

## **PSY 141A: Introduction to Psychological Science, Fall 2021**

Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:20 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. in Hegeman 102

### **Instructor**

Tom Hutcheon, Ph.D.

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Office location: RKC 208

Office hours: Monday noon – 1:00 p.m. and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

How does the mind create the reality we perceive? How do experiences shape the brain, and how do processes in the brain influence thought, emotion, and behavior? This course investigates these and similar questions by studying the science of the human mind and behavior. The course covers topics such as memory, perception, development, psychopathology, personality, and social behavior. We will focus on the biological, cognitive, and social/cultural roots that give rise to human experience, and consider how behavior differs among people, and across situations. Writing, speaking, group work, and hands-on experiences will augment readings from the text, popular culture, and research journals.

### **READINGS**

All readings are listed on the course schedule and are available on the course Brightspace site <https://bardcollege.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. You should complete readings prior to the start of class and be prepared to discuss them on the appropriate day.

### **COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE GRADE**

#### *Section Reviews (4 Reviews worth 25 points each)*

As we will learn over the course of the semester, retention of information is improved when we: a) space out our study time and b) frequently retrieve this information from memory. To encourage students to regularly review their notes, students will complete section reviews consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions four times over the course of the semester. Reviews will be posted one week prior to their due date. Students can choose to work together on the reviews, but each student will be required to complete and submit their own section review.

#### *Exams (Midterm and Final, worth 100 points each)*

There will be two exams in this class. Exam dates are firm but the material covered may vary slightly from the course schedule depending on how the course progresses. Any deviations from the schedule will be made clear prior to each exam. Exams will contain multiple choice and essay questions encompassing material covered in class, the assigned readings, and section reviews. Each exam will be worth 100 points and the final exam will be cumulative. Students are expected to take all exams in class on the schedule dates. Make up exams will only be scheduled with a written excuse from the Dean of Students or a medical professional.

*Experiment Proposal Draft and Final Paper (25 points and 50 points, respectively)*

Building on what you will learn about experimental design and the types of questions psychologists ask, you will submit a proposal for an experiment that could be reasonably conducted on Bard College campus. You will submit an initial draft of the proposal (Due: Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>) for which you will receive feedback and meet with me (Tom) to discuss. Finally, you will submit a final paper which incorporates this feedback (Due Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>). Additional information about this project will be provided over the course of the semester.

*Class Participation (25 points)*

You will be graded on your class participation. Although I will take attendance, this will not (except under extreme and unexcused circumstances) impact your grade. Moreover, earning a high grade on class participation does not require you to answer every question in class. My hope is that you will come to class prepared to engage with the material and the other students in this class.

*Research Participation (20 points)*

One of the best ways to learn about psychology is to experience what goes on in the laboratory: how does psychological science happen; how are hypotheses generated, and how are experiments conducted? A lot of exciting research is happening right here at Bard, and much of it makes use of college undergraduates as participants. In this course, you will earn 10 points for each hour of research you participate in (for a maximum of 20 points). One hour of participation must be completed prior to Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The remaining hour must be completed prior to Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**How do I participate and receive credit for my participation?**

**Step 1: Log in to the Sona System**

- Visit <http://bardresearch.sona-systems.com/>
- Click “Bard Account Log In” on the left side of the screen.
- When prompted, log in with the username and password you use for your Bard email.
- You will be prompted to select a course section, your course is PSY 141A – Hutcheon

**Step 2: Select a study to participate in.**

- Once you have logged in, you will see a list of available experiments.
  - Note 1:* some of experiments require online participation while others will require in-person participation.
  - Note 2:* different experiments will be of different lengths (typically either 1 or .5 hours). In this course, you are expected to participate 2 hours of research.
- Click on a study that looks interesting and follow prompts to participate.
  - Note 3:* If the study is conducted online, you can participate immediately. For in person studies, you will need to select a date and time to participate.

**Step 3: Participate!**

#### **Step 4: Confirm you received credit**

- After you participate your Sona account should be credited. This may take up to 24-hours after you participate.

*Note 4: 1 hour of participation equals 1 point in your Sona account.*

*Alternative Assignment:* If you do not wish to participate in research studies or are under 18 years of age, you may submit an alternative research assignment. Information about this assignment is available on the course Brightspace site.

#### **GRADING BREAKDOWN**

##### *Point Allocation*

Section Reviews (4 X 25 points each)	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Research Proposal Draft	25
Research Proposal Final	50
Class Participation	25
<u>Research Participation</u>	20
<u>Total Points</u>	420

FINAL GRADE = ((Total Points Earned)/420) \*100

#### *GRADING SCALE*

A-= 93% – 90%  
B+= 90% – 87%  
B = 87% – 83%  
B- = 83% – 80%  
C+=77%-80%  
C = 77% – 73%  
C- = 73% - 70%  
D = 70% – 60%  
F = less than 60%

#### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

An assignment will be considered late if it is not uploaded to the Brightspace site prior to the start of class (10:20 a.m.) on the day it is due. All late assignments will be subject to 50% reduction in maximum possible score on that assignment. Late assignments can be submitted at any point during the semester up until the last day of our class (Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>) but will automatically incur the 50% late penalty.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students are assumed to have read the Bard College Handbook and are familiar with the school's policies regarding Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty. Violations of these policies are taken extremely seriously and one violation will result in a failing grade for the course and a referral to the Dean of Students for further action.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS**

Your experience in this class is important to me. I am committed to meeting the needs of all students in this course and will work with you to ensure your accommodations are adequately met. If you have already established accommodations, I will receive a letter from the Learning Commons Disability Support Services with additional information. If you have not yet established services through the learning commons, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but are not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), please review the Student Accessibility Resources website:

<https://www.bard.edu/accessibility/students/>

## **RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY**

It is my intent that students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions on ways that I can improve the course and incorporate more diversity are encouraged and appreciated.

## **IMPORTANT COLLEGE-WIDE DATES**

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Add/Drop Period Ends

Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – Late Drop Period Ends, Pass/Fail Grading Deadline

Friday, December 3 – Last Day to Withdraw from Class.

## **Psychology 141A Course Schedule – Fall 2021**

### 1. Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – Welcome to PSY 141A!

### 2. Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Research Methods I

To Read Before Class:

1. Myers & Dewall (2015). *An Introduction to Psychological Science*.

### 3. Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Research Methods II

To Read Before Class:

1. Hu (2014). *Are we measuring basic facts about children? Or basic facts about rich kids?*

### 4. Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Research Methods III

To Read Before Class:

2. Anderson & Murphy (2003). *Video games and aggressive behavior in women*.

### Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – No Class

### 5. Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – Neuroscience I

To Read Before Class:

1. Price (2021). *Research ethics*.
2. Dobbs (2010). *A rush to moral judgment*.

### 6. Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – Neuroscience II

To Watch Before Class:

1. *How brain-computer connections could end paralysis*.

### 7. Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sensation & Perception I

To Read Before Class:

1. Henshaw (2012). *How vision works*.
2. Lee et al (2006). *The influence of Expectation on Preference for Beer*.

### 8. Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Sensation & Perception II

To be Submitted Before Class:

**Review #1:** Research Methods and Neuroscience

9. Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – Attention

To Read Before Class:

1. Simons & Levin (1996). *Failure to detect changes to people during real-world interaction.*

10. Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Learning & Memory I

To Read Before Class:

1. Siegel (2016). *The heroin overdose mystery.*

11. Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Learning & Memory II

To Read Before Class:

1. Dittrich (2017). *Henry Gustav Molaison (1926 – 1953)*

Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break – No Class

12. Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Learning & Memory III

To Read Before Class:

1. Sparrow et al. (2011). *Google effects on memory.*

13. Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Thinking and Decision-Making I

To Read Before Class:

1. Gilbert (2011). *Buried by bad decisions.*

14. Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Thinking and Decision-Making II

To be Submitted Before Class:

**Review #2:** Sensation & Perception, Attention, Learning & Memory

15. Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Midterm Exam

16. Wednesday, October 27 – Intelligence

To Read Before Class:

1. Deary (2001). *Human intelligence differences: A recent history.*

17. Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – Social Psychology I

To Read Before Class:

1. Singal (2021). *TED talks won't treat your depression.*

18. Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Social Psychology II

To be Submitted Before Class:  
**Experimental Proposal Draft**

19. Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Social Psychology III

To Read Before Class:  
1. Gaither & Sommers (2013). *Living with an other-race roommate*.

20. Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – Proposal Meetings

21. Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – Developmental Psychology I

To be Submitted Before Class:  
**Review #3:** Thinking and Decision Making, Intelligence, and Social Psychology

22. Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Developmental Psychology II

To Read Before Class:  
1. Harris (1998). *Why children turn out the way they do*.

23. Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Personality

To Read Before Class:  
1. Gladwell (2004). *Personality Plus*.

Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – No Class: Thanksgiving

24. Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – Clinical Psychology I

To Read Before Class:  
1. Rosenhan (1973). *On Being Sane in Unsane Places*.

25. Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – Clinical Psychology II

To be Submitted Before Class:  
**Experimental Proposal Final Paper**

26. Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – Psychology and Technology

To Read before Class:

1. Flanagan (2021). *You Really Need to Quit Twitter*

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – No Class: Advising Day

To be Submitted Before Class:

**Review #4** Developmental, Personality, and Clinical Psychology

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Review

Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam