

PSYC 1a - Introductory Psychology
Brandeis University
Syllabus - Summer Session 2008

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Goal: The goal of this class is to provide an overview of the theories and research used in the study of psychology. At the completion of this course, you should be able to discuss the major questions and issues confronting psychologists and how psychology has contributed to human knowledge and understanding.

Format: The class will be formatted as a lecture and active learning style class. Each week, you will be asked to read assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss and/or ask questions about what you have read. Whenever possible, the class will be divided between lecture and structured classroom time during which you break into small groups to tackle a specific problem or discuss a specific experiment.

Texts:

Baron, R. A. , & Kalsher (2005). Psychology: From science to practice, 5th edition.
Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Requirements: Your work in this course will be evaluated by the following criteria:

Class participation: Active class participation is critical. You are expected to be prepared to discuss any questions you may have relative to the readings. In addition, a week before each test, you will email me to let me know if there are any unanswered questions you might have. Actually, you are encouraged to email anytime you have a question, but a minimum of one email a week before each test is required. I will be respond to your questions either by email or in class. (You must email me something; if nothing else, just a quick message that you have no questions.) Class participation also includes attendance; you are expected to come to class regularly. Class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Tests: Three 60 minute tests will be given, each worth 30% of your final grade. The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions, matching, and short answer essay questions. Tests will not be cumulative.

In summary, grades will be based on the following criterion:

Class Participation	10%	Per Class
Test 1	30%	June 12th
Test 2	30%	June 23th
Test 3	30%	July 3th

Final Grades:

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

Other Important Items:

Respect for all opinions: In a class such as this, there may be a variety of opinions on some more controversial topics. All opinions are welcome provided that they do not intentionally degrade or denigrate any particular group or individuals. All members of the class should be sensitive to the feelings of others.

Course Outline

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
6/2	Introduction to Course: Psychology as a Science	Syllabus Chapter 1
6/3	Behavioral Neuroscience I	Chapter 2
6/5	Behavioral Neuroscience II	
6/9	Sensation and Perception I	Chapter 3
6/10	Sensation and Perception II	
6/12	***Test One*** Learning I	Chapter 5
6/16	Learning II/ Memory I	Chapter 6
6/17	Memory II	
6/19	Human Development I	Chapter 8
6/23	***Test Two*** Human Development II	
6/24	Personality I	Chapter 12
6/26	Personality II	
6/30	Psychological Disorders I	Chapter 14
7/1	Psychological Disorders II	
7/3	***Test Three***	