

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**

### **Department of Psychology, General Psychology**

Summer Session 2013

#### **Instructor**

John F. Kihlstrom, Professor  
Tolman Hall, Room 3333  
Telephone 510 643 3928

E-mail: [jfkihlstrom@berkeley.edu](mailto:jfkihlstrom@berkeley.edu)  
URL: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~kihlstrm/>

#### **Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs):**

TBA - [TBA@berkeley.edu](mailto:TBA@berkeley.edu)

Messages for the instructor and GSI may be left on E-mail.

#### **Additional Course Website:**

<http://bspace.berkeley.edu>

### **Contents**

[About the Course](#)  
[Required and Recommended Readings](#)  
[Supplementary Materials](#)  
[Textbook Website](#)  
[Midterm and Final Examinations](#)  
[Comments and Queries During the Course](#)  
[Discussion Posting](#)  
[ZAPS Exercises for Active Discovery Learning](#)  
[ZAPS Exercises for Research Participation Experience](#)  
[Grading Policy](#)  
[Schedule for Summer 2013](#)

### **About the Course**

This course will survey the scientific study of mental life and the mental functions that underlie human experience thought, and action. The emphasis is on cognitive processes and social interactions characteristic of adults. However, research on nonhuman animals, as well as biological, developmental, and pathological processes, will be introduced as relevant. This course, or its equivalent, is a prerequisite for admission to most upperdivision courses in the Department of Psychology. Psychology 1 (or its equivalent) is required for prospective majors in Psychology, and is intended for lower-division students (freshmen and sophomores).

#### **Course credits**

Three (3) semester hours (45 hours of class time)

#### **Prerequisites/Placement**

There are no prerequisites for this course. Anyone with a college-preparatory high-school diploma should be able to understand the material.

In order to do well in the course, however, students should be prepared to put in some time. Traditionally, college courses assume that students devote two to three hours of study at home for every one hour in class. In the summer session, there are six (6) 1-hour lectures per week. Following the "industry standard", then, students

should be prepared to put in at least 12 hours per week outside of class.

[Back](#)

## Required and Recommended Readings

Students should purchase two items for the course.

1. The textbook, **Psychology** (W.W. Norton, 8th ed., 2010), by Henry Gleitman, James Gross, and Daniel Reisberg, is required: It is available from the ASUC Bookstore, and other booksellers, both online and brick-and-mortar. Be sure to purchase Gleitman's book, and be sure to purchase the 8th edition; other sections of Psychology 1 and 2 may use different texts. Publisher's retail price \$130.00. Hardcover: ISBN 978-0-393-93250-8. Norton is also offering the Gleitman text as a downloadable e-book, at a considerable savings (publisher's list \$65.00). The comparative advantages and disadvantages of e-textbooks compared to traditional bound texts are not yet well understood, but the e-book is available from the publisher at a retail price of \$65.00. Note, however, that the ZAPS registration code must be purchased separately. E-Book: ISBN 978-0-393-11727-1.
2. **ZAPS: The Norton Psychology Labs** (2006), by Ton De Jong and colleagues, allows you to experience various psychological phenomena firsthand, via demonstrations programmed by a team of Dutch psychologists (hence the sometimes awkward English) and presented over the Internet (see below for details). You will be required to complete a selection of these exercises during this course. The registration code for this website is included in the textbook package available for purchase at the ASUC bookstore; otherwise, it can be purchased separately through the above website. Publisher's retail price: \$36.87. Separate ISBN: 9780393106862.

[Back](#)

## Supplementary Materials

A set of Lecture Supplements is posted to the course website on bSpace (<http://bspace.berkeley.edu>; see below). These are, essentially, written versions of lectures that I would give if this course occupied two semesters (or maybe two years), instead of just one. The Supplements also include some essays I have written (or in some cases co-authored) on general-interest topics within psychology -- again, you can think of them as general-interest lectures. Students will not be held responsible for additional material in the lecture supplements, beyond what is in the lectures actually delivered online, but those who intend to major in Psychology may find them informative and useful. The lecture supplements are updated throughout the semester.

The course website also contains links to a number of other supplementary materials, including online activities, made available by the textbook publisher and other sources:

- Vocabulary Flashcards will help you assess whether you have learned the basic concepts in each chapter.
- Diagnostic Quizzes contain sample items that will help you prepare for the multiple-choice examinations.
- Activities and Animations will demonstrate various phenomena and principles.
- Feature Articles present short essays that explore the implications of various phenomena, concepts, and principles.
- Discovery Videos and Online Resources include links to classic articles in psychology, as well as a collection of videos mostly from Annenberg Media, a project of the Annenberg Foundation that produces video resources in conjunction with the Public Broadcasting System. Of particular interest are:
  - **The Brain:** Teaching Modules, drawn from The Brain, a series presented on PBS in 1997 (32 videos 5-20 minutes in length) -- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series142.html>.
  - **The Mind:** Teaching Modules drawn from The Mind, a series presented on PBS in 1999 (35 videos 5-20 minutes in length) -- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series150.html>.
  - **Seeing Beyond the Obvious:** Understanding Perception in Everyday and Novel Environments, produced by the NASA Ames Research Center and the University of Virginia covers basic issues of depth perception and perceptual issues that arise in novel environments such as high-speed flight and microgravity.
  - **Discovering Psychology**, a televised introduction to psychology hosted by Prof. Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University, first presented on PBS in 1990 and updated in 2001 (26 half-hour videos) -- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series138.html>.

- o **Seasons of Life**, a telecourse on developmental psychology, first presented on PBS in 1992 (5 one-hour videos and 26 half-hour audios) -- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series54.html>.
- o **The World of Abnormal Psychology**, another telecourse, first presented in 1992 (13 one-hour videos) -- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series60.html>.
- o **Against All Odds: Inside Statistics**, yet another telecourse, hosted by psychologist Teresa Amabile, and hands down the best introduction to probability and statistics ever (26 half-hour videos) -- <http://www.learner.org/resources/series65.html>.

[Back](#)

## Textbook Website

An online supplement for the *Psychology* text book, *Study Space*, is available on a server maintained by the text's publisher. Study Space contains many of the "Supplementary Materials" described above. Access to this resource is free: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/psych/psychology8/>. A link to the Study Space is available on the course website, in the navigation bar.

[Back](#)

## Midterm and Final Examinations

There will be two midterm examinations and a final. Due to the size of the class, all examinations will be in multiple-choice format. Midterms will be administered online on dates announced in the syllabus, and are noncumulative. The final exam is partly cumulative, but will include a portion covering topics not previously examined. For Summer 2013, the final exam is scheduled for **Friday, August 24 from TBA in TBA**. If you will not be on campus for the final, it might be possible to take a proctored final off campus; contact Tracie Littlejohn at [tlittlejohn@unex.berkeley.edu](mailto:tlittlejohn@unex.berkeley.edu) (not the professor) to make arrangements. Proctor applications are due by July 26, 2013.

Students whose University or personal obligations may conflict with a scheduled exam should consult with the instructor in advance. In particular, students should plan their end-of-session travel schedules to permit them to take the final exam at the scheduled time. The final exam will not be rescheduled.

Examinations are computer scored. Requests for hand-rescoring of any examination must be received within one (1) day of the posting of scores for that exam to the course website.

Feedback concerning exams is posted to the course website, which also contains copies of old exams.

[Back](#)

## Comments and Queries During the Course

Because of the online format of this course, there are no discussion sections as such, and no opportunity to interrupt the lecture for questions. However, the instructor and GSIs will be available in weekly chatrooms for office hours to respond to student comments and queries.

The course website includes a general discussion area which will be used for a wide variety of communications among students, GSIs, and the instructor. From time to time I will post announcements (e.g., about exams) concerning the course; I may also post corrections and supplements to my lectures. Students may also post comments and questions concerning the readings, lectures, and other items relevant to psychology. These messages will be distributed to the entire class, so don't post anything of a personal or confidential nature!. Responses from the instructor or the GSIs also will be posted to the entire discussion board. Do not send questions on course content to the instructor's private Email address; post them to the course website instead – so that everyone can benefit from the exchange. If you have a communication of a personal nature, such as a family emergency, you should send private Email to the instructor and your GSI.

[Back](#)

## Discussion Posting

In order to foster a sense of community in this online course, we have established a "discussion board" that will permit students to share their ideas about psychology with each other, and get some feedback from the group. For each module in the course, we have proposed a question for discussion. By the deadline indicated in the syllabus, you should post a response to the question posed. It doesn't have to be long: 50 well-chosen words will do, and responses shouldn't be longer than 250 words (the equivalent of one page, double-spaced, 12-point type). All we ask is that you respond to the question thoughtfully. Your comments should be based on what you've read in the text, and what's been presented in lectures, and your own reflections. It is neither necessary nor desirable that you do any additional reading. So long as your comments are on point, and reasonably acceptable from the point of view of grammar and spelling, your responses will earn full credit.

There are nine (9) such discussion questions, earning five (5) points each. Each is due by 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on the date indicated in the syllabus. That's one minute before midnight, just like Cinderella.

After students have posted their comments, it is perfectly appropriate for other students to respond to them, and for original commentator to respond in turn. The responses can add points that support the original student's point of view, for example. It can also be critical, but the criticism has to be constructive. No ad hominem remarks, no simple dismissals. If you offer a criticism, it should be friendly and constructive in nature, as if you were helping your friend or roommate think through a problem.

1. **Biological Bases of Mind and Behavior.** The successful use of methylphenidates such as Ritalin or Concerta, in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has led to suggestions that these amphetamine-like stimulant drugs could be used to enhance cognitive performance (attention, memory, even intelligence) by people who do not have ADHD or a similar condition. Assume that these "smart drugs" actually work as advertised to enhance cognition in "normal" individuals (which, frankly, is an open question). Is such a use fair? How is the use of "smart drugs" to enhance cognitive performance in students different from "blood doping" to increase aerobic capacity and endurance in athletes, and which is prohibited by the International Olympic Committee and other athletic organizations?
2. **Learning.** Pavlov thought that all learning entailed classical conditioning, whereas Thorndike thought the same thing about instrumental conditioning. Given what you know about predictability, controllability, and the role of reinforcement in learning, is there any learning that does not reflect classical and instrumental conditioning, either alone or in combination?
3. **Sensation and Perception.** Jerome Bruner, a pioneering American cognitive psychologist, introduced what he called a "New Look" in perception by drawing attention to the role of mental set, emotion, and motivation in perception. Can we really see the world through "rose-colored glasses"? Can we see only what we want to see? Or are these just metaphors? Provide an example of how either emotion or motivation can affect either the detection of a stimulus or the perception of some object or event.
4. **Memory.** One of the core symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is intrusive memory: disturbing, unwanted memories of the traumatic event keep coming back, either in waking life or in dreams. Recently, it has been suggested that this enhancement of memory is due to stress hormones, and that administering certain drugs shortly after a traumatic event could prevent traumatic memories from being consolidated, leaving the victim essentially amnesic for the trauma itself – and therefore, presumably, reducing the likelihood of PTSD. Assuming that this were possible, is it a good idea? Discuss the pros and cons.
5. **Thought and Language.** Can there be thought without language? Some philosophers and psychologists have argued that there can't be. What's your position on this? Can you think without using words and sentences? Are there differences between language-based and non-linguistic forms of thinking?
6. **The Trilogy of Mind.** The 18th-century German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, asserted that knowledge, feeling, and desire were "irreducible faculties of mind". On the other hand, the Schachter and Singer experiment suggested that different emotions depended on the outcome of a cognitive appraisal of the situation. What is the role of cognition in emotion? Is it possible to have an emotional response to a stimulus in the absence of some cognitive appraisal of that stimulus?
7. **Personality and Social Interaction.** Does personality exist in a social vacuum? Can we describe individual differences in personality in the abstract, without reference to social context, the way we describe individual differences in IQ? Or is individual personality inextricably bound up with social interaction? Are there any individual differences in personality that exist independently of the social context?
8. **Psychological Development.** Consider the issues raised by the case of Caster Semenya, discussed in the lecture (#35) on "Gender Dimorphism". Without taking a position on Semenya's case itself, what are the criteria for classifying someone as a man or a woman? Are genes decisive? The appearance of the body? Gender identity? What if someone who formerly identified himself as a man, decided to have sex-change

surgery and compete (or, for that matter, enter any line of work) as a woman?

9. **Psychopathology and Psychotherapy.** The United States military awards the Purple Heart to servicemembers who have been wounded or killed in combat. But traditionally the award is restricted to those who have received "physical" wounds -- to be blunt, visible wounds that draw blood. In the wake of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, not to mention Vietnam, it has been proposed that the criteria for the Purple Heart be revised to include traumatic brain injuries (which don't always leave a visible wound), and post-traumatic stress disorder (where the wound is "mental", not "physical"). Traditionalists have countered that this would degrade the Purple Heart. Do you support this proposal? Why? What would you think about an alternative proposal, for an entirely new medal for those suffering psychological injuries?

[Back](#)

## ZAPS Exercises for Active Discovery Learning

In order to provide you with a more active learning experience – something other than sitting in a chair, reading the text, viewing slides, and listening to lecture – we have arranged for you to complete a number of exercises online using the ZAPS software. ZAPS, produced by a group of Dutch psychologists, stands for Zeer Actieve Psychologie, which translates as Very (Inter)Active Psychology. The ZAPS software is available for free, shrinkwrapped with a new copy of the Gleitman textbook. If you did not receive the ZAPS software in this manner, it can be purchased from the publisher directly. URL: [www.wwnorton.com/zaps](http://www.wwnorton.com/zaps).

The ZAPS site requires Macromedia Flash v. 7+ (most computers have this; otherwise, a free download is available from the ZAPS website).

The Active Discovery Learning component of the course requires nine (9) exercises, one for each major module in the course. They count five (5) points each on an all-or-none basis (just like a neuron). Each is due by 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on the date indicated in the syllabus. That's one minute before midnight, just like Cinderella.

Students will receive full credit for completing each exercise by the deadline announced in the syllabus. Late completions will not receive any credit. Note that the deadlines are all one minute before midnight, just like Cinderella, according to the official time recorded by the computer at the time you logged on. Your participation in these exercises is recorded automatically; but as a backup, you should print out each exercise (click "Print Version" on the last screen). If for some reason the ZAPS server fails to record your participation, presenting this printout will ensure that you receive proper credit.

You may do as many additional ZAPS exercises as you wish. However, there will be no extra credit given for any ZAPS completed beyond the requirement (to give extra credit in this manner would be unfair to students whose other responsibilities may not give them the time to do more than is required).

- When you first register for ZAPS, you are asked to enter the Registration Code on the ZAPS booklet that came with the textbook package (or which you purchased elsewhere).
- You then get Emailed a password. This can take a little time, so don't expect to log into ZAPS for the first time a minute or two before the first deadline!
- When you login, you will be asked for this password. After you enter the correct password, you are taken to a page with two sorts of links. In the top half of the page, there is a link to enter the site. In the bottom half of the page, there are links to update your user profile, including your name and Class ID.
- First, update your user profile.
- Enter your name last name first, followed by your first name and middle name or initial.
- Be sure to enter your last name first, followed by a comma, then your first name and your middle name or initial. Otherwise you may not receive credit for completing the ZAPS exercises. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.**
- And be sure to use the same name by which you registered for the class (check your name in the Gradebook). **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.**
- Our Class ID for Summer 2012 is PQ4GZH6F.
- Be sure to enter the proper Class ID, which is case-sensitive, or else you will not receive proper credit for completing the ZAPS exercises.
- Type in all capitals. If you "cut and paste" the Class ID from this or any other document, be sure not to include a trailing period (.).
- ZAPS Experiments rely on popup windows, cookies, and JavaScript. Be sure to turn off all popup blockers in your

web browser before you try to do anything with ZAPS.

- After you enter the site, you will see a long list of ZAPS exercises (click on ZAPS Listed Alphabetically"). There are dozens of these, and you may do all the ZAPS exercises you want, and you'll learn from each of them. But you are only required to do the nine specific exercises indicated on the syllabus -- one for each of nine modules in the course:

1. (Module 2): "Synaptic Transmission"
2. (Module 4): Classical Conditioning"
3. (Module 5): "Signal Detection" ("Signal Detection 2" is optional)
4. (Module 6): "Serial Position Task"
5. (Module 7): "Mental Rotation 2-D" ("Mental Rotation 3-D" is optional)
6. (Module 8): "Emotional Stroop" ("Stroop Effect" is optional)
7. (Module 9): "Big Five"
8. (Module 10): "Moral Development"
9. (Module 11): "Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder"

- There are no assigned ZAPS exercises for Modules 1, 3, or 12.
- No substitutions are allowed. You will complete additional ZAPS exercises for the Research Participation Experience component of the course.
- When you finish each exercise, you will see a link, on the left-hand side of the page, for "Further Info". Click on it. At the top of the new page, on the right-hand side, you will see a link for "Print Version". Click on it. You may be asked to enter your name. If so, enter your name.
- Then you will see a page with a complete account of the ZAPS exercise you have just completed, without animations, but with your name on it. You may print this out and keep it for your future reference.
- Some ZAPS exercises may ask you to input your Class ID. But not all of them do. Just follow the instructions, using the Class ID given above.

Your participation in each ZAPS exercise will be recorded in the online gradebook. But this is done by hand, and takes time. I have to retrieve the information from the ZAPS server and enter it into the online gradebook by hand. The class will receive an Email notice as soon as the credits for each exercise have been posted. After that time, if your participation has not been properly credited, write me via email and I will recheck the roster. If I cannot find you on my roster, then click on "My Activity" link on the "Explore ZAPS" page. This will take you to the ZAPS Student Activity Monitor, which will show which ZAPS exercises you have completed, and when. Take a screenshot ("Print Screen") of this page and paste it into an Email it to me. If the Student Activity Monitor shows that you completed the assignment by the deadline, we'll give you credit. You will have three days after credits are posted to correct the record.

ZAPS helpdesk: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/student-help-request/>.

[Back](#)

## **ZAPS Exercises for Research Participation Experience**

Because psychology is a scientific discipline, research experience is an integral part of Psychology 1 (and many other lower-division and survey courses in the Department). On campus, this component of the course is satisfied through student participation in the Research Participation Program (RPP). RPP is somewhat analogous to the laboratory sections offered in the natural sciences, except that students serve as subjects rather than experimenters. Although students do contribute data to ongoing research projects, the primary purpose of the RPP requirement is to familiarize students with the methods by which scientific research in psychology is conducted.

Because of the online delivery of this course, to students who may be located far from Berkeley it is not feasible for students to participate in on-campus research projects.

However, a similar experience may be had by completing a set of ZAPS exercises that involve the actual collection of data. In each exercise, you will be asked to participate just as an ordinary research subject would; the exercise also contains an explanation of the experiment and allows you to see that data that has been collected.

The online version of Psychology 1 requires students to complete five (5) such exercises, taken from the list below. Each exercise will take about 15 minutes. For grading purposes, the Research Participation Experience requirement is worth 25 points (5 points for each of 5 ZAPS exercises).

Follow the general instructions for the ZAPS Exercises for Active Discovery Learning. Do not create a separate Class ID: use the same User Information for both sets of ZAPS exercises.

In order to insure variety of experience, you may select any one from each of the five (5) groups of ZAPS exercises listed below.

#### **Group A - Perception**

- "Ponzo Illusion"
- "Stereotypes"
- "Visual Search"

#### **Group B - Attention**

- "Alternative Blink"
- "Simon Effect"
- "Spatial Cuing"
- "Stroop Effect"

#### **Group C - Memory**

- "Brown-Peterson Task"
- "Encoding Specificity"
- "False Memory Task"
- "Fan Effect"
- "Iconic Memory"
- "Memory Bias"
- "Memory Span"
- "Recalling Information"

#### **Group D - Thinking**

- "Sternberg Search"
- "Mental Rotation" 3-D  
(Mental Rotation 2-D is required as part of the ZAPS Exercises for Active Discovery Learning)
- "Mental Scanning"

#### **Group E- Language**

- "Lexical Decision"
- "Sentence Verification"
- "Word Superiority"

Your selection must be made from this list (because other ZAPS exercises do not involve actual data collection). No substitutions are allowed. As with the ZAPS Exercises for Active Discovery Learning, described above, you may do as many additional ZAPS experiments as you wish. However, there will be no extra credit given for any ZAPS completed beyond the requirement.

You must complete the ZAPS Research Participation Experience by **11:59 PM Pacific Time on Thursday, August 15, 2013.**

[Back](#)

### **Grading Policy**

Final grades will be calculated on the basis of 325 points distributed according to the following rules:

- two (2) midterm examinations, 50 points each
- final examination, 100 points
- 9 Discussions, 5 points each, for a total of 45 points.
- 9 ZAPS for Active Discovery Learning, 5 points each, for a total of 45 points.

- 10 points for "Participation", assigned at the discretion of the GSIs, recognizing special effort and interest as reflected in participation in online "office hours".
- 5 ZAPS for Research Participation Experience, 5 points each, for a total of 25 points.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scheme. If necessary, the distribution of final letter grades in this course will be adjusted to conform to the overall distribution of grades in lower-level courses at UC Berkeley.

- The accumulation of at least 90% of the total possible points (i.e., 293 points) will result in some kind of A (i.e., A or A-; I do not give grades of A+ under any circumstances, as it contributes to grade inflation and grade grinding)
- Accumulation of at least 80% of the total possible points (i.e., 260 points) will result in some kind of B (i.e., B-, B, or B+)
- Those who accumulate more than 50% of the total possible points (i.e., more than 162 points) are guaranteed some kind of C (i.e., C-, C, or C+).
- Those who accumulate more than 25% of the total possible points (i.e., more than 81 points) will receive some kind of D.

[Back](#)

## Schedule for Summer 2012

Date	Day	Lecture #	Abbv.	Lecture Title	Textbook Reading
<b>Module 1: Introduction</b>					
19-Jun	T	1	Intro	Nature and Scope of Psychology	Gleitman 8e, Prologue
<b>Module 2: Biological Basis of Mind and Behavior</b>					
		2	Bio 1	Organization of the Nervous System	Gleitman 8e, Chapter 2
20-Jun	W	3	Bio 2	Hindbrain, Midbrain, Diencephalon	
		4	Bio 3	Cerebral Cortex	Gleitman 8e, Chapter 3
21-Jun	R	5	Bio 4	Hemispheric Specialization, Recovery of Function, and Plasticity	
<i>Discussion Comment #1 (See Below for Details)</i>					
<i>ZAPS for Active Discovery Learning #1 (See Below for Details)</i>					
<b>Module 3: Methods and Statistics for Psychology</b>					
		6	Stats 1	Methods and Statistics for Psychology	Gleitman 8e, Chapter 1
<b>Module 4: Learning</b>					
26-Jun					