

# Introduction to Psychological Science

FALL

PSYCHOLOGY 100

2018

## EDUCATIONAL GOALS

This course will introduce you to modern psychological science. It is designed to: 1) familiarize you with major issues, problems, contemporary theories, research findings, and terminology in psychological science; 2) enhance your ability to evaluate the methods employed, evidence obtained, and inferences drawn by behavioral researchers; and 3) increase your appreciation for the value of applying the tools of science to the complex universe of psychological phenomena.

## FACULTY and STAFF

- Dr. Al Porterfield** (Course Coordinator)  
Severance 205 • [aporterf@oberlin.edu](mailto:aporterf@oberlin.edu)  
Office hours: Please email for an appointment  
*Please contact the coordinator for administrative issues (e.g., quiz problems, course policies and procedures, etc.). Content questions should be directed to the appropriate lecturer.*
- Dr. Paul Thibodeau**  
Severance 213 • [pthibode@oberlin.edu](mailto:pthibode@oberlin.edu)  
Office hours: Please email for an appointment
- Teaching Assistant (TA): Em Webster**  
Severance 131 • [psyc100.ta@oberlin.edu](mailto:psyc100.ta@oberlin.edu)
- Psychology Dept Office**  
Ms. Joan Gleason (Administrative Assistant)  
Severance 105 • phone: x58355  
Office hours: M - F 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Textbook

Gazzaniga *et al.*, *Psychological Science (5th Edition)*.  
New York: Norton. Links to supplementary materials associated with this text are posted on our *Blackboard* site (see below).

### Blackboard Site

We maintain a website on *Blackboard*, the College's online course management site. Log on to *Blackboard* (<https://blackboard.oberlin.edu>) using your ObieID and password. After logging in, you will find this course listed under the *My Online Course Sites* heading. The *Blackboard* site contains textbook quizzes, important announcements, copies of the syllabus, lecture slides, grade information, and other helpful items. You should visit the site regularly, because you are responsible for any announcements that are posted there. Note, too, that *Blackboard* includes a course calendar that can be synchronized with your personal Google Calendar. Activating this synchronization feature will insure that you remain aware of the dates for quizzes, exams, and deadlines.

## REQUIREMENTS

You will complete 12 online textbook quizzes, four in-class lecture exams, and 12 Supplemental Activity (SA) Credits to satisfy the requirements of this course.

### Online Quizzes

Your mastery of the assigned textbook reading will be assessed in a dozen 25-item quizzes. Each quiz may be taken open-book; and if you are dissatisfied with your

performance, you may take the quiz a second time (in which case your score will be recorded as the average of the two attempts). To encourage thorough reading of the textbook in advance, a time limit of 25 minutes will be applied to each quiz attempt, and you will be penalized for exceeding this limit.

Beginning the second week of the semester, there is a quiz due *every Monday night except one* (i.e., Nov 19<sup>th</sup>; see the course calendar below) until classes end. Each quiz will appear on *Blackboard* one week prior to its designated due date and may be taken from any networked computer until 9:00 PM on its due date, at which point the opportunity to take the quiz will expire. A missed quiz may be made up only in the event of significant illness or emergency (see point 2 under *Lecture Exams* below). The quiz schedule will help you keep up with your textbook reading and enhance your understanding of the lectures. All quizzes will count equally toward your total quiz score. Please note that the quiz sequence does not always follow the chapter order of your textbook (see the course calendar).

### Lecture Exams

You will complete four non-cumulative lecture exams. Three of these exams will be given during normal class periods, and the fourth will be given during our designated final exam period. Each exam will consist of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions covering *only the lecture material from the immediately-preceding course unit*. The following exam policies will be strictly enforced:

1. If you anticipate difficulty taking one of the first three exams on its scheduled date due to religious observance, competing coursework, athletic or performance obligations, etc., you must notify the course TA in writing by **Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**, and the TA will work with you to reschedule the exam. After this date, *exams will be rescheduled only in cases of documented medical or other emergencies*. Note that travel plans do *not* constitute an emergency. Please make sure your parents understand this, too.
2. To reschedule an exam due to *illness or emergency* (see point 1), notify the coordinator by email as *early as possible* before the designated exam period.
3. If you miss an exam without prior approval and for non-emergency reasons, you will receive a zero for

the exam. Make-up exams will not be given under such circumstances.

4. If you arrive late to an exam, you will have only until the end of the class-period to finish it.
5. The Registrar assigns final exam periods, and College policy requires that students obtain permission from one of the assistant deans in the Academic Advising Resource Center (AARC; Carnegie West wing) to reschedule this exam. *Exam 4 cannot be rescheduled without such permission.*

### Supplemental Activities (SAs)

The SA requirement allows you to participate in psychological research and/or engage in independent study of psychology-related topics. You may earn the required 12 SA credits in various ways within the guidelines presented below.

**Extra reading.** You may read and summarize an article on a contemporary issue in psychology or a closely-related field. A list of articles, with URLs for easy access, can be found on *Blackboard* under *SA Resources*. Submission of a summary (1-2 double-spaced pages) will earn the SA credit listed for the article in question. Summaries must be carefully and accurately prepared to receive credit.

**Special presentations.** Occasionally, you may have the opportunity to attend a special event, such as a lecture by a visiting scholar in psychology or a related field. You can earn 1.5 SA credits by attending the event and submitting a typed, 1-page summary to the TA *within two business days*. Such special events will be announced on *Blackboard*.

**NOTE: Summaries of readings or special presentations must be submitted using the forms provided in the SA Resources section of Blackboard.**

**Unassigned textbook chapters.** You are not required to read chapters 1, 4, or 11 in your text. If one of these non-required chapters piques your interest, you can read it and take a multiple-choice quiz over its contents on *Blackboard*. You will be allowed two attempts for each quiz. If you achieve a score of at least 80% on one of the attempts, you will earn 1.5 SA credits.

**Research participation.** One of the simplest ways to earn credits is by participating in research conducted by Psychology faculty and upper-division research students. Earning SA credits through research participation helps you learn about the process of psychological research from the “inside,” enriching your understanding of the studies that you will learn about in this course. Equally important, *your participation advances the scientific understanding of human behavior in a direct and meaningful way*. Much of our knowledge of human behavior has come from research with volunteers like you.

Research opportunities will be available throughout the semester. You can learn about what studies are being done and sign up for them on the *Qberlin College Study Signup System (OCSSuS)*, which you can access from our *Blackboard* site. Studies requiring in-person participation earn approximately 1.0 SA credit for each half hour

(rounded up) of time commitment required, whereas studies involving only online participation (e.g., online surveys) earn approximately 0.5 SA credits per half hour of participation time. The SA credit value and approximate time required are listed in the OCSSuS description of each research opportunity.

To help you keep track of your participation appointments, OCSSuS automatically sends you a confirmation email when you sign up. Should you need to cancel an appointment, email the contact person listed on OCSSuS *before your designated appointment time*. Simply failing to show up for a research appointment is unacceptable, because it wastes the time of the study personnel and often-times interferes with the participation of other students. **So, if you fail to show for a research appointment, you will be penalized 0.5 SA credits.**

Some studies require prescreening of participants, and you will have the opportunity to complete an online *Research Participant Questionnaire* on September 20<sup>th</sup> instead of attending a normal class period. You will receive 1 SA credit for completing this questionnaire, leaving you with 11 SA credits to complete during the semester. *You may elect not to participate in this prescreening survey, but doing so may make you ineligible to participate in much of the research taking place during the semester*. The RPQ will not be available after September 20<sup>th</sup>.

We want to encourage you to work on SA activities steadily throughout the semester, rather than putting them off until the last minute. Accordingly, *if you complete and submit to the TA at least 6 SA credits by 4:30 PM Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, you will receive 1 bonus SA credit*. The TA will occasionally post SA credit totals on *Blackboard*—but *you should keep track of your SA credits and make sure that our records agree with yours*.

**The SA credit deadline is 4:30 PM Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** This deadline is *absolute and non-negotiable*. *Believe it.*

### GRADING

Provided you have met the SA credit requirement (see below), your final grade will comprise your textbook quizzes (35%) and the four equally-weighted lecture exams (65%). Performance on each exam will be scaled relative to the top score in the class. For example, if the class leader on a 100-point exam receives 91 points, all other exams will be scaled relative to that mark (e.g., a score of 85 would be recorded as 93.4%). The following grade thresholds will apply to these adjusted percentages:

98 = A+	88 = B+	75 = C+	55 = D / NP
95 = A	84 = B	70 = C	< 55 = F / NP
92 = A-	80 = B-	65 = C-	

Note that for the P/NP grading option, a final score of at least 65%, equivalent to a C-, is necessary to pass the course. Up-to-date grade information, both for individuals and for the class as a whole, will be available on *Blackboard*.

**SA credits and grades.** Although SA projects do not receive grades as such, they can affect your final grade for better or worse. Completing 12 SA credits is a course requirement. However, for each half (0.5) SA credit you earn beyond 12, half a percentage point will be added to your overall grade average, up to a maximum of two (2) bonus points (i.e., 14 total SA credits). Conversely, failing to complete the SA requirement will lower your final score, with your credit shortfall being deducted from your overall average in the same increments (e.g., completing 9.5 SA credits will result your final grade average being reduced by 2.5%).

Meeting the SA-credit requirement requires an investment of less than one hour per week on average, so think of this as an “easy” requirement. Regardless of how you choose to think about it, however, take it *seriously*—because we do.

### THE OBERLIN HONOR CODE

The Oberlin College Honor Code will apply to all work submitted in satisfaction of requirements for this course, including exams, online quizzes, and SA credit work. In addition to the *Honor Code's* “basic assumption that all work submitted is the sole and original product of the individual student,” the following special stipulations will apply to your work for this course:

1. Examinations, quizzes, and written SA credit work should contain the statement, “*I have adhered to the Honor Code for this assignment,*” along with your signature (or virtual endorsement, in the case of online quizzes).
2. Online quizzes must be taken alone.
3. Exams, quizzes, and SA materials *cannot be shared in any form* (hardcopy, digital, verbal, etc.) with persons who may take PSYC-100 at some future time.
4. Students consulting *any electronic device for any reason* during a lecture exam will receive a zero for the

exam (those with an official educational accommodation permitting calculator or computer use excepted).

5. If you choose to become involved in research, your participation should be genuine and sincere. Students who deliberately sabotage research studies for which they have volunteered will be held in violation of the *Oberlin Honor Code*, since their actions disrupt the academic efforts of fellow students by undermining the value of the data they collect. *If you do not wish to participate in a particular research study, then DON'T.* Avail yourself of one of the other ways that we have provided to complete the SA credit requirement, rather than destroying someone else’s hard work.

**Violation of the *Honor Code* will result in course failure (F or NP)**—effected retroactively, if necessary—in addition to whatever penalty is imposed by the *Student Honor Committee*. Details about the *Oberlin Honor System* can be found online at:

<http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/honorcode.html>

### MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

1. If we need to get in touch with you, we will do so through the email address listed on *Blackboard*, which is, by default, your *oberlin.edu* address. If you rely on another email account, set your OC Mail to forward incoming messages to that account.
2. Students with special needs (e.g., learning disabilities, vision or hearing problems, etc.) should provide documentation from the Office of Disabilities Resources (Peters Hall 116-118; x55588; [drccs@oberlin.edu](mailto:drccs@oberlin.edu)) regarding accommodations for lectures, quizzes, and examinations *as soon as possible*. It is the student’s responsibility to remind the instructor prior to in-class exams if special testing circumstances are required.
3. You may make audio recordings of lectures for your personal use, but you may *not* post those recordings in whole or in part to any internet (or local intranet) site or any form of social media.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

We will do our best to maintain the lecture schedule presented on the next page, but some modification may become necessary as the semester progresses due to unforeseen events. Exam, quiz, and SA credit due dates, however, *will not change*.

Day	Topic / Deadline	Day	Topic / Deadline
Tu 4	Intro to course structure and requirements	Mo 29	Ch. 12 quiz expires at 9 PM
We 5		Tu 30	Social Psychology
Th 6	Research Methods in Psychology	We 31	
Fr 7		Th 1	Social Psychology
Sa 8		Fr 2	
Su 9		Sa 3	
Mo 10	Ch. 2 quiz expires at 9 PM	Su 4	
Tu 11	Research Methods in Psychology	Mo 5	Ch. 13 quiz expires at 9 PM
We 12		Tu 6	Personality
Th 13	Brain and Behavior	We 7	
Fr 14		Th 8	Personality
Sa 15		Fr 9	
Su 16		Sa 10	
Mo 17	Ch. 3 quiz expires at 9 PM	Su 11	
Tu 18	Brain and Behavior	Mo 12	Ch. 10 quiz expires at 9 PM
We 19		Tu 13	Emotion
Th 20	No Class: Research Participant Survey	We 14	
Fr 21	★ Last Day to Reschedule a Lecture Exam ★	Th 15	Stress and Health
Sa 22		Fr 16	
Su 23		Sa 17	
Mo 24	Ch. 5 quiz expires at 9 PM	Su 18	
Tu 25	Sensation and Perception	Mo 19	
We 26		Tu 20	EXAM 3
Th 27	EXAM 1	We 21	
Fr 28		Th 22	T-DAY BREAK
Sa 29		▼ ▼	
Su 30		Su 25	
Mo 1	Ch. 7 quiz expires at 9 PM	Mo 26	Ch. 6 quiz expires at 9:00 PM
Tu 2	Attention	Tu 27	Conditioning
We 3		We 28	
Th 4	Memory	Th 29	Psychological Disorders
Fr 5		Fr 30	
Sa 6		Sa 1	
Su 7		Su 2	
Mo 8	Ch. 8 quiz expires at 9 PM	Mo 3	Ch. 14 quiz expires at 9 PM
Tu 9	Thinking	Tu 4	Psychological Disorders
We 10		We 5	
Th 11	Language	Th 6	Treatment of Psychological Disorders
Fr 12		Fr 7	★ SA Credit Deadline 4:30 PM ★
Sa 13		Sa 8	
Su 14		Su 9	
Mo 15	Ch. 9 quiz expires at 9 PM	Mo 10	Ch. 15 quiz expires 9 PM
Tu 16	Human Development	Tu 11	Treatment of Psychological Disorders
We 17		We 12	
Th 18	EXAM 2	Th 13	READING PERIOD
Fr 19	★ Bonus SA Credit Deadline 4:30 PM ★	Fr 14	
Sa 20	FALL BREAK	Sa 15	
▼ ▼		Su 16	
Su 28		Mo 17	