

# Psychology 141: Introduction to Psychological Science, Spring 2019

Monday and Wednesday 10:10 -11:30 in Olin 201

**Instructor:** Kristin Lane

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 & Thursday 11:00-1:00 (sign up on Moodle); and by appointment

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

How does the mind create the reality we perceive? How do experiences shape the brain, and how do processes in the brain influence thought, emotion and behavior? This course investigates these and similar questions by studying the science of the human mind and behavior. The course covers topics such as memory, perception, development, psychopathology, personality, and social behavior. A focus is on the biological, cognitive, and social/cultural roots that give rise to human experience. Additionally, the course will consider how behavior differs among people, and across situations. In addition to generating interest in and knowledge about the material, the broader aims of this course are to help you to 1. understand how psychologists answer questions; 2. become a skilled consumer of scientific knowledge; and 3. increase your effectiveness in oral and written communications.

## MATERIALS

1. Krause, M., & Corts, D. (2016). *Psychological science: Modeling Scientific Literacy* (2nd edition). Boston, MA: Pearson. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET THE SECOND EDITION. ISBN 0134101588**
2. Sign up for the course's Moodle website (access code: **psychsciS19**) at <http://moodle.bard.edu>. We will use it extensively. All of the non-textbook readings are posted there. Print these readings out and bring them to class.

## POLICIES

**Attendance.** Attendance will be noted and absences will hurt your grade. Late arrivals are very disruptive - consistent patterns of lateness will be addressed and may also affect your grade. Please be on time.

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is unacceptable. In its most easily identifiable form, plagiarism represents copying someone else's words. This kind of offense is rare. More common are other, similarly damaging ways to plagiarize. Use of someone else's ideas, arguments (including structure of their literature review), or words without citing them constitutes plagiarism, and is unacceptable. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, work independently on every assignment. Any violation of academic integrity will result at the least in loss of credit for the assignment, and may result in failure in the class.

**Cell Phones and Laptops.** Cell phones should be turned off (off, not vibrate). Other than when we are working on computers as a class, laptop computers are not allowed. If you text or access non-course materials during our class time, you are mentally absent from class, which will be treated just as a physical absence.

**Late Assignments** (except as indicated below) will immediately lose 15% of their grade, and another 10% for every additional day late.

**Accommodations.** Students entitled to accommodations on the basis of a disability documented with the college should communicate the nature of their accommodations to me as soon as possible. If you are entitled to accommodations, please see Amy Shein ([ashein@bard.edu](mailto:ashein@bard.edu)) about getting documentation.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Exams.** Three closed-book examinations. Make-up exams will be 1 hour and 20 minute oral exams covering the material and will be offered only with a documented emergency. **160 points each (480 points total).**

**Interteaching materials.** We will be using a style of learning known as interteaching. Interteaching is a model of learning that puts student engagement with the material at the center of knowledge creation. Before each interteaching session, you will answer a series of questions on the reading and bring those answers to class. You will then work with your classmates to discuss the prompts and clarify the material. At the end of that class or the start of the next class we will clarify through lecture and whole-class discussion material that you identified as confusing. Your interteaching grade is dependent on: 1. Thoroughly completing the interteaching preparation guides with obvious strong effort – thoughtfulness and effort are more important than accuracy; and 2. Being a productive conversation partner with your peers. Interteaching guides are due at 10am to Moodle; because the point of the guides is to prepare you to engage in class that day, late guides will not be accepted. **160 points.**

**Class Participation.** Come to class prepared to discuss the readings and topics. Class participation consists of active contributions to interactive experiences, group work, and thoughtful speaking and careful listening. If you tend to be uncomfortable speaking up in classes, please talk to me early in the semester to discuss ways to help you succeed. **80 points.**

**Papers.** You will write two papers during the semester. More details will be provided in class. **100 points each (200 points total).**

**Case Study.** In small groups you will pick a celebrity and at the end of the semester you will present a “case study” explaining that person’s behavior using principles learned throughout the class. **50 points.**

**Research Participation.** One of the best ways to learn about the process of doing Psychology is to see what goes on in those lab rooms: How does psychological science happen – how are hypotheses generated, and how are experiments conducted? A lot of exciting research is happening right here at Bard, and much of it makes use of college undergraduates as participants. You will participate in two such experiments and write a brief (1-page) summary and response of the experiment. More details are at the end of the syllabus. **15 points each (30 points total).**

## GRADING

Grading is on a 1000-point scale. Grades will be assigned based on total points earned within the following ranges – pluses and minuses will be assigned at the top and bottom of each range. I reserve the right to change the grading scale, but any changes will only help your grade.

<u>POINTS EARNED</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>POINTS EARNED</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
900-1000	A	650-699.5	D
800-899.5	B	Below 650	F
700-799.5	C		

## SCHEDULE

KC = Krause & Cortis textbook

\*\*Indicates interteaching guides due to Moodle by 10am

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Mon. 1/28	Introduction and History	
Wed. 1/30	History	KC: Chapter 1 (You can skim Modules 1.3 and 1.4)
Mon. 2/4	Research Methods**	KC: 2.1 and 2.2
Wed. 2/6	No class	
Mon. 2/11	Research Methods	KC: 2.2 - 2.5; Nisbett, 2015
Wed. 2/13	Genetics and Evolutionary Perspectives**	KC: 3.1 and 3.2
Mon. 2/18	Structure of Nervous System	KC: 3.3 and 3.4; de Greef, 2018
Wed. 2/20	Biological Bases of Behavior	Drevitch, 2013; Marcus, 2013; Dominus, 2011
<b>Mon. 2/25</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
Wed. 2/27	Sensation and Perception**	KC: 4.1 and 4.2
Mon. 3/4	Sensation and Perception	KC: 4.5; Buckingham et al. 2015
Wed. 3/6	Learning**	KC: 6.1 and 6.2
Mon. 3/11	No class	
Wed. 3/13	Learning	KC: 6.2 and 6.4
Mon. 3/18	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK	
Wed. 3/20	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK	
Mon. 3/25	Memory**	KC: 7.1 and 7.2
Wed. 3/27	Memory	KC: 7.3 and 7.4
Mon. 4/1	Memory	Roediger et al., 2016; Weingarten, 2009
<b>Wed. 4/3</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Mon. 4/8	Language	KC: 8.3
Wed. 4/10	Development**	KC: 10.1 and 10.2
Mon. 4/15	Development	KC: 10.3 and 10.4; Kolbert, 2015
Wed. 4/17	Psychological Disorders	KC: Chapter 13
Mon. 4/22	Social Psychology	KC: 15.1 and 15.2
Wed. 4/24	Social Psychology	KC: 15.3 and 15.4; Milgram 1963
Mon. 4/29	NO CLASS - ADVISING DAYS	15.3 and 15.4
Wed. 5/1	Case Studies	
Mon. 5/6	Case Studies and Wrap Up	
Wed. 5/8	NO CLASS - BOARD DAYS	
Mon. 5/13	NO CLASS - BOARD DAYS	
<b>Wed. 5/15</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
Mon. 5/20	NO CLASS - COMPLETION DAYS	

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Dominus, S. (2011, May 25). Could conjoined twins share a mind? *New York Times*.
- Drevitch, G. (2013, August 19). Have we been brainwashed by neuroscience? *Forbes*. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2013/08/19/have-we-been-brainwashed-by-neuroscience/#8e8ao2b3c45d>
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- Kolbert, E. (2015, August 31). Why teenagers are the worst. *The New Yorker*.
- Marcus, G. (2013, June 19). The problem with the neuroscience backlash. *The New Yorker*.
- Nisbett, R. E. (2015). The high cost of not doing experiments. *Behavioral Scientist*. Retrieved from <http://behavioralscientist.org/mindware-the-high-cost-of-not-doing-experiments/>
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<https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797616631113>
- Siegel, S. (2016). The heroin overdose mystery. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 25(6), 375–379. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721416664404>
- Weingarten, G. (2009, March 8). Fatal distraction: Forgetting a child in the backseat of a car is a horrifying mistake. Is it a crime? *Washington Post*.

## RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

Research Participation offers a great way to experience first hand what psychological science is all about. A lot of exciting research is happening right here at Bard, and much of it involves the participation of college students (i.e., you). For full credit, you will need to participate two hours worth of approved psychology experiments offered through our online experiment booking system (called "SONA," see below for further instructions). This could mean participating in four half-hour experiments or a single two-hour experiment, for example. If you are ineligible (e.g., you are less than 18 years old), do not wish to participate, or are unable to find studies to complete, you may ask the instructor for one or more alternate assignments designed to take approximately the same length of time to complete. If you wait until the last minute, there might not be many (or any) study appointments available. So get started early!

- How to sign up for research studies through SONA:
- Visit <http://bardresearch.sona-systems.com/> and click on "Request Account"
- Complete the form using the following required information (entering the wrong information could mean you don't get credit for participating):
- Your Bard email address (you must use your @bard.edu address)
- Link your SONA account to the appropriate course so that you get credit (i.e., Psy 141 A - Intro to Psych Science with Prof. Lane)
- You will receive your login information via email
- Back on the SONA home page, log in with your new credentials • Select a study in which you are both ELIGIBLE and interested; note that some studies have special restrictions
- Show up at the scheduled time and place to participate--please do not be late or miss your appointment, unless there is an emergency
- Your instructor will automatically be alerted as to whether you attended your appointment or not
- Finally, submit a brief (paragraph-long) description of the experiment to the "Experiment Participation Summaries" section of Moodle as soon as possible after participating