

**SYLLABUS: PSY U101**  
**Foundations of Psychology**  
**Spring Semester 2008**

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Class hours: Mon, Wed, Thu 8.00 – 9.05 am (Seq. 01).  
Place: 168 Snell Engineering (SN)

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Required text: Carlson NR, Heth DC, Miller H, Donahoe JW, Buskist W & Martin NG (2007).  
*Psychology: The Science of Behavior*. Sixth Edition. Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

Prerequisites: None

Requirements and rules: There will be five (5) in-class exams. The syllabus shows the scheduling

of four exams. The fifth exam (final exam) is scheduled in the Final Exam Week.  
Format: multiple-choice questions on topics drawn from lectures and readings.  
You are advised to attend the review sessions. As a rule, there will be no make-up exams unless there are good reasons for exception. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. Also, in case you missed a class, you should obtain the lecture notes from other students. We rather not re-lecture during office hours.

There are no separate discussion sessions scheduled. However, we will be available one extra hour per week (in addition to the regular office hours) to discuss any question you may have.

Extra hour: TBA

The course is organized in five sections. Description of the sections and calendar are given below.

## TOPIC GUIDE AND SCHEDULE

### SECTION 1: Jan 07 – Jan 28, 2008.

In this section we talk about the core subject and scope of psychology. We will take a closer look at the history of some of the approaches adopted to study important topics in psychology. Time will be spent discussing how the scientific method is applied in various sub-areas of psychology. The current influence of the field of genetics on psychology will be touched upon.

- Jan. 07, Mon. Introduction
- Jan. 09, Wed. History, study: p. 3 - 21
- Jan. 10, Thu. History
- Jan. 14, Mon. Research Methods, study: p. 25 - 41
- Jan. 16, Wed. Research Methods, study: p. 42 - 52
- Jan. 17, Thu. Research Methods
- Jan. 23, Wed. Heredity, Genetics, study: p. 55 – 75
- Jan. 24, Thu. Exam 1

### SECTION 2: Jan 30 – Feb 14, 2008

The brain controls behavior. In this section we try to develop some understanding of the organization and function of the brain. The working of the basic unit of the nervous system, the neuron, will be explained as well as that of larger brain areas/systems involved in processing information from the environment, brought in by the sensory systems. The principal brain structures involved in motor activity, language and thinking will be identified. Sleeping fulfills an important physiological function. We will delve deeper in this phenomenon and describe the various types of brain activity that underlie sleeping and dreaming.

- Jan. 28, Mon. The Brain, study: p. 85 - 102
- Jan. 30, Wed. The Brain, study: p. 103 – 119
- Jan. 31, Thu. The Brain
- Feb. 4, Mon. The Brain/Consciousness, study: p. 264 – 275
- Feb. 6, Wed. Consciousness/Sleep, study: p. 276 – 290
- Feb. 7, Thu. Sleep
- Feb. 11, Mon. Sleep
- Feb. 13, Wed. Exam 2

### SECTION 3: Feb. 20 – Mar.13, 2008

The study of memory processes is almost as old as scientific psychology. In this section a significant amount of time will be devoted to the discussion of a very successful model that describes the workings of human memory quite well.. We will examine how new memories are acquired and how retrieval of stored memories might occur. What is 'forgetting' and how does disease disrupt memory ? The history of IQ testing in the USA is interesting and will be recounted. Key concepts in the field of 'measurement' of mental abilities will be explained. Theories that have dominated this field for years will be considered as well as data from recent research.

- Feb. 14, Thu. Memory, study: p. 227 – 237

Feb. 20, Wed. Memory, study: p. 238 – 250  
Feb. 21, Thu. Memory, study: p. 251-260  
Feb. 25, Mon. Memory  
Feb. 27, Wed. Intelligence, study: p. 325 - 337  
Feb. 28, Thu. Intelligence, study: p. 338 - 353  
Mar. 10, Mon. Intelligence  
Mar. 12, Wed. Exam 3

#### SECTION 4: Mar. 17 – Apr. 2, 2008

Language will be discussed as a means through which thoughts and other information are communicated. The structure of language and its acquisition will be examined. In this section we will also describe major stages of psychological development that most individuals in the Western world go through. The theories of Piaget' and Erikson will be emphasized.

Mar. 13, Thu. Language, study: p. 294 - 304  
Mar. 17, Mon. Language, study: p. 310 - 320  
Mar. 19, Wed. Language  
Mar. 20, Thu. Life-Span Development, study: p. 358 - 371  
Mar. 24, Mon. Life-Span Development, study: p. 388- 398  
Mar. 26, Wed. Life-Span Development  
Mar. 27, Thu. Life-Span Development  
Mar. 31, Mon. Exam 4

#### SECTION 5: Apr. 2 – Apr. 16, 2008

The study of personality is at the center of psychology. We will review the most important theories of personality. What shapes personality and how stable is this "configuration" of a person over time ? We will discuss current ideas that attempt to answer these types of question. Freud's psychodynamic approach to personality will be included in the lectures.

Psychopathology is undoubtedly one of the most interesting areas of psychology. Common mental disorders will be covered, including personality disorders and drug addictions. The subject matter of social psychology will be defined. Key concepts from attribution theory, from studies on attitude, attitude formation and persuasion will be treated. We will take a look at the dynamics of interpersonal relationships. The ideas behind famous experiments in social psychology on obedience, conformity and role playing will be examined and the now classic experimental strategies discussed. Theories of social aggression will be reviewed.

Apr. 2, Wed. Personality study: p. 439 – 453  
Apr. 3, Thu. Personality study: p. 453 - 464  
Apr. 7, Mon. Personality/Psychopathology study: p. 545 - 562  
Apr. 9, Wed. Psychopathology study: p. 562 - 578  
Apr. 10, Thu. Psychopathology  
Apr. 14, Mon. Social Psychology study: p. 475 - 488  
Apr. 16, Wed. Social Psychology, study: p. 492 - 500  
Apr. 17 – 25: Final Exam Week.