

SYLLABUS PSYCHOLOGY FUNDAMENTALS

Course: Psych 9B / Psych Beh P11B
Time: Spring 2018, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50 PM
Location: SSLH100
Website: <http://psiexp.ss.uci.edu/research/teaching9B/>
(contains schedule and copies of slides)

Professor

Mark Steyvers
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Administrative Teaching Assistant:

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Instructing Teaching Assistants:

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Overview

This one of three courses that are a part of a three-quarter series, cross-listed as “Social Ecology Psy Beh P11 A, B, C” or “Social Sciences Psych 9 A, B, C.” All three courses are offered every quarter and can be taken in any order. The series is designed to give students a strong foundation in the major research areas of psychology, including such areas as human cognitive and social development, memory, language, emotional and social behavior, psychopathology, and neuroscience. This course sequence is required for students majoring in Psychology and Social Behavior in the School of Social Ecology and for students majoring in Psychology in the School of Social Sciences. These courses can also be taken by non-majors. In this course specifically, referred to as “Psy Beh P11B” or “Psych 9B,” topics to be covered include memory, thinking, language, learning, and cognitive development.

Adding and Dropping

Adding or dropping this course is possible only online and only in the first two weeks of the quarter. You may register under Psy Beh 11B (PSB majors), or Psych 9B (Psychology majors), or under either course number for other majors.

What you need for this course

Textbook: Psychological Science (5th edition) by Michael Gazzaniga and Diane Halpern (published in 2016 by W.W. Norton & Co.). We will be reading chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 from this textbook. It can be purchased from the UCI bookstore as a paperback, loose leaf text, or online text. Access to the online version is not required for Psychology Fundamentals B

Lectures and Readings

Students are responsible for all the material presented in lectures and in assigned readings. Lectures do not simply repeat material in the text. Rather, lectures emphasize and elaborate on key issues in the text as well as introducing material not covered in the text. Thus, the text is not a substitute for the lectures, and the lectures are not a substitute for doing the assigned readings. Students who are successful both attend lectures and read the material in the text. During lectures, please feel free to ask questions. PDF files of the PowerPoint presentation materials will be posted on the course website.

Class Policies

Out of courtesy to your fellow students, do not arrive late, leave early, or converse during class. Cheating or plagiarism will result in penalties that may include failing the course and placing a letter in the student's file. For more information see:

<http://senate.uci.edu/files/2015/12/Appendix-VIII-UCI-Academic-Senate-Policy-on-Academic-Honesty.pdf>

Teaching Assistants

The administrative teaching assistant (see above for contact information), 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 Steyvers to see scantrons; he will not have the scantrons. 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 Steyvers during office hours.

For questions about course content, please attend discussion sections, go to office hours, or contact one of the Instructional Teaching Assistants (see above for contact information). You are welcome to go to the office hours of an Instructional Teaching Assistant who is not your discussion section leader.

Discussion Sections

Discussion sections will begin the second week of class -- the week of April 9. Attending discussion sections is not mandatory and does not earn points. Sections will not introduce new material, but will review and integrate material from lectures and the text, work through difficult concepts, and provide review for upcoming exams. You will have to be formally registered for a discussion section but *you are free to attend any discussion section you like, whether or not it is*

the one you are registered for. Times and locations of discussion sections, and of the TAs' office hours, are listed on the class website

Exams

There will be two exams that will count towards your grade. Each exam will have between 60-100 multiple-choice questions and a few short-answer questions. Note that the exams *are not cumulative*.

For each exam, please bring to class Scantron Form F-288, two sharpened Number 2 pencils, and your UCI Student ID card.

Questions on the exams are designed to test your understanding of basic terminology (e.g., “working memory,” “long term memory”), your grasp of important concepts (e.g., sources of memory bias), your ability to apply these concepts to practical situations, your knowledge of how these concepts are supported (research results), and your ability to integrate the topics covered in the course. Questions range from very easy to difficult. The number of questions on a topic will be approximately proportional to the number of lectures on that topic.

Please arrive on time for each exam. We will not allow students to take the exam if they are more than 15 minutes late for the exam.

Makeup exams will only be considered in cases of unavoidable emergency or illness (this needs to be documented) and only with my permission *prior* to the scheduled exam.

Grading

Here is how the exams and quizzes contribute to your grade:

- 50% Midterm: covers all lectures and readings up to midterm exam
- 50% Final exam: covers all lectures and readings after midterm exam

Approximate letter grades will be posted after each exam. Final letter grades for the course will be on a “curve” based on your total points at the end of the term. The top 15% of the class will receive grades in the “A” range (that is, A+, A, or A-), the next 25% will receive grades in the B range, the next 45% will receive grades in the C range, the next 10% will receive grades in the D range, and the last 5% will receive F's. These ranges may be adjusted if the class does especially well or poorly.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is voluntary. You may earn up to (but not more than) 4 points of extra credit (after the curve has been set). Using extra credit, you may be able to raise your grade one-third of a letter grade (if your total score for the course is close enough to the cutoff for the one-third grade step) but grades will not be raised more than one-third letter grade. (For example, you could potentially raise your grade from C- to C, but not from C- to C+. You could potentially raise your grade from B+ to A-, but not from B+ to A).

Extra credit can be earned in two ways. 1) You can participate in research experiments, or 2) you can write a research report. Extra credit can be earned either through research participation or through the research report option, but not by a combination of the two options.

1) Experiment Participation. Psychology is a scientific discipline and, as a participant in experiments, you have an opportunity to learn how experimental research in psychology is conducted, and you help provide subjects for UC Irvine's extensive research program in the psychological sciences. You will receive one point for each hour that you participate (that is, 1/2 point for each half hour).

To sign-up to participate in an experiment, go to the following website:

<https://uci.sona-systems.com/> and follow the instructions. If you agree to participate in an experiment, you form a contract with the experimenter to be present at the time and place designated on the sign-up sheet. If you must cancel an appointment, you may do so on <https://uci.sona-systems.com/> at least one hour prior to the experiment; in an emergency, you may call the Laboratory Office, 824-5412. Failure to appear twice (i.e., accumulating 2 unexcused no-shows) will result in you being denied access to participate in research studies via Sona Systems for the remainder of the academic quarter. Further information about participating can be found here: <https://www.hsl.socsci.uci.edu/student.php>

In order to receive credit, be sure to follow all instructions on the human subjects lab pool website. **Importantly, you are required to log back on to the website after participating in the experiment to allocate your credit.** Your attendance at the experiment will be recorded on a sign in sheet. The sign in sheet is NOT a substitute for signing back in on human subjects lab pool site and having your points allocated. **No credit will be given for any experiment for which a student does not properly allocate his or her credit.** Your attendance at the experiment will be recorded by the laboratory assistant, but be sure to get a credit slip and keep it throughout the quarter. In the rare case that an error is made in assigning your extra credit points for the class, you must have your credit slip(s) to document your participation in extra credit studies. There are a limited number of experiments run each quarter. Many experimenters try to do most of their work at the start of the quarter in order to have the 2nd half of the quarter to do their data analysis. Because the lab may run out of experiments before the end of the quarter, early participation is the safest way to ensure that you will not miss out on this opportunity for extra credit.

2) Research Report: Alternatively, Instead of volunteering to participate in experiments, you may volunteer to write a 4-page (double-space typewritten) paper for up to 4 points of extra credit. You must get approval from the administrative 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. Ask your administrative TA for details on the deadline for the research report. Late papers receive no credit.

A Word to The Wise

It is recommended that you read the material at least twice, once before lecture and once after the lecture, and review the readings and your lecture notes before each exam.