

# PSY 201 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

**TERM:** Winter 2003, January 6<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>

**TIME & LOCATIONS:** TR 8:00-9:20 @ WITH 109

**Professor:** Bob Uttl, Ph.D.

**Office:** Moreland Hall 204D

**Office hours:** TR 8:30-9:30 or by appointment

**Phone:** 541-737-1374

**Email:** [bob.uttl@orst.edu](mailto:bob.uttl@orst.edu)

**Web page:** [www.oregonstate.edu/~uttlb](http://www.oregonstate.edu/~uttlb)

**List server:** psy201uttl@lists.orst.edu

## OVERVIEW

This course introduces you to Psychology as a science. It focuses on the methods of psychology, biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and memory, problem solving and decision making, language, intelligence and cognitive development.

## PREREQUISITES

No specific prerequisites.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Kalat, J.W. (2002). Introduction to Psychology. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth.

## OPTIONAL TEXTS

Study guide for Kalat's Introduction to Psychology.

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

We will use several complementary instructional methods: readings, lectures, multi-media presentations (e.g., movie clips), discussions and in-class projects/mini-experiments. The readings, lectures and multi-media presentations are efficient means of communicating basic knowledge. The discussions give you an opportunity to try-out your understanding of the materials covered in the readings and lectures. In-class projects/mini-experiments provide you with an opportunity to experience many phenomena discussed in assigned reading, lectures and/or other presentations.

## RELATION BETWEEN LECTURES & TEXT

The lectures will be in step with the assigned list of readings. The lectures will not cover all material covered in your text. They are designed to augment the text. You are responsible both for the material covered by your text and the material covered in your lectures.

## REQUIREMENTS

The success of any course rests on your commitment to the course. The course will be interesting, challenging and informative if everybody comes prepared for each meeting, ready to listen carefully and attentively, to learn from and to teach each other. It is essential that you keep up with the readings and come prepared to ask questions and to discuss anything that you do not understand.

Because a part of your grade will be determined by your participation in in-class projects/mini-experiments, your attendance is essential.

**You are required to subscribe to a class mail-server. You are responsible for each and all announcements made on the server. If you have difficulties signing up, CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY.**



## EVALUATION

Your work in PSY201 will be formally evaluated by means of:

**5 BI -WEEKLY TESTS** (non-cumulative; best 4 count, 22.5% each; 90% course grade) The tests will have 40 multiple choice questions and each test will be 40 minutes long.

**IN-CLASS PROJECT/MINI -EXPERIMENT PARTICIPATION** (an exact number varies from year to year but typically you will participate in 12 projects/mini-experiments; 2 absences are automatically excused; a proportion of projects/mini-experiments you participated in determines 10% of your course grade) From time to time, to enhance your hands-on experience with psychology, project/mini-experiments will be conducted using a variety of methods. Whenever you participate in the project/mini-experiment, we will ask you to identify yourself with your student number. For some demonstrations we will present only the grouped data from the class, but for other demonstrations we will return your individual scores to you. To assure your anonymity, we will post your scores by the last 5 digits of your student number (or by an alternate identifier you may choose). Thus you can be completely honest in your responses, and only you will know what scores you actually obtained. In this way you may learn some things about your own personality, attention, perception, learning, memory, problem solving, decision-making and other aspects of your own cognition, which may help you in later life.

**EXTRA CREDITS** (up to 5% course grade) You can earn up to 5% course grade in extra credits: Assignment Credits, Experimental Credits, and Media Credits.

## THE FINAL GRADING SCALE

**FINAL PERCENTAGE GRADE** Given the above, you can calculate your final percentage grade yourself using the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Final\%Grade} = & \\ & 0.90*(BT1+BT2+BT3+BT4)/4 + \\ & 10*(\text{NumberOfProjectsCredited}/(\text{NumberOfProjects}-2)) + \\ & 1.0*\text{AssignmentCredits} + \\ & 1.0*\text{MediaCredits} + \\ & 1.0*\text{ExperimentalCredits} \end{aligned}$$

where BT1 to BT4 are your best four scores on the bi-weekly tests (%grades), NumberOfProjectsCredited is a number of projects you received credit for, and NumberOfProjects is a number of projects conducted. The project component of your grade can contribute maximum of 10% and the extra credit component can contribute maximum of 5% towards your grade.

**FINAL LETTER GRADE** Use the Grade Scale lookup table on the right to determine your final letter grade. The final letter grade scale is non-competitive scale; it is WYSI WYG or What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get scale. The feature advantage of the WYSI WYG scale is that it promotes interaction between you and your colleagues. You can form study groups and generally help each other to understand the material. You can only gain by participating in a study group. In contrast, when you are graded on various curve grading systems, participation in a study group maybe detrimental to your grade because each time you help your classmates understand something, they are more likely to get a better grade, and as a result, you are likely to get worse grade.

Grade scale	
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTRA CREDITS

**ASSIGNMENT CREDITS.** You will have an opportunity to earn extra credits by completing special assignments that will be announced from time to time. For example, I may ask you to summarize and critically evaluate a research report in a brief written report. If you receive credits for the assignment, you must be ready and willing to make a brief 5-10 minutes presentation on your assignment to the class. Not everyone will be asked to make a presentation but if you are asked and you choose not to make the presentation, you will receive no credits for the assignment. The assignment credits will be multiplied by 1 and added to your extra credit total.



**EXPERIMENTAL CREDITS.** One way to learn more about psychological testing is to volunteer for an experiment. You may earn experimental credits (1 credit for each hour) for participating in experiments that will be announced in the class. If you choose this option, please sign up for an experiment and follow any instructions that are listed on the sign-up form. Once you have participated in the experiment, the experimenter will tell you about their work and they will take your name and student id to record your credit hours. The continuing availability of experiments in which you can earn credits is not guaranteed. Hence, it is in your best interest to obtain experimental credits as soon as possible. The experimental credits will be multiplied by 1 and added to your final percentage grade.

If you sign-up for the experiment and you do not show up, the equivalent number of experimental credits will be subtracted from the number of experimental credits you earned. Thus, (credits earned minus credits not shown up for) multiplied by 1 will be added to your extra credits total.

If you do not like to participate in experiments, you may earn experimental credits by writing brief 500 word summaries of recent research reports (1 summary is worth 1 credit). If you choose this option, you need to discuss it with me and get it approved first.

**MEDIA CREDITS.** You can submit newspaper, popular magazine stories, videos that grabbed your attention and that are directly relevant to the material covered by the course. The submission should grab the attention of your colleagues, if presented. You need to submit a

hard copy. Each submission is graded on a PASS/FAIL basis and is worth of 1 media credit. If I ask you to present your submission to class and you agree, you will earn additional 1 media credit. Your media credits will be multiplied by 1 and added to your extra credit total.

## RESOURCES

**COURSE WEB SITE** ([www.onid.orst.edu/~uttlb](http://www.onid.orst.edu/~uttlb)) Course web site will have: online syllabus, announcements, lecture overheads, study guides, practice exam questions, other links to help you succeed in the course, hints on how to study and how to take exams. The web site is also a place to visit to check your grades and your progress.

**COURSE MAILING LIST** (psy201utt1@lists.orst.edu) You are required to subscribe to the course mailing list and to monitor its mail. You are responsible for all announcements posted to the list. You can use this list to communicate with your peers, ask questions, help others. Coherent, course relevant messages including help provided to your peers in answering questions posted to the mail list may earn you extra credit points.

**OSU Computer Labs** OSU has numerous computer labs open either 24 hours or into the late night hours.

**FAQ** Frequently Asked Questions and answers will be posted on the course website.

## REQUESTS, COMMENTS, FEEDBACK, & WISHES

You may and you are encouraged to post to the mail list or to communicate to me directly any requests, comments, or any ideas related to this course for benefits of your classmates. You can also submit you requests, comments, feedback & wishes via email to me (anonymous submissions from any computer worldwide will be considered).

## COURSE POLICIES: READ THESE POLICIES VERY CAREFULLY!

### MISSED TESTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER DEADLINES

**The tests will be given on published dates only.** There will be no make-up examinations or tests. **MISSED EXAMS RECEIVE GRADE ZERO UNLESS YOU ESTABLISH** valid medical and other serious excuses (please note that parties, snow-boarding trips, visits by family and friends are not serious excuses). Documentation (i.e., a valid, current note from a medical practitioner) is required to establish a valid excuse within 10 days of the illness end. If you are going to miss a test or exam for a valid medical reason, you must inform me *in advance of the test or examination*. No after-the-fact excuses will be accepted. Please call my office or email me.

Late assignments receive zero.

### CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION

Your comments and questions are welcome in class. Classroom discussions are an important part of this course, and you are expected to share your questions, comments and ideas. Your regular attendance in class is required and expected.

**You are responsible for all materials, including all announcements and changes in the course schedule that are made in class, announced via the course mail list and/or the course website**

You are required to subscribe to a class mail-server. You are responsible for each and all announcements made on the server. If you have difficulties signing up, CONTACT ME (OR Teaching Assistant) IMMEDIATELY.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty does not help you to learn the material, it is not fair to other students, and it will not be tolerated. You are responsible for reading and being knowledgeable about the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism (consult <http://www.orst.edu/admin/stucon> and <http://www.orst.edu/admin/stucon/regs.htm>). In particular, note that:

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO**

**"CHEATING"** (the intentional use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids);

**"FABRICATION"** (the intentional falsification or invention of any information including data, medical notes, excuses, etc.);

**"ASSISTING IN DISHONESTY OR TAMPERING"** (intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of dishonesty or tampering with evaluation instruments and documents); and

**"PLAGIARISM"** (intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own).

**IN CASES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, THE GRADE OF F WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE COURSE, AND A REPORT OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE FILED AS REQUIRED BY UNIVERSITY POLICY.**

## LECTURES, READING & DEADLINES

WEEK	READINGS	TOPICS
#1	Chap. 1	Introduction, Course Outline, Grading Policies, Academic Dishonesty What is Psychology? What can you do with it?
#2	Chap. 2	Scientific methods in psychology  <b>**THURSDAY JAN 16 SECTION TEST #1**</b>
#3	Chap. 3	Biological psychology
#4	Chap. 4	Sensation and perception  <b>**THURSDAY JAN 30 SECTION TEST #2**</b>
#5	Chap. 5	States of consciousness
#6	Chap. 6	Learning  <b>**THURSDAY FEB 13 SECTION TEST #3**</b>
#7	Chap. 7	Memory
#8	Chap 8	Problem solving, Decision making & Language  <b>**THURSDAY FEB 27 SECTION TEST #4**</b>
#9	Chap. 9	Intelligence and its measurement
#10	Chap 10	Human development  <b>**THURSDAY MAR 13 SECTION TEST #5</b> <b>***** THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL *****</b>

### WEB LINKS TO CHECK if your career goal is in Psychology

APA Psychology In Daily Life: <http://www.apa.org/pubinfo/>

Careers in Psychology and Job Outlook: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos056.htm>

### DISCLAIMER

The syllabus is tentative and subject to change.