

Foundations of Psychology
Psych 100A-002
Course Syllabus- Fall 2017
Monday and Wednesday: 11:15-12:45
Sharpless 430

Professor: Mary Ellen Kelly, Ph. D.
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Office: Sharpless 414
Office Hours: TBA.

Course description and objectives:

This course will introduce students to the diverse and exciting field of psychology. Through our discussions of psychology's many sub-disciplines, students will gain an appreciation for the varied approaches and perspectives used to better understand human mind and behavior. Central to all these approaches is adherence to scientific principles and methodologies in the design, implementation and interpretation of studies. Throughout the course students will be encouraged to evaluate and think critically as we discuss past and current research. The course will conclude with an integrative approach to the study of psychopathologies and abnormal behavior.

Required Textbook and Readings:

Required Textbook: Gazzaniga, M., Heatherton, T., and Halpern, D. (2016) Psychological Science, 5th ed. Norton, NY.

Assigned/Supplementary Readings: Additional readings will be assigned throughout the course. Readings may be primary research articles, review articles and commentaries. All assigned readings are required, could formulate test questions, and may be the focus of class discussion or an assignment. Supplementary readings are listed in Moodle under the *Additional Readings* Folder. Please make sure you can locate this. **Readings will be posted two weeks prior to assigned date.**

Grades and Course Requirements:

Grades are based on the following:

- 10% Attendance and Participation
- 5% Research Participation
- 10% Assignments
- 15% Research Paper
- 15% Exam 1
- 20% Exam 2
- 25% Exam 3

Attendance and Participation:

Class attendance and class participation are an expected course requirement. Students are responsible for all materials covered in class. Please plan to attend. If you are absent due to an illness or because of an unforeseen occurrence please notify me via e-mail.

It is my hope that we have a class that is lively and engaging. Actively asking questions and participating in small and large group discussions will enhance learning and create a stimulating environment. If speaking in public is difficult, questions and comments can also be e-mailed to me directly.

Research Participation:

Students are required to participate in 3 units of research. More information on this to be provided in class.

Short Assignments:

Throughout the course there will be 5 short assignments worth 2 points each. The purpose is to facilitate learning of the course material and to hopefully encourage a more in depth look at particular topics presented in class. Assignments will be posted on moodle with their associated Due Dates. **Late work will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances.**

Research Paper:

Students will write a 5-6 page research paper. There are two parts to this assignment. The first is that you identify an article from a popular news source (e.g. New York Times, Times Magazine) that summarizes a research study in the field of Psychology. The second step requires that you locate the original study (pubmed or Psycinfo) cited in the news article and summarize and evaluate the merits of this study. In achieving this you may refer to other papers cited in this research article. Compare the press coverage with the original findings. Further details will be provided in class. It is highly recommended that you discuss your topic/news article with me prior to handing in the completed assignment.

Exams:

All exams are closed book exams. Exam format, content and other details will be discussed in class.

Grading Scale:**Letter Grade Determination:**

94.0% and above- A/4.0	80.0 – 82.99----- B- / 2.7	67.0-69.99—D+/1.3
90.0 - 93.99---- A-/3.7	77.0-79.99----- C+/2.3	60.0-66.99---D/1.0
87.0-89.99----- B+/3.3	73.0 – 76.99----- C/ 2.0	59.99and less—F/0.0
83.0 – 86.99----- B /3.0	70.0 – 72.99---- C-/1.7	

Academic Honesty:

The Honor Code is in effect at all times. Students must sign a pledge on each exam to state that they have complied with the Honor Code

Note: Audio recording of class lectures requires permission of instructor.

Cell Phones/Laptops

Please silence your cell phones and refrain from reading and responding to texts etc. during class. Laptops are permitted for note taking only. Surfing the web, and multi-tasking with various social media sites is distracting for both you and your neighbours.

Disability Policy:

Haverford College is committed to supporting the learning process for all students. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are having difficulties in the course. There are also many resources on campus available to you as a student, including the Office of Academic Resources (<https://www.haverford.edu/oar/>) and the Office of Access and Disabilities Services (<https://www.haverford.edu/ads/>). If you think you may need accommodations because of a disability, please contact Sherrie Borowsky, Coordinator of Accommodations, Office of Access and Disability Services at hc-ads@haverford.edu. If you have already been approved to receive academic accommodations and would like to request accommodations in this course because of a disability, please meet with me privately at the beginning of the semester (*within the first two weeks if possible*) with your verification letter.