

Instructor: Jessica Maryott
Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA
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Class meets M T Th, 6:30-9pm

Text: Wade, C. & Tavris, C. (2008). Psychology (9th Edition). Pearson.

Course Description: This course is designed to give you an introduction to the science of behavior. We will talk about how and why people (and animals!) do what they do. Topics will include an overview of the anatomy, chemistry and electrical signaling of the brain, sensation and perception (the senses), learning and memory, social psychology, developmental psychology, theories of personality, and clinical psychology (a basic introduction to abnormal psychology). We will cover an array of topics in order to become familiar with the common themes of psychology's many subfields. This course will prepare you to take many upper level psychology and neuroscience courses.

Each session will be divided into two mini lectures with a short break in between.

Course Goals:

- 1) A basic understanding of how psychologists conduct research and evaluate their findings.
- 2) An understanding of basic psychological processes and how they are manifested in behavior.
- 3) An understanding of both the history and the current theories of psychology.
- 4) The ability to read and critically examine results in psychological research.
- 5) The ability to use what you have learned in your everyday lives.

Expectations: Because summer classes are usually small, this course will emphasize discussion more than normal lecture courses will. You are expected to do the reading and participate in class by asking questions and thinking critically about the information you have read. I also expect you to be honest in your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. I am obligated to forward instances of suspected dishonesty to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course, and suspension from the University. If you have questions about my expectations, please ask.

Course Grade: Your course grade will primarily reflect your performance on three exams. The first two exams will carry equal weight; the third exam will be weighted 1.5 times as much as either of the first two exams. The third examination will emphasize material from the final portion of the course but will draw on material from the entire course. Examinations will include a combination of multiple choice and short, essay style questions. Your grade will be on a standard scale on which A \geq 92.5%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87.5-89.5%, B 82.5-87%, B- 80-82%, C+ 77.5-79.5%, C 72.5-77%, C- 70-72%, D+ 67.5-69.5%, D 62.5-69%, and D- 60-62%.

The **ONLY** excuses acceptable for missing an exam are illness (documented by a note from a physician), funeral of close friend/relative (documented by a funeral notice or funeral bulletin), mandatory religious obligations or other unavoidable circumstances or University activities.

Special Needs: If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Syllabus:

Day	Topic	Read
Monday 6/1	Introduction, overview A little history, methodology.	Chapter 1, 2
Tuesday 6/2	Evolution Evolution (continued)	Chapter 3
Thursday 6/4	The brain and nervous system Anatomy	Chapter 4
Monday 6/8	Action Potentials Sensation	Chapter 4, 6
Tuesday 6/9	Sensation Perception	Chapter 6
Thursday 6/11	Exam 1 Learning and Memory	Chapter 7
Monday 6/15	Learning and Memory Learning and Memory (continued)	Chapter 7, 10
Tuesday 6/16	Learning and Memory Learning and Memory (continued)	Chapter 10
Thursday 6/18	Cognitive Development Cognitive Development (continued)	Chapter 9, 14
Monday 6/22	Social Development Social Development (continued)	Chapter 14
Tuesday 6/23	Social Cognition Emotion	Chapter 11, 8
Thursday 6/25	Exam 2 Social Influence and Relationships	Chapter 8
Monday 6/29	Personality Personality (continued)	Chapter 13
Tuesday 6/30	Psychopathology Psychopathology (continued)	Chapter 16