

# Psychology 100: Foundations of Psychology

Spring Semester 2017, M-W 9-10:30am, Sharpless 430

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## Professor

- Jennifer Lilgendahl
- Office: Sharpless 422
- Office hours: Tuesdays, 2-4pm (and by appt.)
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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

- Textbook: Franzoi, S. (2014). *Essentials of Psychology, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. BVT Publishing, Redding, CA.
- Cahalan, S. (2012). *Brain on fire: My month of madness*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- All other readings are available on Moodle.

## Course Requirements and Grading

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following course requirements and my overall impression of your participation in the course. First, your points will be totaled and an initial grade will be determined (93-100% = 4.0; 90-92% = 3.7; 87-89% = 3.3; 83-86% = 3.0; 80-82% = 2.7; 77-79% = 2.3; 73-76% = 2.0; 70-72% = 1.7; 67-69% = 1.3; 63-66% = 1.0; 60-62% = .7; 59% or below is a failing grade). Second, I will evaluate this initial grade in the context of my impression of your participation, including attendance patterns, in class participation and attitude, effort put forth, and whether or not your performance displays a pattern of improvement. Depending on my assessment of these factors, I may adjust your grade one step upward or downward. Participation factors may be especially influential when your point total grade is on the border between two grade levels.

- Exam 1 = 100 pts
- Exam 2 = 100 pts
- Exam 3 = 100 pts
- Research Paper = 100 pts
- Group presentation = 35 pts
- Experiment participation = 15 pts (5 pts for each hour)

## Exams

Exams will all be take-home, closed-book, and self-timed. Exams will involve a combination of multiple choice, 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 research paper. The primary purpose of the paper is to gain experience finding and making sense of primary sources in the research literature. Details and guidance regarding this paper assignment will be provided in class.

## Group Presentation

In the second half of the semester, I will put you into groups of 3 or 4 students, and each group will do a brief (10-15 minute) presentation on article of your choosing, that is relevant to the topic of the day.

## Course Policies

- **Attendance**: Good attendance is expected in this course. In general, I will not penalize you for the occasional missed class (e.g., 1 or 2); however, it is best to email me to let me know ahead of time if you are going to miss class because you are sick or have some kind of conflict. In addition, you are responsible for announcements made in class.
- **Late work**: My policies regarding the grading of late work are as follows:
  - **Exams**: Late exams (i.e., after 5 pm on the due date) will typically not be accepted (and given a zero) unless prior arrangements are made with me involving unavoidable scheduling conflicts, etc. If you think you have an unavoidable conflict, please talk to me as far in advance as possible. Exceptions to this policy may be made at my discretion. Please do not hesitate to talk to me regarding any issues that may affect your ability to turn in your exams on time.
  - **Papers**: Paper grades will be reduced by one grade step (e.g., 4.0 to 3.7) if turned in late on the due date and will be further reduced by one step per day after that.
- **Plagiarism/academic dishonesty**: It goes without saying that any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If I suspect any such behavior may be occurring, I am obligated to report such suspicions to the Haverford Honor Council. It is very important, particularly in the age of the internet, to educate yourself on what constitutes plagiarism. A detailed discussion is available on p. 86 of the Haverford Student Guide (<http://www.haverford.edu/deans/files/studentsGuide1011.pdf>), and I am available to talk at any time if you have any questions or concerns about this very important issue.
- **Permissions**: All of the materials made available to you in this course, including the syllabus, all handouts, the exams, and the PowerPoint slides, are my intellectual property as the professor of this course and should not be shared with anyone or posted anywhere without my permission. Also, lectures should not be recorded without my permission.
- **Accommodating student needs/disabilities**: Students who think they may need accommodations in this course because of the impact of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Students should also contact Sherrie Borowsky Deegan, Access Coordinator, Access and Disability Services ([sborowsky@haverford.edu](mailto:sborowsky@haverford.edu), 610-896-1324) to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.

WK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1	1/18	Introduction to Course	Start reading <i>Brain on Fire</i> , pp. 1-151 (for discussion on 2/8)
2	1/23	Psychology as a Science – Basic Concepts and Critical Thinking	Ch. 1 #1 Shaffer; #2 Moyer
2	1/25	Psychology as a Science (group exercise) / Evolutionary Psychology and “human nature”	#3 Cosmides & Tooby (pp. 1-13) #4 Ohman & Mineka
		<b>I. Biological Bases of Behavior</b>	
3	1/30	The Neuron, Synaptic Activity, and the Brain	Ch. 2, pp. 39-71
3	2/1	Neuroanatomy and Behavior I (Dr. Ramachandran video)	Ch. 2, pp. 39-71; #5 Shammi & Stuss
4	2/6	Neuroanatomy and Behavior II (Dr. Gazzaniga video) – hemispheres and language development	Ch. 2, pp. 39-71; Ch. 8, pp. 327-338
4	2/8	Discussion of <i>Brain on Fire</i> and Review / <b>Exam 1 distributed 2/8 and due by 5 pm, 2/10</b>	<i>Brain on Fire</i> , pp. 1-151
		<b>II. Basic Systems: Learning, Cognition, and Memory</b>	
5	2/13	Learning and Behaviorism	Ch. 6
5	2/15	Perception	Ch. 4, pp. 176-193; #6 Groopman
6	2/20	Attention	Ch. 5, pp. 200-204; #7 Manhart
6	2/22	Memory I	Ch. 7
7	2/27	Memory II	Ch. 7; #9 Loftus
7	3/1	Discussion of <i>Brain on Fire</i>	<i>Brain on Fire</i> , pp. 152-175
		<b>**Spring Break* *</b>	
		<b>III. Social-Situational influences on Behavior</b>	
8	3/13	Social Influence	Ch. 14
8	3/15	Social Influence	Ch. 14
9	3/20	Attitudes and Persuasion, Cognitive Dissonance	Ch. 14; #10 Petty et al
9	3/22	Topics in Social Cognition – Impression formation, Stereotyping and Prejudice, Stereotype Threat <b>Exam 2 distributed on 3/22 and due in class on Monday, March 27</b>	Ch. 14; #11 Fryberg et al
		<b>IV. Personality and Lifespan Development</b>	
10	3/27	Person vs. Situation and the Trait Approach	Ch. 10
10	3/29	Social-Cognitive Approach	Ch. 10; #12 Anderson & Bushman
11	4/3	Psychodynamic Approach	Ch. 10
11	4/5	Lifespan Development	Ch. 3
		<b>V. Mental Health – Psychopathology, Stress, and Coping</b>	(finish <i>Brain on Fire</i> , pp. 175-252)
12	4/10	Introduction to Psychopathology; Focus on Depression – Biological and Cognitive Approaches	Ch. 11,12; #13 Alloy
12	4/12	Guest speaker -- TBA	
13	4/17	Social and Personality Approaches to Depression	Ch. 11, 12; #14 Nolen-Hoeksema
13	4/19	Stress and Coping	Ch. 13; #15 Baixe & Wilhelm
14	4/24	Integrative Discussion of <i>Brain on Fire</i>	<i>Brain on Fire</i> , 175-252
14	4/26	Review for Exam #3 and discuss final papers <b>Exam #3 distributed on 4/26 and due 5 pm, 4/28</b>	
		<b>**Final paper due by noon on Friday, May 12**</b>	