

SV171: Principles of Psychology

Fall 2013

1 Course information

Class Schedule Section 01: M/T/Th/F 5th hour (11:45 am–12:35 pm)
 Section 02: M/T/Th/F 6th hour (12:40 pm–1:30 pm)
 Room D112

Website <https://moodle.rose-hulman.edu>

Instructor Alan Jern
 Office: AL 103
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Office hours Thursdays 7th–9th hours, and by appointment

Textbook Peter Gray, *Psychology* (6th edition)

2 Overview

Psychology is the study of mind and behavior. This course will provide you with a broad overview of the science of psychology. Some of the questions we will consider are:

- What is the relationship between the brain and behavior?
- How do we perceive and interpret the information we receive through our senses?
- What motivates us to do something rather than nothing?
- What can we do to make ourselves happier?
- How accurate are our memories?
- How do children learn language?
- How much of our behavior is influenced by our social environment?
- Why do some people get depressed and others don't?

You can probably formulate some answers to these questions just by reflecting on your own experience. As you will learn, however, we often have far less insight into the nature of our behavior than it seems. In this course, we will focus on answering questions like these by treating people as scientific subjects. We will consider psychological theories, experiments, and case studies that address each of these questions, and many others. Because so many topics in psychology are relevant to our daily lives, we will also frequently discuss everyday applications of psychological concepts and principles.

3 Assessment

Component	Weight
Homeworks (8)	25%
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Exam 3	10%
Paper	15%
Participation	5%
Final exam	25%
Total	100%

3.1 Homeworks (25%)

There will be eight homework assignments. These assignments will generally consist of problems and short answer questions related to the course material from the preceding week.

3.2 Exams (55%)

There will be four exams—three midterms and one final. The three midterms will each cover only material since the previous exam. The final exam will be cumulative. All exams are closed-book and closed-notes.

3.3 Paper (15%)

Assignment	Weight
Paper outline	2%
Presentation	3%
Final paper	10%
Total	15%

You will submit a short paper at the end of the quarter. This paper will require you to do some research and additional reading to explore how some aspect of psychology applies to your major field or an area of interest. In addition to the paper itself, you must give a brief (4–5 minute) presentation summarizing the content of your paper for the class. These presentations will take place during the 10th week (11/11, 11/12, and 11/14).

An outline is due on 10/21. The purpose of the outline is to encourage you to begin thinking about your paper early and to provide an opportunity for you to receive feedback from me. More details about the final paper assignment are posted on the course web page.

3.4 Participation (5%)

This class would be boring for all of us without any interaction. Accordingly, I expect you to be an active participant. In addition to asking and answering questions in class, there will be many opportunities for you to participate, including in-class experiments, activities, and discussions.

As long as you show good attendance and make a reasonable effort to contribute to the class when appropriate, you will receive full participation credit. I will warn you in advance by email if I feel your behavior is deficient in either of these respects. That means that if you don't hear from me, you can assume you are on track to receive full credit. If you continue to make an inadequate participation effort after a warning, you will receive a 0 for the participation component of your grade.

3.5 Final grade

Grades will be assigned as follows.

Percentage	Grade
$\geq 90\%$	A
87–89%	B+
80–86%	B
77–79%	C+
70–76%	C
67–69%	D+
60–66%	D
$< 60\%$	F

4 Course policies

4.1 Submitting assignments

All assignments are due in class at the beginning of class on the date specified on the schedule.

4.2 Late assignments

For the entire course, you will have **three free late days** that can be used for any assignment(s)—**EXCEPT for the final paper**. Assignments will be considered one day late if they are submitted any time after the start of class on the due date. Assignments will be considered two days late if they are submitted any time between 24 and 48 hours after the submission deadline. You don't need to notify me in advance if you plan to use one of your late days—after I receive a late assignment, I will email you to let you know how many late days you have remaining.

Any assignments submitted after your late days are exhausted will not be accepted. The purpose for this policy is to ensure that I can grade and return your assignments as quickly as possible.

4.3 Academic integrity

Academic misconduct will be addressed according to the policies described in the Rose-Hulman student handbook. Academic misconduct includes: (1) submitting work that is not your own; (2) copying ideas, words, or graphics from any source without appropriate citation; (3) misrepresenting your work or yourself (i.e., deliberately submitting the wrong assignment or lying to explain a late assignment); (4) collaborating with other students when this is not permitted; and (5) submitting the same work for credit in two courses without prior consent of both instructors. If you are unsure whether something qualifies as academic misconduct, please check with me before engaging in the behavior.

5 Course schedule

The following schedule lists topics, readings, and due dates for the whole term. The page numbers refer to the 6th edition of the Gray textbook. I don't anticipate any major deviations from this schedule, but it is subject to change. Schedule changes will be announced in class and will be posted online. I will give you plenty of notice when such changes are made.

On some days, I will ask you to bring your laptops to class for an exercise. I will notify you about these days at least one day in advance.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
0	9/5	Introduction	pp. 10–18	
	9/6	Foundations	pp. 1–10	
1	9/9	Methods	pp. 27–37, 146–151	
	9/10	Methods	pp. 41–48	
	9/12	Neuroscience	pp. 137–146, 174–176, 180–182	
	9/13	Neuroscience	pp. 151–171	HW 1
2	9/16	Learning	pp. 93–107	
	9/17	Learning	pp. 107–119	
	9/19	Sleep	pp. 208–217	
	9/20	Review		HW 2
3	9/23	Exam 1		
	9/24	Perception	pp. 231–235, 269–274, 282–286	
	9/26	Perception	pp. 286–306	
	9/27	Attention	pp. 313–320	HW 3
4	9/30	Motivation	pp. 185–201	
	10/1	Emotion	pp. 220–229	
	10/2	Memory	pp. 309–313, 320–325, 327–328	
	10/4	Memory	pp. 325–327, 329–337, 342–347	HW 4
5	10/7	Memory	pp. 337–341	
	10/8	Reasoning	pp. 359–367	
	10/10	Reasoning	pp. 351–359	
	10/11	Review		HW 5
6	10/14	Exam 2		
	10/15	Childhood	pp. 397–414	
	10/17		Fall Break	
	10/18		Fall Break	
7	10/21	Childhood	pp. 419–428	Paper outline
	10/22	Childhood	pp. 414–418, 435–441, 453–456	
	10/24	Social behavior	pp. 475–478, 492–508	
	10/25	Social behavior	pp. 516–524, 533–541	HW 6
8	10/28	Social behavior		
	10/29	Social behavior	pp. 525–533	
	10/31	Personality	pp. 549–570	
	11/1	Review		HW 7
9	11/4	Exam 3		
	11/5	Disorders	pp. 593–604, 606–617	

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
	11/7	Disorders	pp. 625–630, 643–646, 650–672	
	11/9	TBA		HW 8
10	11/11	Presentations		
	11/12	Presentations		
	11/14	Presentations		
	11/15	Conclusion		
Finals	11/17			Paper
	TBD	Final exam		