PSYC 110: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

SUMMER SESSION B, 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- **Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am-11:30am**
- **Instructor:** Prof. Avram Holmes (avram.holmes@yale.edu; Lab webpage: http://holmeslab.yale.edu/)
  - **Teaching Fellow:** Lauren Patrick (lauren.patrick@yale.edu)
- **Course web page:** Log in to Canvas with your netID (http://canvas.yale.edu/), and if you are enrolled you should be able to access the website directly. On the site you can find a current copy of the syllabus, the lecture videos, copies of all handouts and additional readings, and PDFs of slides corresponding to the course lectures.
- **Required Materials**
    - Note that this text has been used in previous classes. It would likely be easy to find a cheap, and gently used, copy. You can make do with the previous edition of the textbook, and reading assignments will be provided for the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th editions.
  - **Readings:** All other readings will be made available on the course website
- **Class cancellation or other time-sensitive announcements:** Will be sent via email

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Is our perception of the world around us accurate? Do men and women differ in the nature and intensity of their sexual desires? Are humans inherently evil? How did the human brain evolve? What do babies know about the world? What are the different types of mental illness and how are they treated? How prevalent is unconscious prejudice? How do others affect our behavior? How can we influence other people’s behavior? Why do people think, feel, and act in the ways they do? What are the essential components of an individual’s personality?

This course will try to answer these questions, and many others, by providing a comprehensive overview of the scientific study of human nature. My goal is to introduce you to this exciting field and to help you gain insight into how the study of psychology applies to your daily lives and social interactions. To accomplish this, we will review the work of a diverse group of researchers including philosophers, clinicians, geneticists, psychologists, and neuroscientists. Lectures will provide a broad survey of topics and findings in psychology and the textbook and other readings will provide additional depth and breadth.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Online Virtual Classroom Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am-11:30am. You will be required to participate in two online section meetings per week in our virtual classroom. During these sessions, you will participate in open discussions with Professor Holmes and the
TF, Lauren Patrick. It is expected that you will have already watched the lectures and done the readings listed before each online classroom meeting begins.

In addition to regular class attendance, students will complete several additional assignments including short written assignments and one comprehensive final exam. Watching the videos is essential. You are expected to watch the lectures needed for each online discussion before the online meeting time. Some weeks you will be expected to watch 8-10 videos, so plan your schedule so that you can keep up with lecture viewing. Much of the information on the exams will directly come from what is presented in the lectures. It is almost impossible to do well in this course without watching all the videos. Consider yourself warned!

COURSE WEBSITE

Log in to http://canvas.yale.edu/ with your netID, and if you are enrolled you should be able to access the website directly. On the site you can find a current copy of the syllabus, copies of all handouts, additional readings, and PDFs of slides corresponding to the course lectures.

Grades and important announcements will be posted on this site.

After each lecture, the slides will be made available for download. They are not always available before class because of last minute adjustments to the material.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Your course grade will be based on your performance on each of the four course areas described below. Approximate weighting of different course components is as follows:

Class Participation: 30%
Discussion questions: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

Your final grade will be based on a 100 point weighted average. Please note that the actual letter grades are not determined until all exams and assignments have been graded at the end of term.

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<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Percentile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥93</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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IMPORTANT: Class participation is an essential part of this course. If you miss more than two classes, you will automatically fail the course, regardless of how well you do otherwise. Please note that this is a Yale Summer Session rule and is outside the discretion of course staff.

The final exam will be held during normal class time and will be “closed book,” i.e., you will not be allowed to draw on any materials. It will consist of a written component and a multiple-choice component. Please ensure you will be able to take the exam during this time!

The discussion questions will be due at 7:30 PM on Monday and Wednesday evenings (EST). Please note that this is a firm deadline. We ask that you prepare two thoughtful questions/comments per discussion section based on the assigned readings and lectures. In doing so, you should prepare a question/comment for each of the planned discussion topic. The

1 Portions of this syllabus were borrowed from Dr. Paul Bloom’s PSYC110 Syllabus.
submitted questions/comments should demonstrate careful consideration of and engagement with the material. Please upload your questions to the discussion forum created on Canvas. More detail will be provided during the first class, but in general you should be aware that you will be turning in writing assignments twice per week and that these will represent approximately 30% of the course grade in total.

The first set of discussion questions will be due prior to class 2. You will also submit written assignments through the Canvas ‘Assignments’ page.

COURSE FORMAT

This course lasts five weeks. For each week, students will watch a series of lectures that were taped in 2018 as part of a standard lecture-based version of this course. There will also be other supplementary on-line lectures and readings. Each week, there are two meetings for online discussion, during the periods of Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am-11:30am. One meeting per week is with the professor; the other is with the TF, but attendance is required at both.

Please note that all times are Eastern Standard Time.

Although this is an online summer course, the expected workload is equivalent to a typical semester-long university class. You will watch a semester’s worth of lectures, do a similar amount of readings, do about as much writing, and have roughly the same amount of contact with the instructor and the teaching fellow (actually, this course will have much more one-on-one contact with the instructor than a lecture would!) Thus, given that an entire semester is compressed into five weeks, you should expect to devote significantly more time to this class than you would to a class during the semester.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

Academic fraud is unacceptable. In other words, don’t lie, cheat, or steal other people’s words and/or hard work. The exams are closed-book. Obviously, use of any written materials, or any form of collaboration is forbidden. For the written assignments, any use of words or ideas from other sources—including online sources such as Wikipedia—has to be explicitly and clearly acknowledged.

Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the academic integrity guidelines posted on the Yale College web site: http://catalog.yale.edu/handbook-instructors-undergraduates-yale-college/teaching/academic-dishonesty/. Any case of suspected cheating will be referred to the Executive Committee of Yale College. The consequences can be severe, including suspension and expulsion.

On a more personal note, you are enrolled in one of the greatest academic institutions on the planet. Do not jeopardize your standing at Yale by cheating. In my experience, many episodes of cheating are due to stress and panic. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, there are always better options than cheating. If you are having problems in the course, you should always feel comfortable talking to me or to your TF. We want you to succeed in this course, and we are here to help.

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR NEEDING ACCOMODATIONS.

Yale University is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require academic accommodations should contact me immediately. Students may also speak with the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (203-432-2324) to discuss the process for requesting accommodations. Information is also available on the web at http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/resource-office-disabilities. Also, if you are struggling with this course, please consider contacting the instructor, TF, the Resources Office on Disabilities (rod.yale.edu), and/or the Center for Teaching and Learning (ctl.yale.edu/) for help.

THE GOOD NEWS.

Psychology is the most exciting topic around. Who isn’t interested in sex, food, dreams, mental illness, and the nature of evil? Who isn’t interested in a class that can serve as a mirror held up in front of them, illuminating their own origins, hopes, fears, and desires? In this course we will discuss scientific research that will astonish you. Understanding this research will require a lot of reading and a lot of thinking—but the intellectual rewards will be considerable.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS.

Throughout the semester please check the course website for the most up-to-date information.

*Note that 2e, 3e, and 4e refers to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th editions of the course text.

Each Class has two topics. Please be prepared to discuss both during the discussion.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Class 1 (Tuesday)</td>
<td><strong>TED Talk:</strong> Robert Sapolsky (<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/robert_sapolsky_the_uniqueness_of_humans">http://www.ted.com/talks/robert_sapolsky_the_uniqueness_of_humans</a>)</td>
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<td>Live Discussion with Prof Holmes and Lauren Patrick</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 3 (2e, 3e, and 4e)</td>
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<td>Evolution, human uniqueness, and the human brain</td>
<td><strong>TED Talk:</strong> Vilayanur Ramachandran (<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/vilayanur_ramachandran_on_your_mind">http://www.ted.com/talks/vilayanur_ramachandran_on_your_mind</a>)</td>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Live Discussion with Prof Holmes</td>
<td>The birth of a science: James and Freud</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Live Discussion with Lauren Patrick</td>
<td>Skinner, behaviorism, and how psychology lost its mind</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Live Discussion with Lauren Patrick</td>
<td>Consciousness, and the unconscious mind</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Live Discussion with Prof Holmes</td>
<td>Sensation and perception</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Class 5 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
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| Class 6 (Thursday) | Live Discussion with Prof Holmes | Memory: How we remember & Why we forget | **Text:** Chapter 6 (2e, 3e, and 4e)  
**New Yorker article:** Life Lines (pdf available on canvas) |
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| Week 4 |  | Disorders of the Mind | **Text:** Chapter 14 (2e) Chapter 15 (4e and 3e)  
| Week 5 |  | Language | **Text:** Chapter 9, p. 349-372 (4e); 351-373 (3e); 347-368 (2e) |
|  |  | Social cognition | **Text:** Chapter 13 (2e, 3e, and 4e) |
| Class 8 (Thursday) | Live Discussion with Prof Holmes | Groups and influence | Log into and complete several project implicit tasks (e.g., age, race, gender): [https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/)  
**PBS article:** Police implicit bias training ([https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/this-police-training-uncovers-the-implicit-bias-in-all-of-us](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/this-police-training-uncovers-the-implicit-bias-in-all-of-us)) |
|  |  | Groups and influence | **Text:** Chapter 12 (2e, 3e, and 4e) |
| Class 9 (Tuesday) | Live Discussion with Lauren Patrick | Emotions | **Text:** Chapter 8 (2e, 3e, and 4e)  
<p>|  |  | Moral Psychology | <strong>Article:</strong> Haidt, J. (2001). The emotional dog and its rational tail: a social intuitionist approach to moral |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Class 10 (Thursday)</th>
<th>FINAL EXAM</th>
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***Please note: This schedule is subject to change. Any required updates will be announced in class and posted on the course website. All readings are available in the class textbook or on the course website.

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