

Introduction to psychology

Instructor: Robert Sekuler <www.brandeis.edu/~sekuler>

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Course Meetings: Mon, Wed & Thurs, 12:10-1:00, Schwartz Auditorium

Teaching assistants: to be announced

Course description: The course aims to promote i) familiarity with modern psychology's basic ideas; ii) appreciation of psychology's potential and its limitations; iii) understanding of systematic, scientific approach to the human mind and human behavior; and iv) recognition of psychology's applications in everyday life.

Required text: H. Gleitman, A. J. Fridlund and D. Reisberg (2000) Basic Psychology: Fifth Edition, New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Additional required reading: Readings posted on course's WebCT site.

Class format: The course adopts a lecture format, but affords many opportunities for in-class demonstrations and discussion. Thoughtful participation is strongly encouraged; equally encouraged: having done the reading before class.

Evaluation: The three one-hour examinations carry equal weight. Exams will comprise multiple choice and short answer questions. Please adjust travel schedules and potential conflicts to accommodate the exam dates specified on the schedule below. Note that make ups will be given only with prior agreement by the instructor, and then only with physician's written documentation of a serious medical condition. The department's Research Familiarization requirement is explained on the accompanying handout.

Accommodation for disability. As for all courses at Brandeis, accommodations are made for students with a diagnosed disability. If you need such an accommodation, please discuss the matter with the instructor as soon as possible.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Gleitman</i>
Monday	1/13	Orientation	1, Appendix 1
Wednesday	1/15		
Thursday	1/16	Biological bases of mind	2, 3
	1/20	MLK, Jr. Day: No class	
Wednesday	1/22		
Thursday	1/23		
Monday	1/27		
Wednesday	1/29	Sensory Processes	5
Thursday	1/30		
Monday	2/3	Perception	6
Wednesday	2/5		
Thursday	2/6		
Monday	2/10	First Exam	
Wednesday	2/12	Learning	4, Appendix 2
Thursday	2/13		
Monday	2/17		
	2/19	Presidents' Day: No class	
Thursday	2/20	Memory & Cognition	7, 8
Monday	2/24		
Wednesday	2/26		
Thursday	2/27	Biology of Social Behavior	10
	3/3-3/7	Spring recess I: No class	
Monday	3/10		
Wednesday	3/12	Social cognition & emotion	11
Thursday	3/13		
Monday	3/17	Second Exam	
Wednesday	3/19	Social interaction	12
Thursday	3/20		
Monday	3/24	Personality and Social Interaction	14, 16
Wednesday	3/26		
Thursday	3/27		
Monday	3/31	Intelligence and Testing	15
Wednesday	4/2		
Thursday	4/3		
Monday	4/7	Cognitive Development	13
Wednesday	4/9		
Thursday	4/10		
Monday	4/14	Freud and Psychopathology	17 (parts of 18,19,20)
Tuesday	4/15		
	4/16-4/24	Spring recess I: No class	
Monday	4/28	Review	
Wednesday	4/30	Third Exam	