

# Elementary Psychology

CLPS 0010

Spring 2013

Lecture: *MWF 12:00 – 12:50*

Metcalf Chemistry Auditorium

Sections:

Metcalf Chemistry Room 105



## Professor Elena Festa

Office: Metcalf Research Room 339

Office Hours: Monday 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00 pm (or by appointment)

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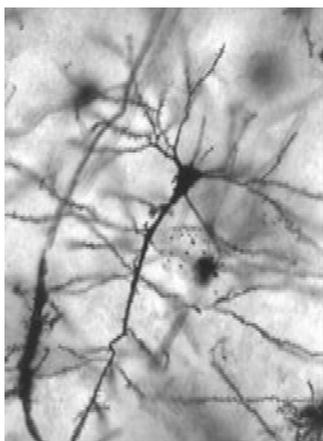
Phone: (401) 863 - 3935

Textbook: Feist G.J. & Rosenberg E.L. (2012). *Psychology: Perspectives and Connections (Second Edition)*. McGraw-Hill: New York, NY.

Online Material: [http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/clps0010\\_spring2013](http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/clps0010_spring2013)  
<https://canvas.brown.edu>

## Course Description

This survey course is intended to provide a solid foundation for understanding psychological thought, theory, research, and the application of psychological principles. Major topics will include: neural processing, perception, learning, memory, intelligence, development, personality, social influence, and abnormal behavior. In this course, you will learn about the major psychological approaches to the study of behavior, become familiar with the psychological theories and contributions of major theorists and figures within the field, and gain a better understanding of psychological research. You will learn to use critical thinking to evaluate the world around you, to consider social challenges from a scientific perspective, and to investigate the neural and behavioral processes that enable normal perception, thinking, learning, and remembering, as well as explore the disrupted processes that underlie psychological disorders.



## Important Dates

<b>2/16 - 2/19</b>	Long Weekend
<b>2/20</b>	<b>Exam 1</b> , Last day to change grade option
<b>4/3</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>3/23 – 3/31</b>	Spring Recess
<b>4/15</b>	Last day to request research paper topic*
<b>5/1</b>	<b>Exam 3</b> , Last day to submit research paper*
<b>5/10</b>	Last day for research participation
<b>5/17</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## Course Expectations & Policies

### ***Lectures:***

The major expectation is that you have read the assigned readings thoroughly before class so as to facilitate your understanding of the lecture material. There will be some (but not complete) overlap between the readings and the lecture material. I will post my lecture slides to the Canvas website prior to each class. Please note that my slides tend to have few words and will not substitute for attending my lectures. From time-to-time, I may also post links to interesting web articles or supplementary research articles relevant to the different topics described in class. Feel free to send me links to news items that you discover that you think relevant and would like to share with the class.

### ***Section Meetings:***

TAs will lead one-hour section meetings each week. These meetings will provide supplementary material that will complement and reinforce ideas and concepts presented in lecture. You will also be given some opportunities to get hands-on experience, and to observe demonstrations of phenomena discussed in lecture. Written assignments (due in section the following week) will accompany some of these demonstrations and hands-on experiences. You are expected to attend section meetings each week, contribute to discussions of material, and complete all assigned work.

### ***Office Hours:***

I encourage you to come see me and/or your section TA, if you have questions or issues. Please do not wait to see us if you are struggling with the material. Both the TAs and I will be available to meet with you during our weekly office hours throughout the semester. You may e-mail us as well, but do not expect instant responses (particularly the night before an exam); I tend to respond to e-mails within a day or so.

### ***Exams:***

The three in-class exams and one final exam must be taken on the dates scheduled (see important dates section above). Because you are allowed to drop your lowest exam grade, **no make-up exams will be given.** Extreme cases of personal illness, emergency, or family crisis will be handled on a case-by-case basis; notify me as soon as possible and expect to submit a dean's note or a physician's note. You should double-check the exam schedule prior to registering for this class; travel plans are not considered a reasonable excuse for missing an exam. If necessary, make-up exams will be administered by the Registrar's office in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the subsequent academic term. Full description of Brown's make-up exam policy is provided at: [http://brown.edu/Administration/Dean\\_of\\_the\\_College/academic\\_standing/exam\\_excuses.php](http://brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/academic_standing/exam_excuses.php).

### ***Accommodations:***

If you have a documented learning difference which requires special accommodations, it is your responsibility to see me early in the semester so that I can make necessary arrangements. Bring a current copy of your academic accommodations letter from Disability Support Services.

### ***Late Assignments:***

To promote fair and equal treatment, late assignments will be penalized one point on the 3-point grading scale used for each section assignment. Assignments that are more than 7 days late will not be graded and will receive no credit. You will need to make arrangements with your section TA to submit late assignments.

### ***Excused Absences:***

If you are on a sports team and your sports-related travel requires that you miss class, please meet with me early in the semester and inform me of the dates of your absences. These missed classes and/or section meetings will count as excused absences and will not impact your class participation grade. However, you will still be responsible for all material covered in the missed classes or section meetings.

## Grades and Evaluation

Your performance in this course will be based on your performance on the in-class exams, the cumulative final exam, attendance and participation of section meetings, written section assignments, online Connect activities, and research participation.

**In-Class Exams** – There will be three non-cumulative exams in this course. The exams will cover material from assigned readings, lectures and section meetings within each portion of the course. They will include objective questions (True/False, Multiple Choice, Fill-in the Blank), short-answers and/or a longer essay question. Although they are non-cumulative, they will assume knowledge of earlier portions of the course. Each exam will account for 18% of your final grade.

**Final Exam** – The final exam will assess your understanding of all material presented in the course, and will account for 18% of your final grade. As on the in-class exams, the final exam will include objective questions (True/False, Multiple Choice, Fill-in the Blank), short-answers and/or a longer essay question. However, the exam will focus on integration of concepts that were covered throughout the semester.

**Section Participation** – Participation in section meetings will account for 18% of your final grade. TAs will take attendance at section meetings and make note of your attention and verbal participation in each section discussion. They will also evaluate each of your written assignments on a 3-point scale (*0=missing, 1=minimal, 2=average, 3=excellent performance*). They will then provide a written assessment with total scores for each of these performance measures (attendance, participation, assignments) to me at the end of the semester.

**Online Connect Activities** – Students must register at the Connect website to gain access. Activities are to be completed independently by the due dates provided, and will account for 5% of your final grade

**Research Participation** – Students are expected to participate as a subject in three hours of research to experience behavioral research first-hand. Alternatively, students may choose to write a 2-3 type-written paper on a topic of my choice discussing some issue regarding the use of human subjects in psychological research. If you choose this option, you will need to contact me before **April 15<sup>th</sup>** to receive a topic question to discuss and the paper must be turned in by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Research participation must be completed by **May 10<sup>th</sup>**. This component of the course will account for 5% of your final grade. See the Canvas website for additional information on how to register for SONA to sign-up for research studies.

**Final Grade Calculation** – Each exam is graded on a curve based upon the distribution of class scores. Students may choose not to take the final exam (or any in-class exam), and have the remaining 3 exam scores equally weighted an additional 6% in the final grade calculation.

### Grade Breakdown

<b>3 In-class Exams</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>18 %</b>
<b>Section Participation</b>	<b>18 %</b>
<b>Online Connect Activities</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Research Participation</b>	<b>5%</b>



## Lecture Topics & Readings

Dates	Topic	Readings
Jan. 23	Introduction	Chapter 1
Jan. 25 – Feb. 1	Conducting Research in Psychology	Chapter 2
Feb. 4 – 6	Biology of Behavior	Chapter 3
Feb. 8 – 15	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4
<b>February 20</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
Feb. 22 – 27	Human Development	Chapter 5
Mar. 1	Consciousness**	Chapter 6
Mar. 4 – 8	Memory	Chapter 7
Mar. 11 – 15	Learning	Chapter 8
Mar. 18 – 22	Language and Thought	Chapter 9
Apr. 1	Intelligence**	Chapter 10
<b>April 3</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Apr. 5 – 8	Personality	Chapter 13
Apr. 10 – 15	Social Behavior	Chapter 14
Apr. 17 – 22	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
Apr. 24 – 29	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16
<b>May 1</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
<b>May 17</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

## Weekly Section Meetings

**Dates**

**Topic**

Jan. 28 – Feb. 1

**NO SECTION**

Feb. 4 – 8

Conducting Psychological Research

Feb. 11 – 15

Sensation & Perception

Feb. 18 – 22

**NO SECTION**

Feb. 25 – Mar. 1

Human Development

Mar. 4 – 8

Memory

Mar. 11 – 15

Learning

Mar. 18 – 22

Language

Mar. 25 – 29

**NO SECTION**

Apr. 1 – 5

**NO SECTION**

Apr. 8 – 12

Personality

Apr. 15 – 19

Social Behavior

Apr. 22 – 26

Psychological Disorders

Apr. 29 – May 3

**NO SECTION**