

PSYC 10A: Introduction to Psychology

Class time: M, T, Th 11:00am-1:20pm

Instructor: Laura Paige, M.A., Doctoral Candidate (expected graduation May 2018)

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm-2:30pm; Thursdays 1:30pm-2:30pm; or by appointment

Course website: <http://latte.brandeis.edu/>

Course Aims and Objectives

This course serves as an introduction to Psychology and will cover many of the subfields of Psychology, with a specific focus on scientific research into the human mind. Students will be challenged to hone their critical thinking skills through the course material, written assignments, and active class participation. From this course, students should gain 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.

Course Materials

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, assignments, office hours, preparation for exams, etc.)

You are encouraged to attend office hours, especially to review material if you are not performing as well as you would like on exams.

Textbook: Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D.T., Wegner, D.M., & Nock, M.K. (2014). *Psychology* (4th edition). New York: Worth. Additional readings for assignments will be posted on LATTE, as needed. Should you purchase an earlier edition, you are still accountable for material covered in the 4th edition.

LaunchPad is Worth's online learning space that integrates the full eBook along with activities, interactive learning objects, videos, and more. *Use of this resource is optional, but it provides helpful study tools.* LaunchPad access should be included with textbook bundles purchased through the bookstore. If you purchase a textbook from another source or would like to purchase only the eBook (rather than a hard copy of the book), you can consult the following webpage for direct purchase or to access: <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/schacter3e/1256749> (more purchase information: <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/Catalog/product/psychology-thirdedition-schacter>)

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Depending on the pace of the course, some topics may be shifted slightly or covered in less detail. However, deadlines are fixed and will not change. Please read assigned chapters PRIOR to class.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
June 4	Introduction to the course & field	Course syllabus
	History of Psych	Schacter Ch. 1
June 5	Methods of Psychology	Schacter Ch. 2
	Brain & Behavior	Schacter Ch. 3
June 7	Sensation & Perception	Schacter Ch. 4
June 11	Memory	Schacter Ch. 6
June 12	Exam 1 Learning	Schacter Ch. 7
June 14	Consciousness	Schacter Ch. 5
June 18	Language & Thought	Assignment 1 due at beginning of class Schacter Ch. 9
June 19	Development	Schacter Ch. 11
June 21	Emotion & Motivation	Schacter Ch. 8
June 25	Exam 2 Social Psychology	Schacter Ch. 13
June 26	Personality	Schacter Ch. 12
June 28	Psychological Disorders	Assignment 2 due at beginning of class Schacter Ch. 15
July 2	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Schacter Ch. 16
July 3	Stress & Health	Schacter Ch. 14
July 5	Exam 3 (non-cumulative)	

Course Requirements

Requirement	% of Final Grade
Three exams (25% each)	75%
Two written assignments (10% each)	20%
Class attendance and participation	5%
TOTAL	100%

1. **Three exams (25% each)** – Exams will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions and short answer items. The exams are *non-cumulative*, although some of the topics may naturally build upon previous topics in the course.
2. **Two written assignments (10% each)** – Specific details to follow.
 - a. **Policies on written assignments**
 - i. **Please submit hard copies.**
 - ii. **Late assignments:** *Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day of the deadline.* Assignments turned in during or at the end of class will be docked 5%, with a 10% penalty for each day that the assignment is late. Computer problems are no excuse. Late assignments should be submitted to Prof. Paige’s mailbox in Brown 125.
 - iii. **Petitions for re-grade.** Details and deadlines will be announced in class and on LATTE. These must be submitted to Prof. Paige in writing (e-mail or in person requests will not be considered). **Note that grades can go up or down on a re-grade**, according to Prof. Paige’s discretion.
 - iv. **Need some assistance with your assignments?** Please plan to visit office hours or talk to the Writing Program:
<http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/writing/>.
3. **Class Attendance and Participation (5%)** – Students are expected to attend each class, do the readings in advance, and come prepared to ask questions and discuss the material. There will be a sign in sheet each class that students are expected to sign for credit toward this portion of the grade. Please talk to me in advance if there is a special circumstance.

Deadlines and dates for exams are to be strictly followed. Make-up exams will be offered only *with advance arrangement* in the case of serious illness or attendance at a funeral.

Documentation must be provided. Should such a situation arise, please contact the Office of Academic Services (6-3470) as soon as possible for help documenting and contacting faculty.

Cut offs for final letter grades (you must meet or exceed the cut-off to receive that letter grade):

92.5 = A; 88.5 = A-; 84.5 = B+; 80.5 = B; 76.5 = B-; 72.5 = C+; 68.5 = C;

64.5 = C-; 60.5 = D+; 56.5 = D; 52.5 = D-; < 52.5 = F

Note that grades will not be rounded up (i.e., in order to earn an “A”, you have to surpass the threshold of “92.5”; a final grade of 92.4 will earn an “A-”).

Note that I reserve the right to make the grade distributions more generous, if needed (e.g., if class averages are much lower than expected).

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as Section 4 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.

Electronic devices are forbidden during exams, unless it is a documented accommodation. Any work submitted by a student in this course 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.

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 provide documentation to me as soon as possible.

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. I will rarely give trigger warnings, as you should be prepared to deal with sensitive topics in the field of Psychology. If needed, please 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