

PSYCHOLOGY 100B
Introduction to Psychology
Spring 2007

Class Information

Mon, Wed, Fri, 10:00 - 11:00

Room: Brown 100

Text: *Psychology* (6th ed.)
Gleitman, Fridlund, & Reisberg

Instructor Information

Brian Carpenter, Ph.D.

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Teaching Assistants

Name	Office	Phone	E-mail	Office hours
Brian Bergstrom	Psychology 208A	935-4296	bergstrom@wustl.edu	Monday 1:30-2:30
Veronica Shead	Psychology 322B	935-6546	vlshead@wustl.edu	Tuesdays 9:00-10:00

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this class we'll begin to explore human thought, feeling, and action. Psychology is a broad discipline that spans many topics, and this introductory course, by necessity, can only provide a general introduction. If you find yourself intrigued by a topic that you encounter during the semester, chances are there is a more in-depth upper-level course that will take you deeper into that area. So one way to use this course is to help you discover what you find interesting about psychology and what you might like to study further.

But even if this is the only psychology course you take, here you'll get broad exposure to many facets of this science. And psychology is a science—a behavioral and social science that uses the scientific method to understand human beings. Throughout the semester, you'll learn about experiments that have been designed to understand the phenomena of interest to psychologists. While you are learning more about how the body influences the mind and how the mind influences the body, you'll also learn what psychologists do and how we use the scientific method to explore ideas about human nature. Along the way you also may learn psychological principles that can help you understand yourself, your friends, your parents, and other people you encounter every day. Psychology is relevant to everyone, regardless of your major, regardless of your eventual career, and this course may help you see how psychology goes on around you every day.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

This syllabus provides some of the information you will need about class. A more comprehensive resource is the class web page. You'll need to consult the web page to find out

about reading assignments, exam grades, and other class updates. Here is the address for the class web page:

<http://artsci.wustl.edu/~bcarpent/intro/home.htm>

Also make sure check your Wash U e-mail account. I may occasionally use e-mail to make announcements about class and contact you individually, if necessary. You may want to check Wash U's on-line directory to make sure the e-mail address listed with the university is the one you want to use; that's the address to which all messages will go.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading assignments

Readings will come from two sources, your textbook and articles that are available on electronic reserve. The textbook has a companion web site that includes chapter summaries, demonstrations and activities, quizzes, crossword puzzles, and supplemental articles. The password for the web site is provided in the front of your textbook, and the address is:

<http://www.wwnorton.com/gleitman/>

To get access to the on-line reserve articles, the ERes password for this course is "mind", no quotes required. The articles on reserve include a range of materials, from scientific papers that describe research studies to case studies to materials from the popular press. In general, they expand material from the textbook. Consult the class web page for these reading assignments.

All readings should be completed before the class to which they apply. During lectures I'll assume you are familiar with material from the reading. In class I'll highlight important concepts from the readings and expand on the material, and in order to follow the discussion it will be important for you to be familiar with the readings that have been assigned. Exams also will assume you are familiar with material from the reading even if we have not reviewed it explicitly in class.

Class participation and attendance

Even though this is a large class I encourage you to participate in class discussions. Raise questions, debate (constructively and respectfully) with me and your classmates, and propose new ways of thinking about the information you are learning. Also, feel free to bring in personal stories and experiences, as long as they are relevant to the topic under discussion.

Attendance at lectures is your responsibility. I won't take attendance, but you should know that material from lectures is just as likely to appear on exams as material in the readings. If you are unable to attend class, please ask a classmate if you may share their notes. The TAs will not be able to provide notes for you.

Exams

During the semester we will have three exams, followed by a cumulative final exam at the end of the semester. Study sessions will be conducted prior to each exam. The exams during the semester will be held during class time. Check the course schedule on the web site for the exam dates. The final exam will be during the official finals period.

The only acceptable reason for missing an exam is attendance at another university event or a medical emergency. Regarding other university events, they are planned well in advance, and if you know that you won't be able to take an exam during the regularly scheduled time because of a university event, please let me know, in writing, by February 1st. Regarding medical emergencies, please bring me a note from your physician. I will make arrangements for you to take the exam at another time. Otherwise, no make-up exams will be offered.

Participation in additional assignments

In order to give you first-hand experience seeing how psychology experiments are conducted, part of your grade for the course will come from your participation in experiments that are run in the Psychology Department. You can complete the equivalent of 6 hours of experiment time, for 6 points. Details about how to participate appear later in the syllabus.

If you prefer not to complete that many experiments (or any experiments), as an alternative you may write one or more papers (each 1 page long, single spaced, with 1" margins, 12-point font) on topics that are available on the course web site. Each paper is worth 1 point, and you may write up to 6 papers, for a maximum of 6 points.

Another option is to attend one or more of the Psychology Department colloquia (lectures), held on occasional Monday afternoons from 4:00-5:00. These include faculty visiting from other universities who come to talk about their research. You can earn 1 point for each lecture you attend. See the Psychology Department web site (<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~psych/>) for details on the schedule of speakers for this semester. You must sign up to attend each lecture as if you were signing up for an experiment (in this case, Experiment 100).

All experiments must be completed by the end of classes (5:00 on Friday, April 27th), and all papers must be turned in to my office (paper copies, no e-mail versions) by that deadline as well.

One piece of advice: don't wait until the end of the semester to sign up for experiments, as some experiments fill up quickly and you may be left with few choices as everyone rushes to participate in experiments as the semester wraps up. Instead, I would encourage you to start participating in the experiments early in the semester.

Course evaluation

Course evaluations are an important way for you to express your opinion about course content and instruction. I use the information from evaluations to modify the class for future sections, and it's valuable feedback for me. In order to get a representative sample of opinion in the class, it's important that everyone complete the evaluation. You can earn one extra point toward your grade if you complete the course evaluation later in the semester. Here's the

website for evaluations: <http://evals.wustl.edu>

Grading

Grades are assigned based on the number of points you accumulate during the semester. There will be no opportunities for extra credit, so it is important that you concentrate on the assignments throughout the semester. If you have questions about your progress in class please speak to me BEFORE they become dire. The maximum points for each assignment are:

Assignment	Maximum	% of total grade
Exam #1	50	24
Exam #2	50	24
Exam #3	50	24
Final exam	50	24
Research/papers/colloquia	6	4
Course evaluation	1	--
Total	207	100

Final grades are calculated as follows:

Your score range	Percentage equivalent	Letter grade	Grade point equivalent
201-206	98-100	A+	4.0
191-200	93-97	A	4.0
185-190	90-92	A-	3.7
179-184	87-89	B+	3.3
170-178	83-86	B	3.0
164-169	80-82	B-	2.7
158-163	77-79	C+	2.3
150-157	73-76	C	2.0
144-149	70-72	C-	1.7
137-143	67-69	D+	1.3
129-136	63-66	D	1.0
123-128	60-62	D-	0.7
< 122	< 60	F	0.0

If you are taking this class Pass/Fail, you must earn a C- or better to earn a passing grade. If you feel that your grade on a test was unfair, you have the right to appeal. In such cases, write a note stating a) what test item you are questioning, and b) your rationale for the appeal. Appeals should be sent to the instructor, not the TAs. Appeals must be submitted within one week of the time grades for the exam were posted.

Class etiquette

Mutual respect and politeness will enhance the learning experience for everyone in this large class. Please treat each other, the TAs, and me just as you would wish to be treated by others. Here are a couple points to remember.

- ◆ Arriving late. Class starts promptly at 7 minutes after the hour. If you arrive late, please choose a seat in the back of the class to minimize disruption.
- ◆ Technology. Please turn off all phones and pagers before the beginning of class.
- ◆ Talking. Once the class has begun, talking will distract other students and me. Please don't talk during lectures unless you are making a comment for the entire class to hear.

A Note on Academic Integrity

As a member of the Wash. U. academic community you are bound by honor regarding your academic work. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used as your own, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Plagiarism is another unacceptable practice. Plagiarism occurs when an individual uses the thoughts or words of another person as if they were their own. In your written work, you must provide adequate citation of other people's work. Identify where your ideas have come from when they are not your own. Academic dishonesty on any assignment will result in written notification of the charge, a score of 0 on the assignment, and referral to the Dean. If you have questions about what might constitute academic dishonesty, please talk with me or an administrator at the University. Additional information can be found in the University Student Judicial Code or from the Academic Integrity Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences (https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/WUCRSLFrontMatter/WebWUCRSLInfo_AcadIntegrity.htm).

Student Educational Services

Wash U. provides academic resources for students at Cornerstone: The Center for Advanced Learning. Located on the South 40 at Gregg Hall, the Center offers academic resources such as study groups, peer mentors, help desks, and course workshops. The Center also offers technological resources such as programs for web design and learning style assessments. Students seeking disability information should contact Disability Resources at 935-5970 or link to Disability Resources from the Cornerstone web site. Contact information for Cornerstone is 935-5970 or <http://cornerstone.wustl.edu> Please let me know in advance of any learning accommodations that have been suggested by the Disability Resources office.

How to fulfill experiment/paper/colloquia requirements for your 6 credits this semester

As part of this course, you may earn credit by participating in one or more experiments being offered by the Department of Psychology. Read your syllabus carefully for information on how this credit factors into your final grade. The purpose of this memo is to provide a brief summary of how to get started participating in research.

Nearly all aspects of this participation, including registration as a user, signing up for experiments, and making sure that your instructor is notified of the points you have earned, is handled by our website. The website can be accessed at: <http://experimetrix.com/wu/> You can also access the site through the Department of Psychology website, at <http://psych.wustl.edu> and clicking on “research participation site”.

Earning credit by participating in research is **OPTIONAL**. If you would rather earn credit in ways other than doing research, every instructor provides at least two alternative ways of earning credit: (a) writing a paper or (b) attendance at colloquia. If you choose the paper option, you will receive one credit per one typed page (double spaced) See your instructor for further details on the paper, including information about due dates, etc. Available colloquia for the Spring 2007 semester will be posted on the subject pool website by January 15th and will be posted as “Experiment 100”.

If you would like to earn credit by participating in research, the website is very easy to use and is largely self-explanatory. Just a few things to keep in mind:

1. When you first access the site, make sure that you click on “read me” and read the subject pool guidelines. This is important even if you have used the pool before, because some minor procedures may have changed since you last used it. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are aware of and follow all guidelines. Failure to do so may mean a loss of credit.
2. New users should click on **NEW USERS** to get started. Students who have used this website before can use the same logon and password that they have used in past semesters. If you have forgotten your logon or password, the website allows you to have this information sent to you again via email. After logging in, you are ready to start scheduling yourself for experiments.
3. Please keep track of your appointments and make sure that you show up on time. If you must cancel, then it is necessary for you to do so no later than 4 hours before the scheduled time. If you fail to show up for a study without canceling on time, or if you show up more than 10 minutes late, this will result in a penalty. Please see the guidelines listed under **READ ME** for more details.
4. The last date to participate in experiments is on the last day of class (Arts and Sciences schedule). **DO NOT DELAY** completing your hours! There may be far fewer opportunities later in the semester and in fact if you wait too long you may not be able to earn any credit at all. If you are a new user and/or need a new password, it is **strongly advised** that you register within the first month of the semester to avoid last-minute complications.

5. It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you check your profile from time to time to make sure that you did not accidentally sign up for a study. (This does happen occasionally.) **You will receive a penalty if you do not show up for any study you signed up for, regardless of whether you intended to sign up for it or not.** Also, this will allow you to make sure that you have the number of credits that you think you have. Double-checking your profile is especially important during the last two weeks of the semester. After the last day of class, no changes can be made on your credit report!

6. ****Reminder to returning users: There is now a “research credit cap” in place, which applies after you have earned a total of 24 research credits. See the subject pool website for details; click on the “research cap” link. Note: You must contact the webmaster each subsequent semester—this is not done automatically. You must contact the webmaster no later than the last day of class in any given semester in order to use this option.**

Questions? Specific questions about using the website may be directed toward the webmaster, at PsychE@artsci.wustl.edu. More general questions about the subject pool may be sent to Alan Lambert, subject pool chair, at alambert@artsci.wustl.edu