

Introduction to Psychological Science

FALL

PSYCHOLOGY 100

2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to modern psychological science. We have designed this course so that at its successful completion you will: 1) better understand major issues, problems, contemporary theories, research findings, and terminology in psychological science; 2) develop your ability to evaluate the methods employed, evidence obtained, and inferences drawn by behavioral researchers; and 3) understand more fully the value of applying the scientific method to the complex universe of psychological phenomena.

FACULTY and STAFF

Dr. Patricia deWinstanley

Sev 103 • x55705 • patty.dewinstanley@oberlin.edu

Office hours: T - Th 11:00-11:50 & 3:00-4:00

Dr. Al Porterfield

Sev 205 • x58362 • al.porterfield@oberlin.edu

Office hour signup at <http://bit.ly/SeeAl>

Teaching Assistants

Ms. Greta Ivanova and **Ms. Alison Kozol**

Sev 207 • psyc100.ta@oberlin.edu

Office hours: TBA

Psychology Dept Office

Ms. Joan Gleason (Administrative Assistant)

Sev 105 • x58355

Office hours: M - F 8:00-12:00 & 1:30-4:30

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook

Gazzaniga, Heatherton, & Halpern (2012). *Psychological Science (4/e)*. New York: Norton. A link to an online study guide for the text is posted on our *Blackboard* site (see below).

Blackboard Site

We maintain a website on *Blackboard*, the College's online course management site. Log on to *Blackboard* (<http://oncampus.oberlin.edu>) using your ObieID and password. After logging in, you will find *Introduction to Psychological Science* listed under the *My Courses* heading. Our *Blackboard* site comprises textbook quizzes, important announcements, copies of the syllabus, lecture slides, grade information, and other helpful items. The best way to be up-to-date with what is going on with the course is to visit *Blackboard* regularly. You are responsible for any updates that are posted there.

REQUIREMENTS

You will complete 12 online textbook quizzes, four lecture exams, and 12 Supplemental Activity Credits to satisfy the requirements of this course.

Online Quizzes

Twelve 25-item quizzes will cover the assigned reading in your textbook. All quizzes are open-book. However, in order to promote thorough reading of the material before taking the quiz, a strict time limit of 25 minutes will be imposed.

Each quiz will be posted on *Blackboard* at least 24 hours prior to its due date and may be taken from any networked computer. **At 10:00 PM on the due date, the quiz and the opportunity to complete it will disappear.** Beginning the second week of the semester, there is a quiz due every *Wednesday except for Fall Break* (see schedule below). This schedule will help you keep up with your textbook reading and enhance your understanding of the lectures. A missed quiz may only be made up in the event of significant illness or emergency (see point 2 under *Examinations* below).

ONLINE TEXTBOOK QUIZ DUE DATES					
First Module			Second Module		
Quiz	Covers	Due	Quiz	Covers	Due
1	Ch 2	09/12	7	Ch 12	10/31
2	Ch 3	09/19	8	Ch 10	11/07
3	Ch 5	09/26	9	Ch 13	11/14
4	Ch 4	10/03	10	Ch 6	11/21
5	Ch 7	10/10	11	Ch 14	11/28
6	Ch 8	10/17	12	Ch 15	12/05

Examinations

You will complete four non-cumulative lecture exams. Three of these exams will be given during normal class periods, and the fourth will be given during our designated final exam period (see the course calendar on page 4). Each exam will consist of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions covering *only* the lecture material from the immediately preceding course unit. We will maintain the following exam policies:

1. If you anticipate difficulty taking one of the three semester exams on the date listed below due to religious observance, competing coursework, athletic or performance obligations, etc., you must notify the course teaching assistants (TAs) of the problem in writing by **Tuesday, September 18th** so that they can reschedule the exam for you. *After this date, we will reschedule an in-class exam only in cases of documented medical or other emergencies.* Note that last-minute travel arrangements made by you or your parents do *not* constitute such an emergency. Please make sure your parents understand this.
2. To reschedule an exam due to *illness or emergency* (see point 1), notify the unit instructor and TAs by email as early as possible. Under all but the most dire circumstances, this means *before* the class-period in which the exam is to be given.

3. If you miss an exam without prior approval or for reasons apart from a medical or other emergency, you will receive a zero (0) for the exam. *Make-up exams will not be given.*
4. If you arrive late to an examination, you will have only until the end of the class-period to finish the exam.
5. The Registrar schedules the final exam period, and College policy requires that you obtain permission from the Dean of Studies (Ms. Kathryn Stuart, 205 Peters Hall; x58540) to reschedule this exam. *Exam 4 cannot be rescheduled without the approval of the Dean of Studies.*

Supplemental Activities (SAs)

The fourth credit hour of this course is provided to support your completion of 12 Supplemental Activity (SA) credits. This requirement allows you to participate in psychological research and/or engage in independent study of psychology-related topics. You may meet this requirement in various ways within the guidelines presented below and with the assistance and approval of the course instructors and TAs.

Self-designed projects. You can earn SA credits by pursuing your own reading or other exposure to a contemporary issue in psychology or a closely-related field. For example, you may want to do further reading in a specific area mentioned in your text or in class (see *Blackboard* under *Useful Links* for some suggested sources) or watch an approved video. Before undertaking *any* self-designed project for credit, you must submit a brief (one paragraph) proposal to the course TAs and negotiate an SA credit value within the following guidelines:

- You will receive 1 SA credit if you submit a typed one-page summary of a 2 - 5 page lay (e.g., a *NY Times* feature article) or scholarly (professional journal) article, or of a relevant audio-video piece of 20+ minutes (a maximum of 3 SA credits will be granted for audio-video projects).
- You will receive 1.5 – 2.0 SA credits if you submit a typed one-page summary of a scholarly article longer than 5 full pages.

All submissions must be carefully and accurately prepared to receive credit. Remember, **self-designed projects must be approved in advance to receive credit. The deadline to have proposals approved is Dec 1st.**

Special events. Occasionally, you will have the opportunity to attend a special event, such as a presentation / discussion by one of our psychology faculty or a lecture by a visiting scholar in psychology or a related field. You can earn 1.5 SA credits by attending the event and submitting a typed, one-page summary to the TAs *within two business days*. Such special events will be announced in class and on the *Blackboard* site.

Reading extra textbook chapters. You are not required to read chapters 1, 9, and 11 in your text. If one of these non-required chapters piques your interest, you can read it on your own and take a multiple-choice quiz on its contents via *Blackboard*. You will be allowed two attempts for each quiz. If you achieve a score of at least 80% on one of the attempts, you will earn 1.5 SA credits.

Participation in psychological research. One of the simplest ways to earn credits is by participating in research conducted by Psychology Department faculty and upper-division students. Research participation is easy, interesting,

and extremely valuable to all of us in psychology. Earning SA credits through research participation helps you learn about the process of psychological research from the “inside,” enriching your understanding of the many studies that you will read and hear about in this course. Equally important, *your participation advances the scientific understanding of human behavior in a direct and meaningful way.* Much of our knowledge of human behavior has come from research with volunteers like you.

Research opportunities will be available throughout the semester. You can learn about what studies are being done and sign up for them on the Oberlin College Study Signup System (or OCSSuS) which you can access from our *Blackboard* site. **You will earn 0.5 SA credits for each half hour (rounded up) of research participation.**

To help you keep track of your study appointments, OCSSuS automatically sends you an email reminder when you sign up. Should you need to cancel an appointment, you can email the contact person listed in the online description of the study or call the Psych Department administrative assistant *before your appointment*. Simply failing to show up for a research appointment is unacceptable because it wastes the time of the experimenter(s) and oftentimes interferes with the participation of other students. So, **if you fail to show up for a research appointment, you will be penalized 0.5 SA credits.**

Since some studies require prescreening of participants, you will have the opportunity to complete a research participant survey in class on September 13th. You will receive 1 SA credit for completing this questionnaire, leaving you with 11 SA credits to complete during the semester. **You may elect not to participate in this prescreening survey, but doing so will make you ineligible to participate in much of the research taking place during the semester.** The prescreening survey will not be administered at any other time.

We want to encourage you to work on SA activities steadily throughout the semester, rather than putting them off until the last minute. Accordingly, *if you complete and submit to the TAs at least 6 SA credits by 4:30 PM Friday, October 19th, you will receive 1 bonus SA credit.*

The SA Credit Deadline is 4:30 PM Friday, December 7th. *This deadline is absolute. Believe it.* Keep track of your SA credit totals. The TAs will periodically post SA credit totals on *Blackboard* so that you can make sure the TAs' records agree with yours.

GRADING

The four exams will be equally weighted and together will make up 80% of your final grade (assuming you have met the SA credit requirement; see below). The 12 online quizzes will contribute the remaining 20% of your final grade. Exams will be graded on a percentage basis. For each exam, the top score in the class will establish the “100% mark” against which all other exams will be compared. For example, if the class leader on a 100-point exam obtains a score of 91, all other exams will be scaled relative to that mark (e.g., a score of 85 would be recorded as 93.4%). The following grade thresholds will apply to these “adjusted scores”:

98 = A+	88 = B+	75 = C+	55 = D / NP
95 = A	84 = B	70 = C	< 55 = F / NP
92 = A-	80 = B-	65 = C-	

Note that for the P/NP grading option, a final score of at least 65% (C-) is necessary to pass the course.

Graded exams will be placed in alphabetically-labeled boxes located on the second floor hallway of Severance Hall (the Psychology Department's home) for pick up. Up-to-date grade information, both for individuals and for the class as a whole, will be posted on our *Blackboard* site.

SA credits and grades. Completing 12 SA credits is a course requirement. While SA projects do not receive grades as such, they can affect your final grade for better or worse.

Because we want to encourage you to have experiences with psychological science outside of class lectures, completing *more* than 12 SA credits may improve your final grade. For each half (0.5) SA credit you earn beyond 12, half a percentage point will be added to your overall grade average, up to a maximum of two (2) bonus percentage points (i.e., for 14 total SA credits). Conversely, failing to complete the SA requirement will lower your final score. Your SA credit shortfall, *rounded up*, will be deducted from your overall average (e.g., completing 9.5 SA credits will result in a three [3] point reduction in your final percentage). Finally, **if you do not earn at least 7 of the 12 required SA credits, you will fail the course (i.e., F or NP) regardless of your quiz and exam performance.**

Remember: You are receiving 1 hour of course credit for the supplemental activity course component. Earning that credit typically requires an investment of less than one hour per week on average, so you should think of this as an "easy" credit. But *however* you choose to think about the requirement, take it seriously—because we most certainly do.

THE OBERLIN HONOR CODE

The Oberlin College Honor Code will apply to all work submitted in satisfaction of requirements for this course, including exams, online quizzes, and SA credit work. In addition to the *Honor Code's* "basic assumption that all work submitted is the sole and original product of the individual student," the following special stipulations will apply to your work for this course:

1. Examinations, quizzes, and written SA credit work should contain the statement, "*I have adhered to the Honor Code for this assignment,*" along with your signature (or virtual endorsement, in the case of online quizzes).
2. Exams, quizzes, and SA materials *cannot be shared in any form* (hardcopy, digital, verbal, etc.) with persons who may take this course at some future time.
3. Participation in research studies should be genuine and sincere. If you don't want to participate in a particular research study, then *DON'T*—that's why we have made sure there are other ways to complete the SA credit requirement. Because it disrupts the research efforts of Psychology students and undermines the value of the data they collect, students who deliberately sabotage the research studies for which they have volunteered will be held in violation of the *Oberlin Honor Code*.

Violation of the *Honor Code* will result in course failure (F or NP), effected retroactively, if necessary, in addition to whatever penalty is imposed by the Student Honor Committee. Details about the *Oberlin Honor System* can be found online at:

<http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/honorcode.html>

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

1. If we need to get in touch with you, we will do so through the email address listed on *Blackboard*, which is, by default, your *oberlin.edu* address. If you rely on another email account, set your OC Mail to forward incoming messages to that account.
2. Students with special needs (e.g., learning disabilities, vision or hearing problems, etc.) should provide documentation from the Office of Disabilities Services (Peters Hall G-27/28, x55588) regarding accommodations that might be necessary for lectures, quizzes, and examinations as soon as possible. In addition, it is the student's responsibility to remind the instructor prior to in-class exams if a special testing environment is required.

SUMMARY of DEADLINES and IMPORTANT DATES

Sep 13: Add/Drop deadline	Nov 06: P/NP and course withdrawal deadline
Sep 18: Last day to reschedule an in-class exam	Nov 15: Exam 3
Sep 25: Exam 1	Dec 01: SA credit proposals deadline (4:30 PM)
Oct 16: Exam 2	Dec 07: Final SA credit deadline (4:30 PM)
Oct 19: Bonus SA credit deadline (4:30 PM)	Dec 19: Exam 4 (2:00 – 4:00 PM)

LECTURE/EXAM SCHEDULE and TEXTBOOK READING ASSIGNMENTS

We will do our best to maintain the lecture schedule described on the next page. Some modification may become necessary as the semester progresses. Exam dates, however, *will not change*.

PSYC-100 ♦ Introduction to Psychological Science ♦ Fall 2012

Dr. deWinstanley			Dr. Porterfield				
Day		Content	Day		Content		
SEPTEMBER	Mo	3		Mo	29		
	Tu	4	Introduction	Tu	30	Obedience	
	We	5		We	31	Quiz 7 (Ch. 12) due by 10 PM	
	Th	6	Research Methods in Psychology	Th	1	Emotion	
	Fr	7		Fr	2		
	Sa	8		Sa	3		
	Su	9		Su	4		
	Mo	10		Mo	5		
	Tu	11	Research Methods in Psychology	Tu	6	Emotion	
	We	12	Quiz 1 (Ch. 2) due by 10 PM	We	7	Quiz 8 (Ch. 10) due by 10 PM	
	Th	13	* Research Participant Survey *	Th	8	Personality	
	Fr	14		Fr	9		
	Sa	15		Sa	10		
	Su	16		Su	11		
	Mo	17		Mo	12		
	Tu	18	Brain and Behavior	Tu	13	Personality	
	We	19	Quiz 2 (Ch. 3) Due by 10 PM	We	14	Quiz 9 (Ch. 13) due by 10 PM	
	Th	20	Brain and Behavior	Th	15	Exam 3	
	Fr	21		Fr	16		
	Sa	22		Sa	17		
	Su	23		Su	18		
	Mo	24		Mo	19		
	Tu	25	Exam 1	Tu	20	Learning	
	We	26	Quiz 3 (Ch.5) due by 10 PM	We	21	Quiz 10 (Ch. 6) due by 10 PM	
	Th	27	Consciousness and Sleep	Th	22	Thanksgiving	
	Fr	28		Fr	23		
	Sa	29		Sa	24		
	Su	30		Su	25		
	OCTOBER	Mo	1		Mo	26	
		Tu	2	Attention and Perception	Tu	27	Psychological Disorder
We		3	Quiz 4 (Ch. 4) due by 10 PM	We	28	Quiz 11 (Ch. 14) due by 10 PM	
Th		4	Attention and Perception	Th	29	Psychological Disorder	
Fr		5		Fr	30		
Sa		6		Sa	1		
Su		7		Su	2		
Mo		8		Mo	3		
Tu		9	Memory	Tu	4	Psychological Disorder	
We		10	Quiz 5 (Ch. 7) due by 10 PM	We	5	Quiz 12 (Ch. 15) due by 10 PM	
Th		11	Memory	Th	6	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	
Fr		12		Fr	7		
Sa		13		Sa	8		
Su		14		Su	9		
DECEMBER	Mo	15		Mo	10		
	Tu	16	Exam 2	Tu	11	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	
	We	17	Quiz 6 (Ch. 8) due by 10 PM	We	12		
	Th	18	Jury Decision-Making	Th	13	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	
	Fr	19		Fr	14		
	Sa	20	FALL BREAK	Sa	15	Reading Period	
	↓			Mo	17		
	Su	28		Th	19	Exam 4 (2 - 4 PM)	