

PSYCHOLOGY FUNDAMENTALS

Course Syllabus
Fall, 2019

Course: Psych 9A/PSCI 11A
Code: 68030/54030

Lecture: TuTh 2:00-3:20
Room: PSLH 100

TEXT: Gazzaniga, [Psychological Science, 6th Edition](#)

PROFESSOR: Don Hoffman
Office: SBSG 2566
Office Hrs: Tu 1:00 – 1:50

SECRETARY: Justine Sarashid
Office: SSPA 2135
Phone: 824-6336

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Administrative TA: **Lingyu Gan** (lingyug1@uci.edu)
2. Discussion TAs: **Dan Bar-Sever** (dbarseve@uci.edu, Tu 3:30 SSL 393): 2,3,8; **Sajjad Torabian** (torabias@uci.edu, Th 1:00 SSL 334): 1,4,5; **William Kidd** (wkidd@uci.edu, W 4:30 SST 640): 6,7
3. LARC Tutor: **Mariana Machaen** (mmachaen@uci.edu): NS1 2211: M/W 9; Tu/Th 8; Tu/Th 9
4. To learn about Hoffman's research, you can see his [TED Talk](#), his new book [The Case Against Reality](#), [this article](#) in *Psychology Today*, [this interview](#) in *The Atlantic*, his [new article](#) in the *LA Review of Books*, his [podcast with Michael Shermer](#), his [podcast with Rob Reid](#), his book [Visual Intelligence](#), his [paper on consciousness](#), his [dialog with the Dalai Lama](#) (starting at 54:40), his [PBS videos](#), his [SAND video](#), and this [podcast with Michael Covel](#). His papers, podcasts, and videos are listed [here](#).

GRADING

Your grade will be based on two midterm exams and the final exam. The first midterm will cover all lectures and readings through and including Lecture 5. The second midterm will cover all lectures and readings from Lecture 6 through and including Lecture 10 (nothing from lectures 1 to 5). The final exam will cover all lectures and readings from Lecture 11 through and including Lecture 18. Each midterm will have 40 multiple-choice questions and the final will have 50, approximately half from the text and half from the lectures. The number of questions on a topic will be approximately proportional to the number of lectures on that topic. You are “[graded on the curve](#)” based on your *total* points at the end of the term: the top 15% of the class get an A, the next 25% a B, the next 45% a C, the next 10% a D, and the last 5% an F. Bring two photo IDs—your student ID and another—to each exam. Every ID is checked during each exam. Also bring a scantron, *two* #2 pencils (count on one breaking), and an eraser. We provide the entertainment.

Questions on Psychology midterm and final exams are designed to test your understanding of basic terminology (e.g., “receptor”), your grasp of important concepts (e.g., “cognition”), your ability to apply these concepts to practical situations, your knowledge of how these concepts are supported (research results), your exposure to the range of topics presented in the course, and your ability to integrate these topics. Questions range from the very easy to the very difficult.

One of the teaching assistants, to be announced in class, is responsible for administrative matters: e.g., add/drops, grading and recording scantrons. If you wish to examine your scantron following an exam, go to this teaching assistant during office hours; do not go to Professor Hoffman to see scantrons—he will not have the scantrons. (On the other hand, please do go to him to discuss intellectual questions about psychology.) All grading errors will be handled through the administrative teaching assistant. If you wish to discuss questions that you missed, write down the question numbers and the form (A or B) of your exam. Then visit the teaching assistant that leads your discussion section, or visit Professor Hoffman during office hours.

EXTRA CREDIT

You may earn up to a total of 6 extra credit points by volunteering to participate in laboratory experiments. As subjects in experiments, you have the opportunity to learn how experimental research in psychology is conducted today, and you help provide the necessary subjects for the School's extensive research program. You will receive 1.5 points for each hour that you participate, with your maximum participation limited to 4 hours (i.e., 6 points). Sign-up online [here](#). If you agree to take part in an experiment, you form a contract with the experimenter to be punctually present at the time and place designated on the sign-up sheet. If you must cancel your appointment, do so using the above website at least one hour before the time of the experiment. Your attendance at the experiment is recorded by the laboratory assistant. Experimenters may run out of experiments before the end of the quarter, so early participation is the safest way to ensure that you don't miss out on this easy way to get points.

Instead of volunteering to participate in experiments, you may write a 4-page (double-space typewritten) paper for up to 6 points of extra credit. You must get approval from your TA for the topic of the paper, and the TA will grade the paper and decide, based on its quality, how many points of extra credit it receives. Papers are due by the end of class on Tuesday of the last week of classes. Late papers receive no credit. You can combine points from writing a paper and volunteering in experiments—up to a total of 6 points. *Extra credit points can raise your final grade by only one grade boundary, e.g., from B+ to A- or from C to C+.*

A WORD TO THE WISE

This class involves substantial reading. I suggest reading the material at least twice before each exam. Reading a bit each day is more effective than cramming. Be aware of the [UCI Academic Integrity Policy](#).

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Exam</i>
1	Th 9/26	Psychology as a Science	1	Midterm 1
2	Tu 10/1	Biology and Behavior	3	Midterm 1
3	Th 10/3	Biology and Behavior	3	Midterm 1
4	Tu 10/8	Biology and Behavior	3	Midterm 1
5	Th 10/10	Biology and Behavior	3	Midterm 1
6	Tu 10/15	Evolutionary Psychology	—	Midterm 2
7	Th 10/17	Evolutionary Psychology	—	Midterm 2
8	Tu 10/22	Consciousness	4	Midterm 2
—	Th 10/24	FIRST MIDTERM	*	
9	Tu 10/29	Consciousness	4	Midterm 2
10	Th 10/31	Research Methods	2	Midterm 2
11	Tu 11/5	Visual Development	5	Final Exam
12	Th 11/8	Face Perception	5	Final Exam
13	Tu 11/12	Face Perception	5	Final Exam
—	Th 11/14	SECOND MIDTERM	*	
14	Tu 11/19	Phantom Limb	5	Final Exam
15	Th 11/21	Visual Motion	5	Final Exam
16	Tu 11/26	Visual Attention	5	Final Exam
—	Th 11/28	** Thanksgiving Holiday **		
17	Tu 12/3	Color Perception	5	Final Exam
18	Th 12/5	Interface Theory of Perception	5	Final Exam
—	Th 12/12	FINAL — 1:30 - 3:30	*	