Introduction to Psychology
PSY-100-01; Fall 2010
Monday / Wednesday / Friday 9:15a to 10:20a; Visual Arts Building, Room 215

Professor
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Objective
Upon completion of the course, you should understand (not just “know”) the most important theories and research in the field, understand the manner in which psychological research is conducted, and gain an appreciation for how the science of psychology helps explain our own behaviors and cognitions. Psychology isn’t the study of something obscure or irrelevant – it’s the study of how we think, feel, and behave. Therefore, I hope that you will regularly step back to observe how your own behavioral and mental processes can be explained or understood by psychology.

Optional Textbook

Primary Readings
Each week, you are expected to read and understand the assigned article as shown in the Class Schedule. These articles are from Current Directions in Psychological Science, a peer-reviewed journal published by the Association for Psychological Science, one of the two major organizations devoted to psychology. These are recent articles written by some of the most highly respected scientists in their fields, but they are written so that a general audience can understand them. I hope that you will find them to be both interesting and thought-provoking. All articles are available online at www1.union.edu/bizerg/readings100

Quizzes
Quizzes will be announced on the day prior to their administration and will cover material from the prior two days of class. For example, a quiz held on a Friday will cover material from the prior Monday and Wednesday. “Material” refers to concepts discussed in class and in that week’s journal article.

Papers
Assignments will be distributed one week from when the thought paper will be due. Papers must be submitted at the beginning of the class session during which they are due. There will be three papers assigned but only two will count toward your grade. Thus, you can either skip one or have your lowest score dropped. Papers may not be submitted via email.
# Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Week’s reading</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tomasello &amp; Herrmann (2010) Ape and Human Cognition</td>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>Class Cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Methods p. 14-24</td>
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<td>Methods</td>
<td>Neuroscience Ch. 2</td>
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<td>Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Neuroscience &amp; Sens’n + Perc’n</td>
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<td>Developmental Psy. Ch. 4</td>
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<td>Developmental Psy.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>Consciousness Ch. 6</td>
<td>Learning Ch. 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td></td>
<td>Memory Ch. 8</td>
<td>Thinking p. 289-298</td>
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<td>Personality + Culture p. 421-442</td>
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<td>Psychology + Health p. 396-417</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>King et al. (2010) Prenatal Factors in Schizophrenia</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
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<td>Abnormal Psy. Ch. 13</td>
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<td>Abnormal Psy.</td>
<td>Therapy Ch. 14</td>
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<td>Social Psychology Ch. 15</td>
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<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<td>10½</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
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<td>To Be Announced</td>
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(Date and time of final examination will be determined by the registrar.)
Grading

Grades will be scored out of a possible 500 points. The point breakdown will be as follows:

- **Exam 1:** 100pts
- **Exam 2:** 100pts
- **Final Exam:** 100pts
- **Quizzes:** 150pts (5 quizzes at 30pts each)
- **Papers:** 50pts (your highest-scoring 2 papers at 25pts each)

Grades will be awarded according to the following schedule:

- 460 A
- 450 A–
- 440 B+
- 410 B
- 400 B–
- 390 C+
- 360 C
- 350 C–
- 300 D
- <300 F

Out-of-Class Activities Requirement (“FREUD”)

The Department of Psychology believes that out-of-class psychological activities are an important part of the total learning experience. For this reason, students enrolled in all sections of psy100 are required to complete four hours of out-of-class activities.

**Option A: Research participation.** As soon as possible, register at freud.union.edu. Then, check the site periodically for research opportunities. When you have completed a study, be sure that the researcher signs your participation form. Studies typically last between ¼ and 1 hour.

**Option B: Approved lectures or activities related to psychology.** You must get my permission to receive credit for attending beforehand. After attending a pre-approved event, ask the event’s host to sign the participation form. You will need to submit this signed form as well as a description not to exceed one full typewritten, double-spaced page. In your description, you should discuss the purpose or main idea from the presentation or activity and your reaction to the presentation or activity.

You can mix and match these options, but you must complete four hours of activities. **Participation forms are due by Wednesday, November 10, at the beginning of class.** Each quarter-hour that is not completed by this time results in a 1.5-point deduction from the student’s course total (out of 500), to the maximum deduction of 25.0 points (out of 500) if no hours have been completed.
Important Policies

Expected Absences. If you know that you will miss a class due to religious observances, athletic competition or other reasons, please let me know no later than the week prior to the class to be missed.

Unexpected Absences. If you experience an emergency or suffer from an illness that precludes your attendance, please call or email me as soon as possible. In such circumstances, you will need to provide documentation for the absence.

Makeups. If you are excused from a quiz, that score will be replaced with the mean of the other quiz scores. If you are excused from an exam, a makeup exam will be given in alternate format.

Disabilities. It is the policy of Union College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete the course requirements, please make an appointment with me. All discussions will remain confidential.

Academic Dishonesty. Judicial action will be taken against any student engaging in dishonest behaviors. Dishonest behavior includes, but certainly is not limited to: Plagiarism on any assignment (including thought papers); Collaboration with fellow students on any assignment (including thought papers); Dishonesty during examinations (i.e., copying others’ answers; use of notes). Although discussion with your classmates about assignments is encouraged, collaboration – working jointly toward the completion of an assignment – is not. Students are advised to consult the Union College Statement on Plagiarism available online at http://bit.ly/ucplag.

Schedule Modification. Although I intend to follow the Schedule, I reserve the right to make changes if necessary. Such changes, if any, will be clearly stated in class; it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of such changes by attending class.

Late Submissions. Papers submitted later than 9:15am will be assessed a 20% deduction. Those submitted by 5:00pm the following calendar day will be assessed a 50% deduction. Papers submitted thereafter will not be accepted.

A Final Note

I expect that you will find this course to be challenging. This isn’t a “blow-off” course – success will depend on a thorough understanding of the concepts discussed in class and in the assigned readings. If, at any time, you feel that you’re having difficulty, I strongly encourage you to visit office hours and/or make an appointment to see me. If things aren’t going well, let’s talk early and often.