Principles of Psychology

Psychology 110  Olin 141  1a, MW 8:30-9:40am,  
                 F 8:30-9:30am.

INSTRUCTORS:  Julie Neiworth  Stefanie Simon  
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                                Thursdays, 12-2:00 pm  
                                Tuesdays, 12 – 1,  
                                Wednesdays, 9:50 – 12 noon

COURSE ASSISTANT:  email:

RESOURCES  


Moodle site:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Psychology 110 attempts to review and integrate theories, research, and  
applications of major topics of psychology. This information can be provided in a variety  
of formats; in this course there are three themes that pervade each topic: 1) that  
psychology often makes use of comparisons with other theories/ideas/sciences to  
construct a basis for externalizing internal mechanisms, 2) that psychology is a science,  
or a set of procedures for systematically observing facts about behavior and organizing  
these facts into generalizations about why humans and other animals act as they do,  
and 3) that psychology is a means of promoting human welfare, and as such is a body  
of information that can be applied to help solve a variety of human problems.

Our discussions will always start with (1), an introduction of each topic within a  
historical context and a review of any metaphors or ideas borrowed from others. Next,  
the mechanics of studying the topic will be identified (2), and finally, its usefulness in  
promoting human welfare will be discussed (3). It is our hope that this sort of review will  
firmly ground your study of psychology in a bigger context. In addition, it should direct  
you towards understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each area of study within  
psychology.

CLASS MEETINGS

The course meets three times each week: Mon and Wed from 8:30 – 9:40am and  
Friday, from 8:30 – 9:30 am. For most topics, we will introduce the main ideas and  
research in 1-2 meetings, and then break into smaller groups to discuss or apply the  
material. All meetings will begin in Olin 141, but we may sometimes disperse to other  
rooms or outside for discussions and application activities.
ASSIGNED READINGS
Most assigned reading will come from the textbook, Dan Schacter’s Psychology (3rd edition, 2014). Additional readings will be made available on Moodle prior to the assigned reading date. Please consult the schedule for the required readings for each class meeting. We strongly encourage you to read the assignment before class because lectures will build from the assigned readings, but will not provide a detailed review: most often we will go well beyond the basics of the readings in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Our deadline/exam policy is this: You must take exams and hand in assignments on the prescribed days. Any exceptions to this (e.g., due to sudden illness or unforeseen circumstances) must be arranged with the instructors at least one class meeting prior to the due date. It is unacceptable to show up/call on the exam day or on the day that an assignment is due and attempt to make arrangements for an alternate time.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Arrangements for special needs
If you are a student who typically takes exams through the student support services office because of special needs (i.e., time and a half, separate room, etc), please discuss with us any accommodation you may need by the end of second week of term (April 8). You will be required to take the exam on the same day that it is scheduled for everyone else, but the exam itself must be printed out early and sent to the Office of Student Services at least 2 class sessions before you take it. Contacting either of us within 1 class period of your request may not allow you to take it through student support services.

Taking the exam in the classroom under extended time circumstances will not be possible because a class is scheduled in the room immediately after our class. Thus, if you need and want to take the exams under extended time circumstances, such arrangements must be made through student support services, and we must be informed 1 week before each exam of your needs.

Religious observances
If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in this course, let us know by the end of the second week of term (April 8) to discuss appropriate accommodations.

COURSE EVALUATION:
Your grade will consist of your performance on three exams, six short assignments, and participation.

Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam 3: 25%
Assignments: 25% (There are 6 assignments: we will drop lowest grade of 1)
Participation Pts: 5%
Exams
Exams are not cumulative per se, however, topics covered later in the course will build on material discussed earlier in the course. The schedule specifies which topics are the focuses of each exam. Exam 1 will be given on Monday, April 18, Exam 2 will be given on Friday, May 6, and Exam 3 will be given on the last day of classes, Wed, June 1.

Assignments
There will be 6 small assignments that involve writing. They may ask you to discuss articles assigned for class or generate questions about topics. Some will involve interactions in the class period or analyses of examples from class. There will be a written component for each one that you need to hand in to receive credit. Some of these assignments may be able to be done later should you miss class, but those connected to a classroom demonstration will need to use that information from class, and demonstrations cannot be repeated. If you are sick or miss a class in which an assignment was completed, please see the faculty member in charge of that lecture and assignment to find out how you might be able to make it up later. Alternatively, if it is not possible to make it up, or you choose not to, then that would constitute the “lowest grade” on an assignment and would be dropped from your grading. A total of 5 assignments will be graded and used, each worth 5%, for a total of 25% of your grade.

E-tiquette
We realize that laptops, tablet computers and cell phones are constant companions and that the call of Facebook and Twitter is strong, but you also need to learn to disconnect from these technologies to focus on learning or interacting with your peers and instructors. During our class meeting times, your cell phone should remain stowed away and laptops should only be used for course work.

Honor Policy
We expect all students to be truthful and to complete all course assignments (homework, tests, and exams, etc) without assistance from any source. If you use ideas from others, including their data findings or their wording, you must acknowledge that you borrowed another person’s idea. If an instance of academic dishonesty occurs in this class, the case will swiftly be referred to the Academic Standing Committee, which will take appropriate action that can include dismissal from the college. Please seek help on proper citation format from us or the Student Academic Support programs. Also see http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/honesty/ for additional information the academic honesty at Carleton. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic zero for the assignment.