TENTATIVE SYLLABUS (subject to change)
Psyc 10a: Introduction to Psychology
Summer 2016
Mon, Tues, & Thurs 11am-1:20pm, Room TBA

Instructor: Prof. Michael Polito
Contact information: Office: Brown 108; Phone: 6-3267
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Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 2-2:30pm (and by appointment)
Course website: http://latte.brandeis.edu/

Textbook
Should you purchase an earlier edition, you are still accountable for material covered in the 11th. Any additional materials will be posted on LATTE, as needed.

I. Course Aims and Objectives:
This course serves as an introduction to Psychology. We will cover many of the subfields of Psychology, with a focus on scientific research into the human mind. You will be challenged to hone your critical thinking skills through the course material, written assignments, and active class participation. What I would most like for you to gain from this course is 1) an appreciation of the breadth of the field of psychology, and 2) the ability to critically evaluate findings from the behavioral sciences that you will encounter in the media and everyday life.

II. Format and Procedures:
Classes will rely on an interactive lecture format. To learn the most in this class, you should complete the readings, attend each class, and participate actively. Each class meeting will focus on one chapter’s worth of material.

III. Course Requirements:
1. Five Quizzes (16% each = 85% of your final grade)
Exams will occur about every week, and will consist primarily of multiple choice questions, with some short answer items. The last quiz will occur during the final examination period.

2. Written assignments (15% of your final grade)
There will be short written assignments of handed out in class, to be handed at the beginning of the next class. Assignments turned in late will be docked 10%, with an additional 10% penalty for each day that the assignment is late.

Students are expected to attend every class for the whole period, paying full attention and participating. Failure to do so on more than one class meeting will result in a lowering of the student’s final grade. Make-up quizzes may be offered with advance arrangement.
Cut offs for final letter grades (you must meet or exceed the cut-off to receive that letter grade):
95 = A;  90 = A-;  87 = B+;  83 = B;  80 = B-;  77 = C+;  73 = C;
70 = C-;  67 = D+;  63 = D;  60 = D-;  < 60 = F

Note that grades will not be rounded up (i.e., in order to earn an “A-”, you have to surpass the threshold of “90”; a final grade of 89.9 will earn an “B+”)

IV. Academic Integrity
You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. This includes using original wording (created by you) rather than taking wording verbatim from a text or website. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded 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 any questions about my expectations, please ask.

Electronic devices are forbidden during exams, unless it is a documented accommodation. Any work submitted by a student for academic credit must be the student's own work. Do not submit work that presents the ideas of others as one’s own, fails to properly cite sources, and/or lifts sentences or ideas from the works of others. If you wish to bring in an idea or a quote from an outside source and are uncertain how to cite them, please feel free to ask me how to reference it. You have been warned. I will not hesitate to bring any student caught cheating before the Academic Judiciary Board. If you are at all uncertain as to whether something you are doing would count as cheating, ask me before you turn it in.

V. Electronic Devices
Cell phones should be turned off and put away during lecture. Laptops should only be used for notetaking and following class material, and are permitted only in the front of the classroom. These devices distract you or your classmates from the lecture, and this policy is intended to improve your learning (research suggests you should actually take notes by hand rather than on a laptop).

VI. Accommodations for students with disabilities
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.

VII. Personal reactions to topics
Sometimes material covered in a Psychology class can bring up personal feelings and reactions that you may not know how to handle. In these cases, please feel free to make use of the counseling services available on campus at the Psychological Counseling Center, located in the Mailman House at (781) 736-3730. http://www.brandeis.edu/pcc/
For anonymous peer counseling, call the Brandeis Counseling & Rape Crisis hotline: 6-TALK