Grading

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following course requirements.

- Exam 1 = 20%
- Exam 2 = 25%
- Exam 3 = 25%
- Research Paper = 20%
- Experiment participation = 5%
- Attendance and participation = 5%

## Exams

Exams will all be take-home, closed-book, and self-scheduled. Exams will involve a combination of short answer and essay questions. More detail regarding format and content of the exams will be provided in class.

## Research Paper

Each student will write a 6-8 page research paper. The background research for this paper assignment will involve two steps. In the first step, you will identify a news article from a popular news source (e.g., New York Times, Newsweek) that summarizes a research study in the field of Psychology. In the second step, you will use a library database (e.g., Psycinfo or PubMed) to find the scientific article cited in the news piece and two other sources cited in the Introduction of the article. In your paper, you will summarize and evaluate the scientific study as well as the press treatment of the study. Further details regarding how to conduct your research and write this paper will be provided in class. Your paper topic will be due in class on Friday, 3/28, and your papers will be due in class on Wednesday, 4/18. Without prior arrangements, late papers will be marked down by a half grade per day (A to A-).

Week	Date	Topic	Readings (available on Blackboard)
1	1/23	Introduction to the Course	
1	1/25	Psychology as a Science	#1: Shaffer Ch 1
2	1/28	History of Psychological Science	#2: Gray Ch 1
		<b>I. Biological Bases of Behavior</b>	
2	1/30-2/1	Evolution and Human Universals	#3: Gray Ch 3; #4: Pinker Ch 3 (pp. 51-58); #5: Johnston, Ch 2 (pp. 21-32), Ch 5
3	2/4	Innateness and Learning	#6: Ohman & Mineka, 2003
3	2/6	Physiological Approach: Mind and Brain	#7: McEwen Ch 9; #8: Pinker Ch 10
4	2/11-2/15	Neuroanatomy / Neurophysiology	#9: Gray Ch 5; #10: Le Doux Ch 3
5	2/18	Review / <b>**Exam 1 distributed in class and due by 5 pm on 2/20 (no class on 2/20)**</b>	
		<b>II. Cognitive Psychology</b>	
5	2/22	Introduction to Cognitive Psychology / perceptual processes	
6	2/25	Perception, continued	#11: Gray Ch 8 (pp. 297-321)
6	2/27-2/29	Attention	#12: Gray Ch 9 (pp. 331-336); #13: Manhart; #14: Smith & Chamberlin
7	3/3-3/5	Memory: STM/LM and Forgetting	#12: Gray Ch 9; #15: Schacter, 1999; #16: Loftus, 1997
7	3/7	Memory: Forgetting and Memory Systems	#12: Gray Ch 9;
		<b>**SPRING BREAK: 3/10-3/14**</b>	
8	3/17	Implicit Memory	#17: Perfect & Askew
		<b>III. Social Psychology</b>	
8	3/19	Social Psychology / Power of the Situation	#18: Aronson Ch 2; #19: Slater
8	3/21	Power of the Situation, continued	#18: Aronson Ch 2; #19: Slater
9	3/24	Attitudes and Persuasion	#20: Petty, et al.; #21: Helweg-Larsen
9	3/26	Social Cognition	#22: Fiske & Taylor; #23: Krull & Erickson
9	3/28	Self-Justification <b>**Research paper topics due in class**</b>	#24: Aronson Ch 5
10	3/31	Stereotypes and Prejudice	#25: Allport; #26: Steele
10	4/2	Review / <b>**Exam 2 distributed in class and due by 5 pm on 4/4 (no class on 4/4)**</b>	
		<b>IV. Personality Psychology</b>	
11	4/7	Intro to Personality / Trait Approach -- Five-Factor Model	#27: Furnham & Bradley; #28: Gray Ch 15 (pp. 573-593)
11	4/9	Traits Approach: Nature and Nurture	#28: Gray Ch 15 (pp. 573-593); #30: Paulhus
11-12	4/11-14	Social-cognitive Approach	#28: Gray Ch 15 (pp. 594-609); #31: Anderson & Bushman, 2001
12	4/16-4/18	Freud: Unconscious, Anxiety, and Defense <b>**Research papers due in class on 4/18**</b>	#28: Gray Ch 15 (pp. 594-609); #32: Newsweek articles on Freud
		<b>V. Psychopathology and Health</b>	
13	4/21	Intro to Abnormal Psychology / Biological Approach to Depression	#33: Kosslyn & Rosenberg
13	4/23	Cognitive and Social Approaches to Depression	#34: Solomon, 2001
	4/25	Stress, Affect, and Health	#35: Cohen & Pressman, 2006
14	4/28	Course Evaluations / Paper Presentations (5 will be chosen)	
14	4/30	Review / <b>**Exam 3 distributed in class and due on 5/2 and by 5 pm**</b>	