

Mind, Brain & Behavior (PSY252)

Summer 2008, M-F 10:00-12:10, Clark C72

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Course Description: Mind, Brain & Behavior is a sophomore-level course on the study of mind and brain, drawing from the fields of cognitive psychology, physiological psychology, and sensation and perception. The course will focus on psychological, biological, and evolutionary explanations of perception, cognition, and behavior. Among the topics to be discussed are: behavioral genetics; brain evolution and development; sensory processes, including neural mechanisms; learning and memory processes, including neural mechanisms; applied cognitive psychology; and motivated and goal-oriented behavior. We will conclude with an examination of psychological disorders and the physiological changes within the brain that accompany these disorders.

Course Objectives: This course is broad and surveys several disciplines within the field of Psychology. The primary course objective is therefore broad as well and spans a basic knowledge and an appreciation of the methodology utilized in the following areas: Physiological Psychology, behavioral approaches (Cognitive, Psychophysics), as well as Clinical and Neurophysiological Psychology. Additionally, the following more specific objectives are expected:

- Acquire a basic understanding of neurological brain mechanisms
- Develop an appreciation of how brain mechanisms relate to behavior
- Understand the differences and similarities in the fields of cognitive psychology, physiological psychology and sensation and perception
- Develop the ability to critically review scientific literature in the topics covered in class
- Develop the ability to effectively communicate and discuss pertinent research topics

Required Materials

- **Course Website:** Materials related to the course can be found on RAMCT.
 - Log-in to the website (<https://ramct.colostate.edu>) using your eID. Please do not send e-mail via RAMCT; use the e-mail address on this syllabus instead.

Course Requirements: There will be 3 unit exams that constitute your grade in PSY252.

- 1.) **Unit Exams (100%).** There will be 3 unit exams given throughout the semester. Please note that anything that is discussed or presented in class may be on your examination. In addition, you will be responsible for all of the material in your reading assignments, whether it is discussed in class or not. The format for the exams will consist of questions presented in the following formats: multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answers
 - **Make-up Exams:** You are expected to take all exams at the times listed in the Course Schedule. Please note these times and do not make any conflicting arrangements. If you do miss an exam we reserve the right to ask for documentation to show that it was a legitimate absence (e.g., university sanctioned event, religious holiday, documented medical problem, or other documented problems) prior to arranging a make-up. **You must inform us as far in advance as possible that you will miss an exam.** For unanticipated absences associated with medical problems or other crises, contact me prior to the exam if possible. If that is not possible, **contact me as soon as you can after the exam** (it should almost always be possible to contact me within one or two days).

- **University Sponsored Events:** If you are representing the university in a university-sponsored event (see the general catalog for qualifying events) and your event falls on the day of the exam, you must provide me with *an official letter* from the individual in charge of the activity at least two weeks prior to the date of the event and exam date before any exams may be made up. Athletes should provide a schedule of their season at the start of the season. When an activity conflicts with an exam date, arrangements should be made as soon as possible and no later than two weeks before the exam date
- **A Note on Exam Procedure:** You should arrive about 5-10 minutes before the start an exam class period. No extra time will be provided to latecomers and no one will be permitted to start an exam after the first person has finished the exam. Cell phones must be turned off during exams. If you carry a beeper for emergency reasons, please explain this to us BEFORE the exam. Baseball caps should not be worn on the day of the exam. In addition, only a pencil and eraser should be on your desk.

Extra credit: One of our goals is to encourage you to understand the course material as it pertains to the real world and to mainstream research in the various fields. We want to give you the opportunity, aside from exams, to earn points. Thus, there will be a maximum of 30 points in extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Grades: Your final grade will be based on your 3 unit exams. The grades will be based on the following scale:

Grade	Criterion	Points
A	90 - 100%	270-300
B	80 - 89%	240-269
C	70-79%	210-239
D	60-69%	180-209
F	below 60%	less than 179

- **Dropping the Course:** According to the registrar's website, the drop period to withdrawal from the class with no financial penalty ends June 18. Check this date with the registrar's office if you think you may want to drop this course. If you are enrolled and decide to drop the course, you must do so yourself. We do not take attendance and do not automatically drop students on their behalf. Therefore, if you do not drop the course and never attend, you will remain on the class roster and receive an F for this course. Check with the registrar's office if you have questions about adding or dropping the course

Keeping Track of Your Grade: All exam grades will be posted on the course website. Exams will not be returned; however, we highly encourage you to view your exam during office hours or to schedule an appointment to see your exam.

Incomplete grade: A student must be passing a course at the time that an incomplete is requested unless the instructor determines that there are extenuating circumstances to assign an incomplete to a student who is not passing the course.

When an instructor assigns an "I", he/she shall specify in writing the requirements the student shall fulfill to complete the course as well as the reasons for granting an "I" when the student is not passing the course. The instructor shall retain a copy of this statement in his/her grade records and provide copies to the student and the department head or his/her designee. The student should not register for the course the following semester (to complete the coursework.)

After successful completion of the makeup requirements, incomplete grades will be changed by the instructor of record or the department head, in absence of the instructor of record. After one year, an incomplete will be automatically changed to an "F" (failure) unless the course has been previously completed and a grade change

submitted by the instructor or the department head. The temporary grade of "I" must be changed to a grade (e.g., A, B, C, D, F, S, U) prior to the student being awarded his/her diploma from Colorado State University.

www.casa.colostate.edu/Student_Achievement/Academic_Success/incomplete.cfm

Academic Integrity: “The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic dishonesty. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and **taking credit for one's own work**. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. **All within the University are responsible for and affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity**. Academic dishonesty undermines the educational experience at Colorado State University, lowers morale by engendering a skeptical attitude about the quality of education, and negatively affects the relationship between students and instructors. Instructors are expected to use reasonably practical means of preventing and detecting academic dishonesty. **Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty [e.g., cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possess or disposition of academic materials, falsification] will be subject to academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action.**” *CSU undergraduate catalog*.

www.catalog.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=catalog_04-06/policies

Classroom etiquette: “Any person or persons in unauthorized attendance or causing a disturbance during scheduled academic activity shall be identified by the instructor and asked to leave. Persons refusing such a request may be removed by the University police and are liable to legal prosecution and/or disciplinary action.” *CSU undergraduate catalog*. Remember to **TURN OFF** your beepers and cell phones.

Students with disabilities: Reasonable accommodations for a qualified disabled student will be provided so that discrimination based upon the effects of the disability does not occur.

www.colostate.edu/Depts/RDS/office/services.html

Class Contacts: Because we cannot give you notes for classes that you miss, we strongly suggest that you get the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of at least 2 people in this class. This way, if you should miss a class, you will have several people to contact who can provide you with notes.

	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
1			
2			

CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative schedule of topics for the course. We reserve the right to change the content and order of class topics to respond to the needs of the class. Exam days will be changed **only** in the event of extreme circumstances.

Date	Instructor	Readings	Pages	Topic
6/16	DD/ED/MR	Weiten Ch. 1; Ch. 2	3-75	Overview & Syllabus – Davalos, DeLosh & Richard Overview of methods used to study Mind, Brain, Behavior - Davalos
6/17	DD			Cognitive Neuroscience Methods
6/18	DD	Cummings Ch.1	377-394	Genetics and evolution
6/19	DD	Kalat Ch. 5	395-413; 438-443	Brain Development
6/20	DD	Zillmer Ch. 15	501-520	Putting it all together - Disorders over the Lifespan
6/23				Exam I
6/24	MR	Goldstein, Ch. 1	All	Sensation and Perception (vision)
6/25	MR	Goldstein, Ch. 2	All	Sensation and Perception (vision)
6/26	MR	Goldstein, Ch. 4	All	Sensation and Perception (vision)
6/27	MR	Goldstein, Ch. 12	All	Sensation and Perception (non-visual S&P)
6/30	MR	Goldstein, Ch. 14	All	Sensation and Perception (non-visual S&P)
7/1				Exam II
7/2	ED	Bernstein et al., Ch. 5	173-192	Pattern Recognition and Attention
7/3	ED	Nairne, Ch. 7	All	Learning
7/4				JULY 4th--NO CLASS
7/7	ED	Kalat, Ch. 7	All	Memory
7/8	ED	Kalat, Ch. 7	All	Memory
7/9	ED	Weiten, Ch. 8	310-333	Thinking
7/10	DD/ED/MR	NA	NA	TBA
7/11				Exam III