PSYCHOLOGY FUNDAMENTALS
Course Syllabus
Fall, 2007

Course: Psych 9A; Psy Beh 11A
Code: 68040

Lecture: TuTh 2:00–3:20
Room: PSLH 100

TEXT: Gleitman, *Psychology,* 7th Edition

PROFESSOR: Don Hoffman
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Phone: 824-6795
Office Hrs: Tu 1:00–1:50

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Add and drop by paper card during the first two weeks of class.
2. You must be registered both in the lecture and in a discussion section.
3. You can check your grades using EEE: http://e3.uci.edu
4. If you wish to learn strategies for notetaking, critical thinking, and efficient reading of the text, then you might want to sign up for tutoring through the Learning and Academic Resource Center (LARC).
5. To find out more about your professor's research, you can peruse his publications online at http://www.cogsci.uci.edu/∼ddhoff/HoffmanPubs.html or his book *Visual Intelligence* (Norton Press, 2000), or check out his web page at http://www.cogsci.uci.edu/∼ddhoff/

GRADING:

Your grade will be based on two midterm exams and the final exam. The first midterm will cover all lectures and readings through and including Lecture 5. The second midterm will cover all lectures and readings from Lecture 6 through and including Lecture 10 (nothing from the period before the first midterm). The final exam will cover all lectures and readings from Lecture 11 through and including Lecture 18. Each midterm will have 40 multiple-choice questions and the final will have 50, approximately half from the text and half from the lectures. The number of questions on a topic will be approximately proportional to the number of lectures on that topic. You are "graded on the curve" based on your *total* points at the end of the term: the top 15% of the class get A's, the next 25% get B's, the next 45% get C's, the next 10% get D's, and the last 5% get F's. *Bring a photo ID—your student ID—to each exam.* Every ID is checked during each exam. Also bring a scantron, *two* # 2 pencils (count on one breaking), and an eraser. We provide the entertainment.

Questions on Psychology midterm and final exams are designed to test your understanding of basic terminology (e.g., "receptor"), your grasp of important concepts (e.g., "cognition"), your ability to apply these concepts to practical situations, your knowledge of how these concepts are supported (research results), your exposure to the range of topics presented in the course, and your ability to integrate these topics. Questions range from the very easy to the very difficult.

One of the teaching assistants, to be announced in class, is responsible for administrative matters: e.g., add/drop cards, grading and recording scantrons. If you wish to examine your scantron following an exam, go to this teaching assistant during office hours; do not go to Professor Hoffman to see scantrons—he will not have the scantrons. (On the other hand, please do go to him to discuss intellectual questions about psychology.) All grading errors will be handled through the administrative teaching assistant. If you wish to discuss questions that you missed, write down the question numbers and the form (A or B) of your exam. Then visit the teaching assistant that leads your discussion section, or visit Professor Hoffman during office hours.

EXTRA POINTS:
You may earn up to a total of 6 extra credit points by volunteering to participate in laboratory experiments. As subjects in experiments, you have the opportunity to learn how experimental research in psychology is conducted today, and you help provide the necessary subjects for the School's extensive research program. You will receive 1.5 points for each hour that you participate, with your maximum participation limited to 4 hours (i.e., 6 points).

a) Procedure: Sign-up online using this link to experimetrix: https://experimetrix2.com/uci/
b) Contract: If you agree to take part in an experiment, you form a contract with the experimenter to be punctually present at the time and place designated on the sign-up sheet. If you must cancel your appointment, do so using the above experimetrix website *at least* one hour before the time of the experiment. The penalty for non-informed, nonattendance is the loss of 1 point. Your attendance at the experiment will be recorded by the laboratory assistant, but be sure to get a credit slip in case an error is made (keep it through the quarter, don't give it to Professor Hoffman). Also, the experimenters may run out of experiments before the end of the quarter, so early participation is the safest way to ensure that you don't miss out on this easy way to accumulate points.

NOTE: Extra credit points can raise your final grade by *only one* grade boundary, e.g., from B+ to A- or from C to C+.

Instead of volunteering to participate in experiments, you may volunteer to write a 4-page (double-space typewritten) paper for up to 6 points of extra credit. You must get approval from your TA for the topic of the paper, and the TA will grade the paper and decide, based on its quality, how many points of extra credit it receives. Papers are due by the end of class on Tuesday, December 4. Late papers receive no credit.

A WORD TO THE WISE:
As you can see from the schedule below, this course involves a moderate amount of reading. I recommend that you read the material at least twice, preferably three times, before each exam. Reading a bit each day is a more time-effective way to study than cramming.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Lecture	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	Th 9/27	Psychology as a Science	1
2	Tu 10/2	Biological Basis of Behavior	2
3	Th 10/4	Biological Basis of Behavior	2
4	Tu 10/9	Biological Basis of Behavior	3
5	Th 10/11	Biological Basis of Behavior	3
—	Tu 10/16	FIRST MIDTERM EXAM – 40 questions (40 points)	
6	Th 10/18	Learning	6
7	Tu 10/23	Learning	6
8	Th 10/25	Learning	6
9	Tu 10/30	Mind-Body Problem	Fodor
10	Th 11/1	Quantitative Methods	Appendix
—	Tu 11/6	SECOND MIDTERM EXAM – 40 questions (40 points)	
11	Th 11/8	Visual Development	4
12	Tu 11/13	Face Perception	4
13	Th 11/15	Face Perception	4
14	Tu 11/20	Visual Intelligence	4
—	Th 11/22	Thanksgiving Holiday —	
15	Tu 11/27	Phantom Limb	5
16	Th 11/29	Visual Motion	5
17	Tu 12/4	Color Perception	5
18	Th 12/6	Interface Theory of Perception	5
—	Th 12/13	1:30p.m. –3:30 p.m., FINAL – 50 questions (50 points)	