

Psych 1AA3 Course Outline (1999-2000)

Listed below are the topics to be covered in this course, the approximate dates on which they will be presented, and the required readings (if any) for each section.

Topic:	Developmental Psychology (Weeks of Jan. 3, 10, 17 and 24)
Readings:	Basics and Beyond , section on Developmental Psychology
Description:	This section of the course will discuss the ways in which abilities and characteristics develop and change from birth through early adolescence. We will discuss three areas of development: Language acquisition, intellectual development, and the development of sex differences and gender roles.

Topic:	Personality & Psychopathology (Weeks of Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14)
Readings:	Basics and Beyond , section on Personality & Psychopathology
Description:	In the first part of this section we will describe how the concept of personality has been approached, and consider several specific theories of personality, including those of Sigmund Freud and Carl Rogers. In the second part, we will consider the definition, causes, symptoms and treatments of several important mental disorders.
Midterm Test	Thursday, February 17th, and Friday, February 18th

Topic:	Social Psychology (Weeks of Feb. 28, Mar. 6, 13)
Readings:	Basics and Beyond , section on Social Psychology
Description:	Social psychology is the study of how others affect our behaviors and thoughts. We will look at several topics in this broad field including our perception of others, their affects on our behavior, and attitude development and attitude change.

Topic:	Animal Behavior/Sociobiology (Weeks of Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3)
Readings:	Basics and Beyond , section on Animal Behavior/Sociobiology
Description:	In the first part of this section we look at the study of the naturally occurring behavior of non-human animals. In the second part, we look at how sociobiology or evolutionary psychology applies concepts derived from the study of adapted, innate behavior to shed new light on human social behaviors - particular those involved in reproduction.

Course Structure

Psychology is a very broad discipline, covering many areas, so we have divided our first-year survey into two courses: The first course (Psychology 1A3) provides a general introduction to experimental psychology. This course (Psychology 1AA3) describes psychological research and theory related to interpersonal behavior, including child development, personality, abnormal psychology, and social behavior. This course has the same general format as 1A3.

Each 1AA3 section contains about 30 students, and meets three times per week. In most weeks, each of the first two class meetings includes a videotaped lecture, 30-35 minutes long, followed by a question and review period conducted by the Psych 1AA3 teaching assistant (tutor) assigned to your section.

The third weekly meeting of your 1AA3 course section will generally be devoted entirely to a tutorial. The content of tutorials vary, but all will include activities designed to illustrate or clarify psychological phenomena, or to explore important ideas and issues in psychology. During some weeks (e.g., the week of the midterm test), there are no tutorials scheduled. This information will be available from your tutor, and will be posted outside the 1AA3 classrooms.

If you were **not** assigned by the Registrar to a section of Psych 1AA3 **please see Kathy Steele, the Introductory Psychology Secretary, in room 107 of the Psychology Building as soon as possible.** She will see that you are assigned to a section of the course.

What You Need

The only required text for this course is this book. There is one additional **suggested** text, and that is Henry Gleitman's *Psychology*, published by W.W. Norton. Although no test questions will be drawn from this text, it provides an excellent alternative presentation of much of the material covered in the lectures. It also contains much additional information that you may find quite interesting. If you are considering going on in a psychology program, I highly recommend that you get this text.

How You Will Be Evaluated

Your final grade in this course will be determined by your performance on a midterm test and a final examination, both of which will consist of multiple-choice questions. Suggestions for preparing for and taking multiple-choice tests can be found later in this book.

The Midterm Test

Thirty-five percent of your final mark in this course is based on the midterm test, which takes place approximately halfway through the course. The midterm consists of 40 multiple-choice questions, which you will have 50 minutes to complete. There is no penalty for guessing (a wrong answer is the same as a question left blank), so you should answer all questions, guessing whenever you are not sure.

Normally, the midterm is written during the last scheduled class meeting of the test week - either **Thursday** or **Friday**, depending on your course section (Wednesday for the evening section).

For 1998-99, the 1AA3 midterm will be held on **Thursday, February 25th** and **Friday, February 26th**. That information will also be posted outside the Intro Psych Office (room 107 in the Psychology Building), and on the IntroPsych web site. Normally, the midterm is written in your regular 1AA3 classroom. If there is any change to this location, it will be announced by your tutor and posted in the locations mentioned above. **It is your responsibility to determine the date, time, and location of the midterm for your section.**

Test results will be posted on the bulletin board between rooms 151 and 152 on the first floor of the psychology building approximately one week after the test has been written. Copies of the midterm

test, together with the accepted answers, will be available on Reserve in **Mills Library** shortly after the test results are posted. The results of the midterm will also be posted on the IntroPsych website.

The Final Examination

The remaining sixty-five percent of your mark in Psych 1AA3 will be based on a final examination, covering the work of the entire course, which will take place during the April examination period. The final examination will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions, which you will have two hours to complete. The date, time, and place of the final examination will be announced by the Registrar's Office about the middle of the term, and posted in a number of areas around the campus and on the IntroPsych website.