

**PSYC 110**  
**INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**  
**SUMMER SESSION B 2017**

Preliminary Syllabus – Due dates/exam dates are final, other content subject to change.

Class: M/W/F 1:00 pm – 3:15 pm, location TBD

Instructor: Brent Strickland ([stricklandbrent@gmail.com](mailto:stricklandbrent@gmail.com))

Office Hours: By appointment, SSS 205

**Goals**

This course is designed to give you a broad overview of the research topics, methodology, and findings in the study of human psychology. In terms of methodology, we will discuss basic psychological methods as well as the recently discovered “replicability crisis” within psychology. One important element of discussion will be how to discriminate between likely “false positives” and truly important discoveries that are likely to withstand the test of time. For the remainder of the course, we will only focus on the latter.

In terms of research topics, we will cover foundational theoretical issues (such as the relationship between mind and brain) as well as a range of theories and important findings concerning perception, cognition, language, development, moral reasoning, and social understanding. We will also discuss some “real world” applications of experimental psychology that have been of importance for industry and policy-making.

By the end of this course, you, the student, should be able to:

- 1) Intelligently discuss research in the field of experimental psychology
- 2) Understand and apply a broad range of psychological theories
- 3) Critically evaluate psychological findings as reported in the popular press

I am committed to providing the following during the course:

- 1) Instruction and feedback
- 2) Transparent and fair evaluations

I will expect from you, the student:

- 1) Active engagement in the course (including presence in class)
- 2) To seek support when needed
- 3) Respect towards the course, other students, and myself

**Materials**

There is no required textbook. All course materials will be posted on ClassesV2.

**Class Meetings**

Class will meet three times a week for 2hrs 15mins each class.

Each class session will include a lecture as well as in-class discussion and activities.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Weekly assignments (20%): There will be 6 homework assignments, each due at 6pm on

a specified day and time. There will be no homework assignment prior to the first day of class, the midterm, or the final exam (see schedule for full details). No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments will consist in a brief (usually one page) discussion of an issue discussed in class. In some cases, these assignments will involve outside reading.

Midterm examination (20%): There will be a midterm exam in class on Monday, July 17. The exam will cover the topics covered up through that date. Make-up exams will only be given under very limited circumstances and should be discussed with the instructor at least 5 days prior to the exam. Emergency absences are excused at the discretion of the instructor. Unexcused absences will result in a 0. The format of the exam will be covered in class.

Final examination (20%): There will be a final exam in class on Friday, August 4. The exam will cover the topics covered after the midterm and will be cumulative. The conditions regarding make-up exams, emergency absences and unexcused absences are identical to those described for the midterm.

Research Project (20%): Students will conduct a small research project. This project will include reading 3-5 recent articles on a specific topic, summarizing the state of the art, creating a novel and theoretically relevant research question, proposing a concrete experiment, and offering interpretations of possible results. Students will work on this project throughout the entire course and turn in a paper and presentation at the end of the semester (on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>). The final paper will lose 5 points (out of 100) for each day late. Students will present their proposals in class on Wednesday August 2nd. Papers and presentations will receive equal weighting for the purposes of grading the research project. Finally, for any projects which are truly outstanding, I will attempt to put the student in contact with a research group (from Yale or elsewhere) which could be interested in carrying out the proposed project.

Participation (20%): Active engagement in the class is extraordinarily important. Participation will be evaluated on the basis of attendance, completion of class assignments, and speaking in class. Attendance is required and excessive nonattendance may lead to removal from the course. You will be provided feedback halfway through the course so that you can adjust your participation as needed.

Final grades: Final grades will be calculated based on the above criteria. A's will be 100-90, B's 89-80, and so forth down to F.

### **Technology in the classroom**

Personal electronics, like laptops or tablets, for educational use (e.g. note taking, access to ClassesV2) is permitted.

### **Dean's Excuses**

There are no Dean's Excuses during Yale summer session. All excuses that would typically be filtered through the Dean's Office are left to the discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Honesty**

You are encouraged to discuss the course materials and topics with other students, but all work must be your own. A full description of Yale's academic honesty policy can be found here: <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/academic-honesty>