

# Introduction to Psychological Science

SPRING

PSYCHOLOGY 100

2014

## 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. Al Porterfield

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### Dr. Paul Thibodeau

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### Teaching Assistant (TA): Ms. Greta Grannan-Rubenstein

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### Psychology Dept Office

Ms. Barbara Code & Ms. Joan Gleason (Administrative Assistants)  
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## 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. Visit *Blackboard* regularly. You are responsible for any updates that are posted there.

Note that *Blackboard* includes a course calendar that can be synchronized with your personal Google Calendar. Activating this synchronization feature will insure that you remain aware of the dates for quizzes, exams, and deadlines.

## 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, but a strict time limit

of 25 minutes will be imposed to promote thorough reading of the material before taking the quiz.

Each quiz will appear on *Blackboard* one week prior to its due date and may be taken from any networked computer. Beginning the second week of the semester, there is a quiz due every *Wednesday night except for spring break* (see schedule below). This schedule will help you keep up with your textbook reading, enhancing your understanding of the lectures. Please note the quizzes do not necessarily follow the chapter order of your textbook, and that the 5<sup>th</sup> quiz covers two text chapters, rather than one. The opportunity to take a quiz expires at 9:00 PM on its designated due date, and a missed quiz may be made up only in the event of significant illness or emergency (see point 2 under *Examinations* below). All quizzes will count equally toward your total quiz score.

### ONLINE TEXTBOOK QUIZ DUE DATES

Quiz links disappear at 9:00 PM on date indicated

Quiz	Chapter	Due	Quiz	Chapter	Due
1	Ch 2	02/12	7	Ch 13	04/02
2	Ch 3	02/19	8	Ch 12	04/09
3	Ch 4	02/26	9	Ch 10	04/16
4	Ch 6	03/05	10	Ch 11	04/23
5	Chs 7 & 8	03/12	11	Ch 14	04/30
6	Ch 9	03/19	12	Ch 15	05/07

### 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. 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 strictly enforce the following exam policies:

1. If you anticipate difficulty taking one of the first three exams on its scheduled date due to religious observance, competing coursework, athletic or performance obligations, etc., you must notify the course TA in writing by **Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** so that she can work with you to reschedule the exam. *After this date, an in-class exam will be rescheduled only in cases of documented medical or other emergencies.* Note that travel plans do not constitute such an emergency. (Please make sure your parents understand this, too.)
2. To reschedule an exam due to *illness or emergency* (see point 1), notify the instructors by email as early as possible. Under all but the most dire of 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 non-emergency reasons, you will receive a zero for the exam. *Make-up exams will not be given.*
4. If you arrive late to an exam, you will have only until the end of the class-period to finish it.
5. The Registrar assigns 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 this permission.*

### **Supplemental Activities (SAs)**

The SA 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.

**Extra reading.** You may read and summarize an article on a contemporary issue in psychology or a closely-related field. A list of articles, with URLs for easy access, can be found on *Blackboard* under *SA Resources*. Submission of a brief (1-2 typed pages) summary of any of these articles will earn the SA credit listed for the piece in question. Summaries must be carefully and accurately prepared to receive credit.

**Videos.** *SA Resources* also contains a list of approved TED videos on psychology-relevant topics. Watching and submitting a brief (1 typed page) summary of any of these videos will earn the designated credit. Note: No more than 2 of your 12 required credits can be earned via video viewing.

**Special presentations.** Occasionally, you will have the opportunity to attend a special event, such as 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 TA *within two business days*. Such special events will be announced on *Blackboard*.

**Please submit your summaries of readings, videos, or special presentations using the form provided in the SA Resources area on Blackboard.**

**Unassigned textbook chapters.** You are not required to read chapters 1 and 5 in your text. If one of these non-required chapters piques your interest, you can read it 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.

**Research participation.** One of the simplest ways to earn credits is by participating in research conducted by Psychology faculty and upper-division students. Earning SA credits through research participation helps you learn about the process of psychological research from the "inside," enriching your understanding of the 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 (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 OCSSuS 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.**

Some studies require prescreening of participants, and you will have the opportunity to complete a research participant survey during the second week of class. 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 most of the research taking place during the semester.* This 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 TA at least 6 SA credits by 4:30 PM Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, you will receive 1 bonus SA credit.*

**The SA credit deadline is 4:30 PM Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.** *This deadline is absolute. Believe it.* Keep track of your SA credit totals. The TA will periodically post SA credit totals on *Blackboard* so that you can make sure that her 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 "adjusted percentage" basis. For each exam, the top score in the class will establish the "100% mark" against which all other exams will be scaled. 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 percentages:

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 in 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 *Blackboard*.

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

age (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 scores.**

Meeting the SA-credit requirement typically requires an investment of less than one hour per week on average, so you should think of this as an “easy” requirement. But *however* you choose to think about it, 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. If you choose to involve yourself in research studies, your participation should be genuine and sincere. Students who deliberately sabotage research studies for which they have volunteered will be held in violation of the

*Oberlin Honor Code*, since their actions disrupt the academic efforts of fellow students by undermining the value of the data they collect. *If you do not want to participate in a particular research study, then DON'T.* Avail yourself of one of the other ways that we have provided to complete the SA credit requirement, rather than destroying someone else's hard work.

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 *immediately* 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 necessary.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

We will do our best to maintain the lecture schedule presented on the next page, but some modification may become necessary as the semester progresses. Exam, quiz, and SA credit due dates, however, *will not change*.

FEBRUARY			APRIL		
Day		Topic / Deadline	Day		Topic / Deadline
Mo	3		Mo	31	
Tu	4	Intro to course structure and requirements	Tu	1	Personality
We	5		We	2	Quiz 7 (Ch. 13) expires at 9 PM
Th	6	Research Methods in Psychology	Th	3	Personality
Fr	7		Fr	4	
Sa	8		Sa	5	
Su	9		Su	6	
Mo	10		Mo	7	
Tu	11	Research Methods in Psychology	Tu	8	Social Psychology
We	12	Quiz 1 (Ch. 2) expires at 9 PM	We	9	Quiz 8 (Ch. 12) expires at 9 PM
Th	13	Brain and Behavior	Th	10	Social Psychology
Fr	14		Fr	11	
Sa	15		Sa	12	
Su	16		Su	13	
Mo	17		Mo	14	
Tu	18	Brain and Behavior	Tu	15	Emotion and Motivation
We	19	Quiz 2 (Ch. 3) expires at 9 PM	We	16	Quiz 9 (Ch. 10) expires at 9 PM
Th	20	Sensation and Perception	Th	17	Emotion and Motivation
Fr	21	★ Last Day to Reschedule an In-Class Exam ★	Fr	18	
Sa	22		Sa	19	
Su	23		Su	20	
Mo	24		Mo	21	
Tu	25	Research Participant Survey Outside of Class	Tu	22	EXAM 3
We	26	Quiz 3 (Ch. 4) expires at 9 PM	We	23	Quiz 10 (Ch. 11) expires at 9 PM
Th	27	EXAM 1	Th	24	Health and Well-Being
Fr	28		Fr	25	
Sa	1		Sa	26	
Su	2		Su	27	
Mo	3		Mo	28	
Tu	4	Learning	Tu	29	Psychological Disorders
We	5	Quiz 4 (Ch. 6) expires at 9 PM	We	30	Quiz 11 (Ch. 14) expires at 9 PM
Th	6	Attention and Memory	Th	1	Psychological Disorders
Fr	7		Fr	2	★ SA Credit Deadline 4:30 PM ★
Sa	8		Sa	3	
Su	9		Su	4	
Mo	10		Mo	5	
Tu	11	Attention and Memory / Thinking and Intelligence	Tu	6	Treatment of Psychological Disorders
We	12	Quiz 5 (Ch. 7 & 8) expires at 9 PM	We	7	Quiz 12 (Ch. 15) expires 9 PM
Th	13	Thinking and Intelligence	Th	8	Treatment of Psychological Disorders
Fr	14		Fr	9	
Sa	15		Sa	10	
Su	16		Su	11	Reading Period
Mo	17		Mo	12	
Tu	18	EXAM 2	Tu	13	
We	19	Quiz 6 (Ch. 9) expires at 9 PM	We	14	
Th	20	Human Development	Th	15	
Fr	21	★ Bonus SA Credit Deadline 4:30 PM ★	Fr	16	
Sa	22		Sa	17	EXAM 4 (9:00 - 11:00 AM)
Su	30	SPRING BREAK	Su	18	SEMESTER ENDS