

Psychology 100: Foundations of Psychology

Haverford College • Spring 2015 • Sharpless 412

Section 2: T/Th 10:00-11:30 AM

Instructor: Elizabeth A. Gordon, Ph.D. (Office: Sharpless 402)

Office Hours: Tues 11:30am-1pm; Thurs 1:30-2:30pm

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Course Description

Just as we can scientifically study the behavior of other species, so too can we study human behavior and humans. This course provides an introduction to such a scientific approach as we examine human behavior, cognition, and emotion. We will integrate a variety of perspectives in this effort including evolutionary, behavioral, cognitive, social, and cultural. Across the course we will pay close attention to the methods, rationale, and principles guiding such efforts.

Goals and Objectives

This course is intended to introduce students to the field of psychology and its sub-disciplines. Full engagement with the course material should enable students to:

- Describe the fundamentals of psychological research design and methodology
- Explain the key findings across the major domains of psychology
- Demonstrate critical thinking and healthy skepticism about research findings

Moodle: Our Moodle site will function as a “live syllabus.” It will be updated as we adjust the course schedule to accommodate the pace of this semester. Moodle is the place to submit most homework assignments and to find readings, video links, supplementary materials, and discussion forums. supplemental materials will also be posted as new materials come online. Lecture slides will be posted, typically within 24-48 hours of each lecture. Taking your own notes is recommended.

Readings and Media Content

- Required text: *Okami, Paul (2013). Psychology: Contemporary Perspectives*. ISBN: 9780199349821. Oxford University Press. Available at student bookstore and on reserve in science library.
- Additional readings and media content available on Moodle.
- The current syllabus may be updated with additional articles but changes will be kept to a minimum. Additional videos or news stories may be assigned as they become available (announced in class).

Examinations (2 midterms; 1 semi-cumulative final): Exams are online and will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions (the final exam will have an additional component as well). Make-up exams will be considered only under unusual circumstances beyond your control, and if they are supported by written documentation from a recognized authority. In such an instance, please contact me immediately.

Homework (12 total): These are brief assignments to be completed between classes to help integrate the material. There is a 10% reduction of credit for per 24 hours past the due date. There are two main types of assignments:

- **Community forum posts.** These are online posts made via Moodle that can be seen by the entire class. Each forum is on a different topic, typically involving your own thoughts or reactions to topics discussed in class or readings. Your post may start a new thread (topic) or may respond to someone else's commentary. Submissions should be a minimum of a short paragraph (5-6 sentences). Unless you email me privately, I will feel free to integrate what you have written into class discussion (I may quote your post in class). These are credit/no credit; full credit is given as long as minimum criteria are met.
- **Moodle "Quizzes."** These assignments involve reading, viewing, or listening to supplemental material and answering multiple choice questions via Moodle. These are not intended to be a formal assessment, but rather a chance to self-assess whether you understand the material. The program will give you feedback on your answers. You may attempt the quiz more than once so as to obtain full credit (Moodle will take your highest score; full credit requires answering all questions correctly on at least one attempt).

Short Paper (4 pages; Due April 23): A short paper reviewing media coverage of a scientific study and the journal article on which it is based. Provide a critique of the media coverage and journal article. Additional instructions will follow.

Research Participation: You are required to participate in three psychology research studies or complete an alternative assignment. Sign-up for studies through SONA systems. See Moodle for additional information.

Attendance and Participation: Your attendance and contributions to class discussion are highly valued and, although not assessed formally, is essential to earn a high grade in the class.

Late Policy: Grades for homework and the reaction paper are subject to reduction by one full grade for each day late. Exams lose 2 points per hour they are submitted after the deadline. Speak with me if there are extenuating circumstances that should be considered (speaking with me in advance is best).

Course Requirements

Midterms 1 & 2: 20% each

Final exam: 25%

Homework: 15%

Short paper: 15%

Experiment participation: 5%

TOTAL 100

Final letter grade distribution ranges:

Grading System					
100-93.00%	4.0/A	82.99-80.00%	2.7/B-	69.99-67.00%	1.3/D+
92.99-90.00%	3.7/A-	79.99-77.00%	2.3/C+	66.99-60.00%	1.0/D
89.99-87.00%	3.3/B+	76.99-73.00%	2.0/C	↓ 59.99%	0.0/F
86.99-83.00%	3.0/B	72.99-70.00%	1.7/C-		

Academic Integrity: This refers to the extent to which you take responsibility for and control of your own learning. Be there when class begins and stay until it is over. If you miss a class, please make sure you get notes and/or handouts from someone else in the class. Professional behavior is expected, including demonstrating courtesy and respect for the instructor and for other students during class. This includes turning off cell phones; not reading, checking your e-mail, or texting during class.

Disability Statement: This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact disability resources (Rick Webb: rwebb@haverford.edu; <http://www.haverford.edu/ods/>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Academic Honesty Policy: You are expected to abide by Haverford's Honor code. Suspected violations of the Honor Code will be referred to Honor Council.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments <i>Assignments are due on Moodle by the start of class on date specified unless stated otherwise.</i>
Jan. 20	Course Overview	○ Asm#1: Why Psychology? (we will complete in class on first day)
Jan 22 & 27	The Science of Psychology	○ Okami Chapter 1 ○ Willingham (2012) Reading Science News ○ Watch: The Small Sample Fallacy ○ Asm #2: Study Design (details discussed in class; hardcopy due 1/27)
Jan 29 & Feb 3	Brain, Body & Behavior	○ Okami Chapter 2 ○ Asm #3: Brain and Behavior (Jan 29)
Feb 5	Sensation & Perception	○ Okami Chapter 5 (exclude pp. 230-240) ○ Asm#4: Oliver Sacks: Hallucinations & perception
Feb 10	Nature & Nurture	○ Okami Chapter 3 ○ Ohman & Mineka (2003) ○ Listen: Sociocultural perspective ○ Asm#5 (2/10): Community Post

Feb 12 & 17	Attachment & Human Development <i>Feb 17: midterm distributed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 4 (pp. 155-180) ○ Mikulincer & Shaver (2007; pp. 139-141)
Feb 19	MIDTERM #1 (no class; midterm due in S402 by 3pm)	
Feb 24 & 26	Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 7 ○ Asm#6 (2/26): Learning
Mar 3 & 5	Memory (and a little on Consciousness & Sleep)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 6 (pp. 270--295) ○ Okami Chapter 8 ○ Elizabeth Loftus TED Talk ○ Asm #7 (3/5): (1) Flow - Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, and (2) H. M.'s Brain and the History of Memory
Mar 10 & 12	Spring Break (No Class)	
Mar 17 & 19	Thinking & Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 9 ○ Asm #8 (3/17): The creativity crisis
Mar 24 & 26	Motivation <i>March 26: Midterm distributed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 10 ○ De Waal Bonobo Sex & Society ○ Asm #9: (3/24): (1) Motivation Behind what we eat or drink, and (2) The silent treatment: Consequences of social ostracism
Mar 31	MIDTERM #2 (no class; midterm due in office (S402) by 3pm)	
April 2	Emotion & Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 11 ○ Sapolsky (2000)
April 7, 9, 14	Social Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 15 ○ Buss (1994) ○ Asm #10 (4/9): How The Hidden Brain does the thinking for us
April 16	Personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 12 ○ Heredity and Behavior Genetics
April 21, 23	Psychological Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 13 ○ Rosenhan (1973) ○ Watch: Sybil: A Brilliant Hysteric ○ Asm #11 (4/21): Community post ○ DUE (4/23): Media Report and Journal Article Assignment
April 28, 30	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Okami Chapter 14 ○ Are all psychological therapies equally effective? Don't ask the Dodo ○ Asm #12 (4/28): Community post ○ DUE (4/30): All Research Credit; bring alternative assignments to class; also bring one-page summary of research credit participation to class.
FINAL EXAM: Due May 9th at 5pm for seniors; May 15th at noon for non-seniors		