

## Introduction to Psychology Fall 2009

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Specialty: situations not otherwise covered, problems



TAs: Any TA can help you with general problems, or can consult with you about studying, grades, and so on. For specific problems (experiments, etc.), consult the TA with the appropriate specialty.

T.A.: Michael Buhrmester  
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T.A.: Cari Goetz  
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T.A.: Becca North  
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T.A.: Samantha Winton  
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Specialty: Lead troubleshooter TA



Text: Exploring Psychology (7th ed) Myers  
Study Guide: Optional (not particularly recommended or discouraged)

## Experiments

### Important experiment facts:

Read about the experiment requirement at:

<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/undergrad/courses/info/301experiment.html>

In particular, note that:

1. You must complete 5 hours of experiments.
2. Not showing up for an experiment costs you an extra hour.
3. The prescreen survey counts 1 hour (there is a deadline for finishing this survey).  
If you don't finish the prescreening in one session you can resume from the first page after the login page (look bottom-left).
4. In addition to prescreening you can participate in only one online survey for credit
5. Deadlines for finishing the prescreen survey and for finishing the experimental requirement. are located at

<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/undergrad/courses/info/dates.html>

The research coordinator (Abby Black) will send you an update at the end of the semester about your status with regard to the experiment requirement.

If you are retaking the class, email Abby at [301research@psy.utexas.edu](mailto:301research@psy.utexas.edu) to be excused from the research requirement.

### Important experiment links:

Sign up for experiments at

<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/undergrad/courses/info/301.html>

(click on experiment registration and login using your UTEID & password)

The FAQ webpage is (<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/psy301FAQs.html>).

### Experiment Questions or Problems?

Contact the experiment TA, or the experiment coordinator (Abby Black, at [301research@psy.utexas.edu](mailto:301research@psy.utexas.edu) or stop in and see her at Seay 2.216 --telephone 471-4410).

If you do the paper instead of experiments, look for guidelines at

<http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/Psy301research.html>

## Exams

There will be four exams with 30-40 multiple choice questions each. Exam dates are:

Sept 22	Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 5
Oct 15	Test 2: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 (thinking only)
Nov 5	Test 3: Chapters 9 (language, intelligence), 12, 13
Dec 3	Test 4: Chapters 14, 15

Make up tests are given in cases of emergency. Make ups for tests 1 – 3 will all be given at the same time near the end of the semester (instead of the Nov 17<sup>th</sup> class). There will be no class on that day for other students. Make-ups for test 4 will be given during finals week -- see the Lead Troubleshooter TA (Samantha) for permission).

We test your ability to apply psychology to the real world rather than your ability to memorize the definitions of psychological concepts – that is, we ask whether you can use what you have learned. The good side of this philosophy is that you do not need to try to determine what is important to study for a test– we'll post an online study sheet that will tell you what you need to learn (contact the study sheet TA to initiate posting). You are responsible for text material whether or not it is covered in class and for lecture material whether or not it is covered in the text.

## Grades

We use both curved and absolute cutoffs and the new plus/minus system to figure grades depending on what is best for you. We have this friendly cutoff system in order to discourage students from arguing individual questions for points. If, however, you want to argue an individual question on a test you must see a TA within one week from the time that the grades for that test were posted.

Grades will be based on your total score for the four exams. If you have a question about cutoffs or how we calculate grades see the Lead Test TA. Please note that we do not drop your lowest test grade.

**Extra Credit:** One or two extra credit points can be earned by participating in classroom demonstrations. If you earn an extra credit point, be sure to notify the lead classroom TA). Extra credit points are kept in a separate category on egradebook and they do not count towards any particular exam grade. Extra credit cannot be earned by outside papers or projects or by participating in more than the required number of experiments.

**Borderline Grades Stay Borderline:** We use plus/minus grading which creates only minor differences in GPA in adjacent categories. Please don't argue to raise a borderline grade.

