

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology UI01: Foundations of Psychology (Honors)**  
**Spring 2005**

**Meetings:** Monday & Thursday 11:45am-1:25pm  
320 Shillman

**Instructor:** Erick A. Medina  
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**Office hours:** Mondays & Thursdays 9:15-10:15am  
and 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; e-mailing questions and comments about the material to the instructor is also fine.

*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:** Attendance and participation, the quizzes, the midterm, and the final examination will each count for 25% of the final grade. *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.

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*. 17<sup>th</sup> Edition. Allyn and Bacon.

## Schedule of Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 6	History & Systems of Psychology	Chapter 1
January 10	The Culture of Psychology	Chapter 1
January 13	Psychological Research	Chapter 2
January 17	<i>No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	
January 20	Descriptive & Inferential Statistics	Supplement; <b>Quiz 1</b>
January 24	The Nervous System	Chapter 3
January 27	Evolutionary Psychology	Chapter 3
January 31	Sensation	Chapter 4
February 3	Perception	Chapter 4; <b>Quiz 2</b>
February 7	Sleep & Consciousness	Chapter 5
February 10	Motivation	Chapter 11
February 14	Health Psychology	Chapter 12
February 17	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	
February 21	Development: Infancy – Childhood	Chapter 10
February 24	Development: Adolescence – Adulthood	Chapter 10
February 28	<i>No Class: Spring Break</i>	
March 3	<i>No Class: Spring Break</i>	
March 7	Learning	Chapter 6
March 10	Memory	Chapter 7
March 14	Language & Cognition	Chapter 8; <b>Quiz 3</b>
March 17	Intelligence	Chapter 9
March 21	Social Cognition & Relationships	Chapter 16
March 24	Social Processes, Society, & Relationships	Chapter 17; <b>Quiz 4</b>
March 28	Personality	Chapter 13
March 31	Personality	Chapter 13
April 4	Psychopathology	Chapter 14
April 7	Psychopathology	Chapter 14
April 11	Psychotherapy	Chapter 15

*This schedule is tentative; any changes will be announced in class.*