

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Psychology UI01: Foundations of Psychology (Honors)
Fall 2005

Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays 11:45am-1:25pm
5 Snell Library

Instructor: Erick A. Medina
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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm
Thursdays 10:30-11:30am & by appointment

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the organized study of human behavior. It surveys the fundamental principles, concepts, issues, and controversies in the major areas of contemporary scientific psychology. Considering psychology both as a method of inquiry as well as a body of knowledge, this course will explore: the biological, behavioral, cognitive, and social factors that influence and regulate learning and motivation; personality dynamics; psychopathology and its treatment; life-span development; sensory and perceptual processes; communication and social behaviors, and the influence of cultural factors on psychological studies and theories.

The course is based on the assumption that learning is neither a passive nor unilateral process on the part of students but an active, dynamic encounter between students, instructors, and the material. To this end, students are encouraged to participate as fully as possible. Ideally this takes the form of asking questions or contributing to the class discussion; there is also an opportunity to post questions about and reactions to the material online in a discussion board.

As an honors-level course, it presumes a commensurate level of interest and effort.

To ensure that a minimum of learning takes place, I have found it useful to assign four quizzes, a midterm, and a final examination. Quizzes are administered at the beginning of class, take a maximum of fifteen minutes, and consist of ten multiple-choice questions. The midterm and final examinations each consist of fifty multiple-choice questions, and the final is cumulative.

Please note that there are no inappropriate questions and that all feedback on the course will be taken seriously, regardless of its implementation.

Grading: The quizzes, the midterm, and the final examination will each count for 30% of the final grade, with attendance and participation making up the final 10%. *There are no make-ups for quizzes.* Students may instead drop their lowest quiz grade.

There will also be *no make-ups for the midterm or the final*, except in case of serious illness, death in the family, or other documented, similarly extenuating emergency. Prior engagements (such as parties, weddings, and travel plans) and oversleeping are not considered emergencies.

Requirements: Regular attendance, thorough reading of required material prior to class discussion, and timely completion of assignments. Students are responsible for all material covered in class *and all information disseminated therein* regardless of attendance, and are also responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any missed classes or assignments. Updates to the class schedule and some homework assignments will also be posted to the class page on Blackboard.

Students are also required to participate either in departmental research or in a related alternate activity. Please see the attached sheet for more information.

I also ask that students turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices prior to class, and refrain from conversing with one another during the lecture.

Text: Gerrig, Richard J., & Zimbardo, Philip G. (2004). *Psychology and Life*. 17th Edition. Allyn and Bacon.

Schedule of Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
September 8	History & Systems of Psychology	Chapter 1
September 12	The Culture of Psychology	Chapter 1
September 15	Psychological Research	Chapter 2
September 19	Descriptive & Inferential Statistics	Supplement
September 22	The Nervous System	Chapter 3; Quiz 1
September 26	Evolutionary Psychology	Chapter 3
September 29	Sensation	Chapter 4
October 3	Perception	Chapter 4
October 6	Sleep & Consciousness	Chapter 5; Quiz 2
October 10	<i>No Class: Columbus' Day</i>	
October 13	Motivation	Chapter 11
October 17	Health Psychology	Chapter 12
October 20	Midterm Examination	
October 24	Development: Infancy – Childhood	Chapter 10
October 27	Development: Adolescence – Adulthood	Chapter 10
October 31	Learning	Chapter 6
November 3	Memory	Chapter 7
November 7	Language & Cognition	Chapter 8; Quiz 3
November 10	Intelligence	Chapter 9
November 14	Social Cognition & Relationships	Chapter 16
November 17	Social Processes, Society, & Relationships	Chapter 17
November 21	Personality	Chapter 13
November 24	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving</i>	
November 28	Personality	Chapter 13
December 1	Psychopathology	Chapter 14; Quiz 4
December 5	Psychopathology	Chapter 14
December 7	Psychotherapy	Chapter 15
December 9	Summary & Conclusions	

The **final examination** will be on **Wednesday, December 14** from **10:30am-12:30pm** (location to be announced).