

## Introductory Psychology

Syllabus  
Fall, 2012

Psychology 1 is designed to familiarize you with the broad scope of contemporary scientific psychology. To this end, the course is structured to assist you in reaching three goals:

- A. Content: Concepts and Data - the acquisition of knowledge about the major ideas and findings in psychology.
- B. Methods - an understanding of the methods of obtaining objective scientific data in psychology.
- C. Applications - an ability to integrate the basic findings of psychology and relate them to other areas of inquiry as well as to events in your own life.

In reaching the goals of the course you will have available to you the following:

- A. Instructors. There will be four instructors in the course. In this way, we will maximize the breadth of your exposure to the various styles, methodologies, areas of interest, and goals of psychologists within the department and psychology.

Professor Todd Heatherton (course chair)	353 Moore
Professor Bradley Duchaine	450 Moore
Professor Howard Hughes	351 Moore
Professor Thalia Wheatley	354 Moore

- B. Class Meetings. Class will meet in Filene Auditorium (Moore Hall) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00 am to 11:05 am, and occasionally during X-hours, on Thursday, at 12:00 pm to 12:50 pm (you will be notified in advance in class if x-hours are to be used).

Exams will be held in Filene Auditorium (Moore Hall) during regularly scheduled class hours.

During class meetings we will present a series of lectures and demonstrations about fundamental areas of psychology. These areas are chosen to reflect each instructor's particular field of expertise and to allow each instructor to discuss topics that she or he feels to be most exciting and important. The lectures will not review the text, but will supplement, integrate, critically examine, or otherwise relate to the text. You are encouraged in your work outside class meetings to make your own synthesis of the lectures and readings, much as you will do with all the material you will encounter beyond this course.

- C. Readings. You will find in the bookstores and should purchase the following textbook: *Psychological Science (4th Edition)* by M. Gazzaniga, T. Heatherton & D. Halpern. Note that the book is substantially changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

D. Conferences. At various times you may have questions about the course. You should direct questions about the general administration of the course or about your presence at exams to the Chair of the course, Professor Heatherton.

Questions about individual chapters of the text, the content of specific exams, or lectures should be directed to the instructor responsible for that particular part of the course.

You should also check the Blackboard web site for announcements, test grades, and other information concerning the course. Some instructors will post their slides or other materials to Blackboard. Grades for exams will also be posted on Blackboard.

Note: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations should speak with the Chair of the course at least 3 days before the first exam, which is on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Academic Skills Center may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

E. Evaluation. Exams will be used in this course to assess the level of performance you have reached in light of the course goals.

There will be four one-hour term exams and a one-hour final. Each of the term exams will be composed of fifty multiple-choice questions (approximately 35 questions from the textbook and 15 questions from the lectures). The tests will cover both the class meetings and the readings and will include only the material subsequent to the previous exam (i.e., term exams are not cumulative). Some questions may overlap lectures and texts, although students are responsible for the material from both. Individual instructors will provide more details about their midterm exams.

The final exam will be composed of fifty multiple-choice questions and will be cumulative, covering all parts of the textbook (note: not lectures). The final exam will be given on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am, along with the fourth hourly exam.

Your final grade in the course will be determined by the sum of your scores on the four term exams and the final. Note that because of the option to earn extra credit points (see T-points below) grades will not be rounded up to the next level. You earn two points for each correct answer on the exams. Thus, the total possible point total is 500 (if you received 100% on each exam.)

465 = A	(approximate average of 93%)
450 = A-	(approximate average of 90%)
435 = B+	(approximate average of 87%)
415 = B	(approximate average of 83%)
400 = B-	(approximate average of 80%)
385 = C+	(approximate average of 77%)
365 = C	(approximate average of 73%)
350 = C-	(approximate average of 70%)
300 = D	(approximate average of 60%)
Below 300 = E	

A student will **only** be excused from an exam on the basis of a written note from a dean, doctor, or supervisor of an official college-sponsored event being held off-campus that requires the student's absence. Any student seeking an excused absence from an exam must have the **prior** approval of the Chair of the course and is expected to take a make-up exam. The make-up exam will be scheduled at 8:00 am on the morning of the next scheduled class. If the student is unable to take the makeup because of illness or participation in college sponsored events, then he or she will be assigned, for the missed test, a score equal to his or her lowest earned score (based on the percentile) from the other exams. Such prorating may be done for only one exam; additional missed exams will be counted as unexcused. Any exam missed without an accepted excuse, as described above, will be given a score equal to chance performance (usually 25%) or two points below the lowest score earned by students who took the exams, whichever is lower. Incompletes can only be granted under very unusual circumstances and can only be granted by the Chair of the course, upon the recommendation of a Dean.

You may receive potential extra credit towards your final grade by acquiring T-points (see the descriptions of T-points in the next section of this syllabus).

**It is a violation of the Dartmouth Honor Code to receive from or give to another person (a) any academic assistance during an exam, or (b) any information about the actual contents of an exam (this includes removing an exam from the testing situation OR studying from an exam or copy of an exam that has been removed from the testing situation or from the department OR altering an exam after it has been handed back).**

F. T-Points. Many faculty, graduate students, and Honors Majors in our department conduct research with human participants. You can learn more about psychology by serving as a volunteer in this research. To encourage such participation, we offer extra credit toward your final grade.

Each hour of participation will be worth one (1) T-point, and you will receive one-half (1/2) T-point for periods of time less than half an hour. Your credits are limited to a total of eight (8) T-points. Each T-point is worth 2.5 points added to your grade for a maximum of 20 points. For example, 8 T-points would provide 20 grade points and bring a grade of 405 (B-) to a grade of 425 (B).

T-points do not influence our setting of grading criteria. They are added to your final grade after our criteria are applied. Thus, in the setting of grades they may help those who decide to obtain them, but they do not hurt those who do not seek them. For those students who are unwilling or unable to participate in experiments, an alternative activity is available in the form of summarizing and critiquing approved research articles. These readings are available for a limited time from each instructor during the period in which they are in the classroom for the course. For additional details, contact the chair of the course.

In order to sign-up and receive credit for participating in experiments you will need to register with our web-based system ([www.experimentrix2.com/dartmouth](http://www.experimentrix2.com/dartmouth)). Instructions on how to use this site will be provided in class and on Blackboard. Please do not register until you are provided with instructions.

You should be aware that T-point opportunities typically decrease drastically near the end of the term. Signing up earlier in the term will avoid your being unable to find available experiments at the end. In past terms there have been enough experiments for all students who wanted to participate in them and who began their participation early enough in the term. **No T-points will be credited after the last day of classes (Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>).**

To increase further the educational value of your participation, we have required that experiments offer a full debriefing session at the conclusion of the experiment for all of their participants who wish to attend. These debriefings may be done right after you finish in the experiment or near the end of the term. In the latter case, notices will be sent by email.

## Course Schedule

Mon Sept 10            Professor Heatherton will introduce the course

Wed Sept 12   Professor Duchaine  
to

Mon, Sept 24            Readings will be chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4.

Wed, Sept 26th        **First Exam** (Filene Auditorium)

Fri, Sept 28   Professor Hughes  
to

Wed, Oct 10            Readings will be chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8.

Fri, Oct 12        **Second Exam** (Filene Auditorium)

Mon, Oct 15   Professor Wheatley  
to

Mon, Oct 29   Readings will be chapters 9, 10, 11

**Note**                      **Class will not meet Oct 26th (Homecoming)**

Wed., Oct 31   **Third Exam** (Filene Auditorium)

Fri, Nov 2        Professor Heatherton  
to

Mon, Nov 12            Readings will be chapters 12, 13, 14, 15

**Note**                      Class will meet during X-Period on Thursday, Nov 8th

Fri, Nov 16        **Fourth Exam & Final Exam 8:00 am in Filene Auditorium**

Remember: The final exam will include the hour exam for Professor Heatherton's section of the course (50 questions) **plus** the cumulative final exam for the entire course (50 additional questions).