

PSYCHOLOGY FUNDAMENTALS

Course Syllabus
Fall, 2001

Course: Soc Sci 9A
Code: 68050

Lecture: TuTh 11:00–12:20
Room: SSLH 100

TEXT: Gleitman, *Psychology*, 5th Edition

PROFESSOR: Don Hoffman
Office: SSPA 2169
Phone: 824-6795
Office Hrs: TuTh 10:00–10:50

SECRETARY: Justine Sarashid
Office: SSPA 2135
Phone: 824-6336

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Add and drop by TELE during the first two weeks of class.
2. You must be registered both in the lecture and in a discussion section.
3. If you switch discussion sections, you must inform both teaching assistants.
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 read his article "The interpretation of visual illusions," *Scientific American*, December 1983, or his book *Visual Intelligence* (Norton Press, 1998), or check out his web page at <http://www.socsci.uci.edu/cogsci/personnel/hoffman/>

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 17. 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 15% get B's, the next 50% get C's, the next 10% get D's, and the last 10% get F's. **Bring a photo ID—your student ID—to each exam.** Every ID is checked during each exam. Also bring **two # 2** pencils (count on one breaking), and an eraser. We provide scantrons and 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 2 points for each hour that you participate, with your maximum participation limited to 3 hours (i.e., 6 points).

- a) Procedure: Sign-up sheets will be posted at the entrance of SSL 488 during the week.
- 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, call the Laboratory Office, 824-5412 or 824-8083, **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 Thursday, November 30. 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	Tu 9/25	Psychology as a Science.....	1
2	Th 9/27	Biological Basis of Behavior.....	2
3	Tu 10/2	Biological Basis of Behavior.....	2
4	Th 10/4	Biological Basis of Behavior.....	2
5	Tu 10/9	Biological Basis of Behavior.....	2
—	Th 10/11	FIRST MIDTERM EXAM – 40 questions (40 points)	
6	Tu 10/16	Motivation	3
7	Th 10/18	Motivation	3
8	Tu 10/23	Learning.....	4
9	Th 10/25	Learning.....	4
10	Tu 10/30	Learning.....	4
—	Th 11/1	SECOND MIDTERM EXAM – 40 questions (40 points)	
11	Tu 11/6	Mind-Body Problem.....	Fodor
12	Th 11/8	Quantitative Methods	Appendix 1
13	Tu 11/13	Development	13
14	Th 11/15	Development	14
15	Tu 11/20	Language.....	9
—	Th 11/22	Thanksgiving Holiday —	
16	Tu 11/27	Language.....	9
17	Th 11/29	Language.....	9
—	Tu 12/4	10:30a.m. –12:30 p.m., FINAL – 50 questions (50 points)	