

**GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSC 1, Section 1**  
**Spring Quarter 2012**  
**MTWR 3:10-4:00 pm**  
**176 Everson**

**Instructors:** This is a team-taught course with four different instructors, featured for two weeks each (i.e., one “module” each) in the following order:

**1. Megan Zirnstein**

Office: 1318 Social Sciences

e-mail: [mzirnstein@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mzirnstein@ucdavis.edu)

**Office Hours:** M, W 4:15-5:30 pm (during own module) and by appointment

**2. Robie Schriber**

Office: 278 Young Hall

e-mail: [raschriber@ucdavis.edu](mailto:raschriber@ucdavis.edu)

**Office Hours:** M 4:10-6:00 pm & F 1:00-2:00 pm (during own module) and by appointment

**3. Rodica Damian**

Office: 102F Young Hall

e-mail: [ridamian@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ridamian@ucdavis.edu)

**Office Hours:** M 10:00 am -12:00 noon (during own module) and by appointment

**4. Janice Cheng**

Office: Young Hall Annex

e-mail: [jancheng@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jancheng@ucdavis.edu)

**Office Hours:** T, R 4:10-5:30pm (during own module) and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:**

**Brian Hurley**

Office: 189 Young Hall

e-mail: [bkhurley@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bkhurley@ucdavis.edu)

**Office Hours:** T, R 4:15-5:15 pm

**Required Text:**

**Feist, G. J., & Rosenberg E. L., *Psychology: Perspectives and Connections*, 2nd edition, McGraw-Hill.**

ISBN-10: 0078035201, ISBN: 978-0078035203

This book can be purchased at the book store or ordered online, including as a softcover or as a kindle download. In addition, there will be a copy of the text on 2-hour reserve at the library.

## Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the fundamentals of psychology. Topics in this course will cover a wide spectrum of research questions and methods, will acquaint you with perspectives and ideas from past and contemporary psychologists, and will also draw attention to the human applications of psychological knowledge. As such, the course is designed to (a) provide an overview of the scientific discipline of psychology for all students, regardless of their major, and (2) prepare beginning psychology majors for further lower and upper division courses in the department.

## Administrative Details:

1. You are expected to know the contents of this syllabus.
2. The deadline for **withdrawals** for this course is **April 27<sup>th</sup>**. This is set by the university and both students and instructors must follow them.
3. **Course Web Site.** You can access the course web site for PSC1 Section 1 via SmartSite (<http://smartsite.ucdavis.edu>). This syllabus and all lecture notes, including powerpoint slides, will be posted on the course web site in the "Resources" section.

### 4. Class Communication

Individual email: Please use individual emails for specific questions about lectures, or textbook questions, as well as concerns of a personal nature regarding the course. We will respond to your email as quickly as possible, but don't expect an immediate response, especially in the evening and on the weekends.

Class email list: The list contains only e-mails with @ucdavis.edu. Check your email at this address frequently to avoid missing important information. If you do not use your UC Davis email address frequently, have mail from this address forwarded to your usual address.

Course Announcements: The instructors will occasionally make announcements during class time. In most cases, important announcements will be posted in the "Announcements" section of our SmartSite course page, but this is not guaranteed. You are responsible for all announcements whether or not you are present in class.

5. **Exams.** There will be **four midterm exams (one for each instructor) and an optional final exam**. Each exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions, and it will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Exams call for students to be responsible for **all** of the material in the assigned readings and lectures. You will sometimes be tested on material from the textbook that is not presented in class. You will sometimes be tested on material from lecture that is not presented in the textbook.

The midterm exams are **noncumulative**. Each midterm exam will only cover the material included by the respective instructor. The **optional final** exam is **cumulative**. You may take the final if you want to, but it is **not** mandatory. **If you take the final, the lowest of the 5 scores will be dropped.** If you are happy with your four midterm scores, you do not need to take the final exam.

All of the exams, except the final, will be administered during the normal class meeting time.

**Make-up exams.** A make-up exam will be considered if you submit a letter from your physician indicating that it was medically necessary for you to miss class on the day of an exam.

#### 6. Exam Schedule:

##### Midterm Exams

**April 17, Exam 1**

**May 2, Exam 2**

**May 17, Exam 3**

**June 5, Exam 4**

##### Optional Final

**Thursday, June 14 at 8:00 am**

**(Note the different start time!)**

All exams will be administered in the regular class meeting room.

7. **Grading.** Your grade will be based on the percentage of points you score correctly on the four exams (your best four scores, if you take the final). The grading scale is as follows:

**97-100 % = A+**

**93-96.99 % = A**

**90-92.99 % = A-**

**87-89.99 % = B+**

**83-86.99 % = B**

**80-82.99 % = B-**

**77-79.99 % = C+**

**73-76.99 % = C**

**70-72.99 % = C-**

**67-69.99 % = D+**

**63-66.99 % = D**

**60-62.99 % = D-**

**Less than 60 % = F**

8. **Research Participation Requirement.** You are required to complete **six (6) credits** total of research participation for this course. To earn the **six (6) credits**, you can participate in six hours of research **or** you can write brief research papers. You can learn the full details of this course requirement (including FAQ and paper option information) at:

<http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/experimetrix>

Complete instructions regarding how to participate in research studies and the paper option are listed in the “Participation Letter” you will find in the “Resources” section of our SmartSite course page.

The Sona system (<http://ucdavis.sona-systems.com>) will track the number of research hours you complete and generate a report to the subject pool coordinator.

**You must complete your research participation requirement by 5 pm PST on the last day of instruction (June 7, 2012).** Failure to complete the requirement will lead to a grade of "I" (Incomplete) for the course. If the incomplete is not made up within three registered quarters, it will automatically change to an F. Once you have completed the research participation requirement, the grade of "I" will be replaced by the letter grade you earned for the course.

If you have any questions about research participation, you must **first** contact the subject pool coordinator, Shannon Callahan, M.S. (spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu). **Do not email the instructors or the teaching assistant unless you cannot find a solution to a problem by first contacting the subject pool coordinator.**

9. **Extra Credit.** You can earn extra credit as a **maximum of 3 additional points on your final grade** by completing additional research credits (as explained in #8). Specifically, *once you have already fulfilled the required six (6) credits*, you can (1) participate in additional research experiments (1 grade point will be given for each extra hour of participation, .5 grade points also available for half-hours) or (2) write an additional research paper (2 grade points will be given for the first paper, only 1 grade point can be given for the second). Note that you can do a combination of (1) and (2) to earn the **maximum of 3 extra points** and that you can earn anywhere from 1 to 3 extra points, i.e., the maximum of 3 is not “all or none”. Have these completed by 5 pm PST on June 7, 2012.

10. **Academic Integrity.** Honesty is the most important academic virtue. The material you present for course credit, including exam responses and any papers you choose to write in lieu of research participation, must be your own.

11. **Academic Courtesy.** You have a duty to your fellow students not to interfere with their learning. To that end, please turn cell phones **off** before class begins. If you are late to class, the instructors reserve the right to refuse your entry. Also, the class period ends when the instructor dismisses the class, so please do not disrupt your classmates or the instructor by packing up your belongings and/or leaving prior to the end of class, unless in the case of emergency.

12. **Attendance.** The instructors do not take attendance.

**Class Will NOT meet March 30<sup>th</sup> (instruction has not yet begun) and May 28<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day Holiday).**

13. **Lecture Plan:** (see next page)

Section	Date	Day	Module	Lecture Topic	Text Chapters	Instructor
1	2-Apr	Mon		0 Syllabus		All
1	3-Apr	Tue		1 What is Psychology?	Ch. 1	Megan
1	4-Apr	Wed		1 Research in Psychology: History and Methods	Ch. 1 & 2	Megan
1	5-Apr	Thu		1 Research in Psychology: Methods (cont.)	Ch. 2	Megan
1	9-Apr	Mon		1 Biological Bases of Behavior: Genes and the Nervous System	Ch. 3	Megan
1	10-Apr	Tue		1 Biological Bases of Behavior: The Brain and How We Measure It	Ch. 3	Megan
1	11-Apr	Wed		1 Sensation & Perception I: Vision	Ch. 4	Megan
1	12-Apr	Thu		1 Sensation & Perception II: Hearing and Touch	Ch. 4	Megan
1	16-Apr	Mon		1 Sensation & Perception III; Evals	Ch. 4	Megan
1	17-Apr	Tue	Exam 1			Megan
1	18-Apr	Wed		2 Development I: Through Childhood	Ch. 5	Robie
1	19-Apr	Thu		2 Development II: Adolescence Onward	Ch. 5	Robie
1	23-Apr	Mon		2 Memory I: Fundamentals	Ch. 7	Robie
1	24-Apr	Tue		2 Memory II: Biological Bases; Forgetting	Ch. 7	Robie
1	25-Apr	Wed		2 Learning I: Classical & Operant Conditioning	Ch. 8	Robie
1	26-Apr	Thu		2 Learning II: Applying Conditioning; Social Learning	Ch. 8	Robie
1	30-Apr	Mon		2 Consciousness I: Theories; Sleep & Wakefulness	Ch. 6	Robie
1	1-May	Tue		2 Consciousness II: Altered States; Evals	Ch. 6	Robie
1	2-May	Wed	Exam 2			Robie
1	3-May	Thu		3 Human Language	Ch. 9	Rodica
1	7-May	Mon		3 Thinking and Decision Making	Ch. 9	Rodica
1	8-May	Tue		3 Intelligence	Ch. 10	Rodica
1	9-May	Wed		3 Problem Solving and Creativity	Ch. 10	Rodica
1	10-May	Thu		3 Motivation	Ch. 11	Rodica
1	14-May	Mon		3 Emotion I: Theories and functions	Ch. 11	Rodica
1	15-May	Tue		3 Emotion II: How to read facial expressions and how to control your emotions	Ch. 11	Rodica
1	16-May	Wed		3 Stress and Health; Evals	Ch. 12	Rodica
1	17-May	Thu	Exam 3			Rodica
1	21-May	Mon		4 Personality I: Theories and Research	Ch.13	Janice
1	22-May	Tue		4 Personality II: Theories and Research (cont.); Assessment	Ch.13	Janice
1	23-May	Wed		4 Social Behavior I: Social Perception; Attitudes; Group Living & Social Influence	Ch.14	Janice
1	24-May	Thu		4 Social Behavior II: Group Living & Social Influence (cont.); Aggression & Prosocial Behavior; Liking & Loving	Ch.14	Janice
1	28-May	Mon	Holiday	No Class		Memorial Day
1	29-May	Tue		4 Psychological disorders I: Definition, Diagnosis, Categories of Disorders	Ch.15	Janice
1	30-May	Wed		4 Psychological disorders II: Categories of Disorders (cont.)	Ch.15	Janice
1	31-May	Thu		4 Treatment of psychological disorders I	Ch.16	Janice
1	4-Jun	Mon		4 Treatment of psychological disorders II; Evals	Ch.16	Janice
1	5-Jun	Tue	Exam 4			Janice
1	6-Jun	Wed		Special Session: Research at UC Davis		All
1	7-Jun	Thu		0 Final Recap Q & A?		All
<b>Final Exam 14-Jun</b>						