**Likely topics and example questions on the midterm exam**

**Week 1**

Effects of laptops on your and your peers’ grades.

The relationship between money and happiness.

Has the world gotten worse, or is news reporting more negative than reality?

What is psychological science and why is it useful?

Does correlation always imply causation? Why or why not?

Are we so inclined to detect patterns because it gives us certain advantages?

What happens if a sample size is too small?

Why do psychologists perform controlled experiments and A B A B designs?

**Week 2**

What are the tradeoffs between laboratory and real-world research?

What is experience sampling, and how does it help us study psychology?

Why does deep breathing help calm anxiety?

What is one main function of the frontal lobes?

What is one main function of the parietal lobes?

What is one main function of the temporal lobes?

What is one main function of the occipital lobes?

What is one advantage of having myelin sheaths on neurons?

**Week 3**

Compared to other primates, what is usual and unusual about our brains?

Compared to other animals, we have *relatively* strong abilities in…

Evolution occurs when natural and sexual selection act on variations in phenotypes.

What does evolutionary psychology suggest about parental investment and mating strategies?

Are most psychological functions a result of nature, nurture, or their interaction?

Why should we care about the nature-nurture debate?

What makes it easier to study nature-nurture questions in nonhumans?

What is the difference between sex and gender?

**Week 4**

While the occipital cortex usually has a role in vision, in congenital blindness, what happens? Why?

How does a baby’s temperament affect how a parent treats it?

Does psychological development occur continuously, or in stages?

Does *every* adult reach the “formal operations” stage in Piaget’s theory?

A secure attachment style is one in which…

Do children have better outcomes with authoritarian or authoritative parenting?

What is egocentrism?

How can we understand disorders like narcissism and psychopathology as developmental disorders.