

## ***Getting the most out of this course...***

***...(and earning a good grade)***

### **Tip #1 – Come to lecture**

The lectures will cover material in the text and also bring in information from sources outside your text. We will show video clips of research, do demonstrations of classic experiments, and have demonstrations of important principles in psychology. The extra material will only be presented in lecture and often appears on exams. If you're not here, you won't have all the information you need. Stay engaged when you are here and ask questions if something is unclear to you.

### **Tip #2 – Keep up with the reading**

I like the way this text is written, and there are lots of great examples and descriptions. Make sure you schedule enough time for reading each week and don't leave it to the few days before an exam.

### **Tip #3 – Use the study questions**

The study questions cover all of the information in the lectures and material presented in the text that is not covered in the lectures. You should use these to help you organize the information and as a self-test check of your knowledge. All of the exam questions will come from the topics covered by the study questions. If a topic isn't asked in the study questions it is unlikely to appear on an exam.

### **Tip #4 – Don't forget about the experimental participation requirement**

It's a good idea to get the experiments completed as early in the semester as possible. Most of the experiments are conducted by graduate students working with a faculty member in Psychology. As students, they also have exams, finals and papers to complete, so there typically are far fewer experiment opportunities available at the end of the semester. Don't sacrifice 5% of your grade by not completing the experiments (or the alternate assignment). If you are under 18, please read the file posted about alternate experimental participation.

### **Tip #5 – Get help early and often**

There are many resources for extra help you if you are having difficulties with this class. Don't wait to talk to me until the end of the semester – the sooner I know you are having a problem the sooner we can work out a solution. In addition to the posted office hours you can also find me at the Medical Center campus (there is a free shuttle from the Morningside campus), and I will occasionally post additional office hours when I know I will be on campus. Your TAs can also help you with material you don't understand, study tips, and other resources. Don't hesitate to ask for help!

### **Tip #6 – Form a study group**

Study groups can be a great way to go over the material and make sure you have all the important topics covered. I would recommend that every member of a study group work through the study questions individually. The group can meet to compare answers. You may find that there is disagreement on some answers and working together to find the answer is a great learning tool. It is far less effective to divide the study guides up and share answers. You will not know the material as well if you do not prepare the answers yourself. (We'll learn about why this is the case when we discuss memory.)

*If you have other tips that you feel would help your classmates please let me know and I'll add them to this list.*