Course Outline for
Introductory Psychology 1AA3
(2001-2002)

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.

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

For 2001-2002, the 1AA3 midterm will be held on Thursday, February 28th and Friday, February 29th. That information will also be posted on the IntroPsych web site. The midterm will be 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 IntroPsych web site 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 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.

The Research Participation Option

If you choose, you may reduce the value of the final exam by participating as a subject in two hours of approved research in the Psychology Department. The two hours of research participation will be counted as 8% of your total mark in the course, and will reduce the value of the final exam from 65% to 57%.

Note that this is not the same as adding 8% to your mark in the course. Instead, it is the equivalent of earning a mark of 100 on 8% of the final exam. For example, for a student with a grade of 65% on the final exam, the research participation option effectively raises the mark on the final exam to 69%, thus increasing the final course mark by 2.8%.

Note that you must complete two hours to change the value of the final exam from 65% to 57%. Completing only one hour of participation will gain you an interesting experience and the gratitude of the experimenter, but it will not be counted in the calculation of your Psych 1AA3 final grade. This is an important point, since near the end of the course, many students will be competing for the research spots necessary to complete their two hours. I strongly advise that if you wish to use the research participation option, you complete your two hours as early in the course as possible.

What You Need to Know About Research Participation
The research conducted in the Psychology Department by faculty members and their students tries to answer questions about perception, thinking, learning and remembering. Not all such studies offer research participation credit for Introductory Psychology. Sign-up sheets for research participation are posted on the IntroPsych bulletin board near room 151 in the Psychology Building.

Only those sign-up sheets stamped "Intro Psych" offer research participation credit in this course.

Since the number of studies being run varies from week to week and month to month, you should check the bulletin board frequently if you are interested in participating. Successful completion of the research participation option is given a mark of 100%. You may successfully complete the research option in two ways:

1. **You may complete two hours of participation as a subject, providing data in one or more approved experiments.** Note that you may withdraw as a data-generating subject at any time during an experiment and can choose to continue as an observer (as described below) without any loss of course credit.

2. **If you do not wish to serve as a subject, you may participate as an observer.** In this case, the experimenter will take you through all the experiences that an actual subject would have, but you will not actually provide any data in the experiment. If you wish to choose this option for any experiment, you should contact the Subject Pool Coordinator, Ann Hollingshead (room 105) to make the necessary arrangements. The Subject Pool Coordinator is not a member of the Psych 1A3 course staff, and is completely unconnected with any course evaluation.

Note that **In order to participate as an observer, you must meet the same selection criteria as regular subjects. For example, in an experiment requiring female subjects, only females could participate as observers.** The time required for observational participation will be approximately the same as that for a regular subject.

After you complete a research participation, the experimenter will give you a debriefing sheet which includes as complete a description of the experiment as is possible. Sometimes certain details of the experiment must be kept confidential until all subjects have participated in order to prevent information from one subject affecting the performance of later subjects in the study. In such cases, the
experimenter will tell you how you can get more complete information about the experiment after all subjects have participated.

You will also be given a receipt acknowledging your participation in the experiment. **KEEP THIS RECEIPT IN A SAFE PLACE.** The experimenter will report your participation to the Intro Psych Office (room 107), where we will transfer that information to our computer database. If there should be any questions regarding your participation in the study, it will be very useful to have your receipts.

**When You Sign Up for experiments...**

After you have signed up for an experiment, and while you are still at the sign-up board, **BE SURE TO WRITE DOWN THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE EXPERIMENT!** This is very important because

**IF YOU FAIL TO SHOW UP FOR TWO EXPERIMENTS, YOU LOSE ANY PREVIOUS EXPERIMENTAL CREDITS, AND YOU WILL BE BANNED FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH OPTION.**
# The Sections of The Course

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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topic: Developmental Psychology  (Weeks of Jan. 7, 14 and 21)</th>
<th>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.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Topic: Personality &amp; Psychopathology  (Weeks of Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11)</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm Recess - Week of February 18th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm</strong>: Thursday, February 28th and Friday, February 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic: Social Psychology  (Weeks of Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18)</td>
<td>Description: Social psychology studies how others affect our behaviors and thoughts. We will look at several topics in this field including our perception of others, their affects on our behavior, and attitude development and change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic: Animal Behavior/Sociobiology  (Weeks of Mar. 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8)</td>
<td>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.</td>
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