

FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 150
Fall 2004

Instructor:

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Clough 129
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Office hours: Mon 9:00-11:00pm, Wed 10:00-11:00pm

Meeting Time and Place:

Mon, Wed & Fri, 11:00-11:50 am
Clough 114

Required Texts

Tavris, C., & Wade, C. (2001). Psychology in Perspective. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Hock, R. R. (1996). Forty studies that changed psychology: Explorations into the history of psychological research. Harper-Collins, Inc.

Goals

Psychology is a very broad discipline covering the entire gamut of human behavior. In this course, we will attempt to make a general survey of the topics included in psychology. I expect that after taking this class you will have a respect for the complexity of human behavior and for the scientific method as a way of understanding this complexity.

1. You will gain factual knowledge (terminology, methods, trends).
2. You will learn how to apply your knowledge (e.g., reaction papers, presentations, experimentation).
3. You will learn fundamental principles and theories.
4. You will develop skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

Exams

To evaluate your knowledge and understanding of psychology, there will be four exams (including a cumulative final). Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-essay questions. A typical test might have 30 multiple choice questions, 3-5 short-answers and 1 essay question. The final exam is comprehensive.

Reaction Papers

You will write 2 reaction papers. Any articles from Hock can be chosen. The papers are limited to 3 pages (double-spaced). In the paper, you will briefly summarize their findings, interpret the meaning of the results/discussion, and critique the article. You should also write possible follow-up studies that may build on their contributions (e.g., if I were to conduct a study, what would I do?) Each paper is worth 15 points.

Article Presentation (individual)

You will prepare a 10 minute presentation on the article that is chosen from the Hock book, "Forty studies that changed psychology" (please don't select the one you will use in your reaction papers.) You will summarize major findings of the article, critique the findings and generate discussion.

Research Paper (group)

You can choose any topics within psychology, conduct research (experiment, observation, survey, self-analysis, etc) and write a short research paper. The paper should be about 2-3 pages in length (single-spaced). It excludes title, abstract, reference and picture/table pages). You and your partners will do background research on your topic, find 6-8 relevant articles, run 15-20 participants and write a report. Eight to ten references should be discussed in the paper. The references should come from reliable sources (e.g., published articles in academic journals). No articles from the Internet will be accepted.

Your research paper should be written in APA format and include abstract, introduction, method, results and discussion. Later in the semester, I will discuss how to write a research paper in APA and what information should be included in each section of the paper. You will turn in one paper per group.

Here are some interesting topics in psychology.

How does coffee consumption affect your memory?

Is there a relationship between weather and mood?

Do people keep track of sources (e.g., CNN) when they read news?

What are some strategies to aid memory and which strategy works best?

Group Presentation

Groups of 3 students will be responsible for preparing a presentation on your research topic (about 25-30 min.) Students will be required to give background information on your topic, discuss relevant research articles (6-8 articles), report your results, and generate discussion. The presentation will be made near the end of the semester.

Pop Quizzes/Activity

Approximately 10 unannounced quizzes will be given in class. They will be short (1-3 questions) and will emphasize material that was taught on the particular day and/or the previous day.

Experiment Participation

You are encouraged to participate in research in the department of psychology (3 hours). By volunteering in experiments, you will understand how psychologists study human behavior and what kinds of methodologies are being used. To sign up for an experiment, go to the bulletin board near the north doors of Clough, find an experiment and sign your name.

You will be given an alternative to the experiment participation if you do not wish to be a research participant or are not able to schedule an experiment.

Grading

Test 1	50 points
Test 2	50 points
Test 3	50 points
Final (cumulative)	70 points
Research paper	20 points
Article Pres.	25 points
Group pres.	35 points
Class participation	40 points
Pop quizzes/activity	30 points
<u>2 Reaction papers</u>	<u>30 points (15points each)</u>
	400 points

You can earn a total of 400 points and the percentage of the total points obtained will be used to determine your grade according to the following:

90% or above	(360-400)	= A
80-89%	(320-359)	= B
70-79%	(280-319)	= C
60-69%	(240-279)	= D
Below 59%	(0-239)	= F

Excuses

The exams should be taken on the day assigned. I will only allow one make-up exam under highly unusual circumstances (e.g., sickness requiring doctor's visit). **10 points will be deducted** each day for late paper.

Class Participation

This will regard from showing up for class, civility in the classroom and participation in discussion to collaboration with your partners in your project. Inappropriate behaviors such as sleeping, talking, and leaving in the middle of class will not be tolerated under any circumstance. These unacceptable behaviors will be carefully monitored and reflected in your grade.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts, data, ideas or language as your own. You should not use other's work without giving the author credit. We treat plagiarism as a serious offense.

Honor Code

You must abide by the Honor Code outlined by your student handbook. It is a violation to consult old tests, papers, or handouts before doing assignments. It is also a violation to turn in a paper written for another course.

Class Schedule of Topics (TENTATIVE)

Week beginning	Topic & reading	Activity/Assignments
8/22	Explaining human behavior (ch. 1)	
8/29	Chapter 1 contd.	PsycInfo tutorial (Mon) at Burrow Library
9/5	Studying human behavior (ch. 2)	
9/12	Meeting with the instructor (Form Research Groups)	<u>3 research ideas Due</u> (Mon)
9/19	Evolution and genetics of behavior (ch. 3)	<u>Rsch proposal Due</u> (Mon)
9/26	Neurons, hormones, & the brain (ch. 4)	Test 1 ch. 1,2,&3 (Mon) Find relevant articles
10/3	Behavioral learning (ch. 5)	<u>References Due</u> (Fri)
10/10	Social & cognitive learning (ch. 6)	RP #1 due (Fri)
10/17	Fall Recess	
10/24	Thinking & Reasoning (ch. 7)	Test 2 ch. 4,5, & 6 (Wed)
10/31	Memory (ch. 8)	
11/7	The social context (ch. 9) The cultural context (ch. 10)	
11/14	The inner life (ch. 11) The psychodynamic perspective (ch. 12)	Test 3 ch. 7, 8,& 9 (Mon)
11/21	Group presentation Thanksgiving!	RP#2 due(Fri) 11/22*
11/28	Group presentation contd.	11/29*, 12/1*, 12/3*
12/5	Student pres. contd. 12/8 (last day of class)	12/6* Research Paper Due (last day of class)
12/14	Finals week	Final (comprehensive)

* Group Presentation Dates