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Faculty Syllabi

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Fall 2015

# PSYC 150

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**Note:** This syllabus may not be applicable to the current semester. Be sure to verify content with the professor(s) listed in the document.

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## Psychology 150: Introduction to Psychology Fall 2015

Class meets Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 11:20-12:10 in 300 Olin (Love Auditorium).

This course introduces students to the scientific study of human behavior. The first part, taught by Dr. Spencer Kelly, begins with an introduction to the history, statistics, and methodology that serve modern scientific psychology. Professor Kelly then focuses upon the psychology of learning, perception, and memory. The second section, taught by Dr. Scott Kraly, focuses upon contemporary problems in which the relations between human behavior and brain processes figure prominently, including the use and abuse of drugs, sexual orientation and behavior, eating and eating disorders, and the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal thinking, emotions, and behavior. In the final section Dr. Rebecca Shiner explores the answers to three questions, each arising from a different area of psychology: 1) How do we develop cognitively, morally, and socially during childhood and adolescence (developmental psychology), 2) How do nature and nurture interact to shape the emergence of psychopathology, and how does therapy work (clinical psychology), and 3) How do situations influence our behavior and why (social psychology)?

### Course Credit

1. This course counts toward concentration in Psychology and toward the Areas of Inquiry requirement in Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
2. A Grade of C- or above in Psychology 150 is expected for entry into the Psychology concentration.

### Instructors:

Drs. Kelly, Kraly, and Shiner each teach a third of this course. Faculty office hours are indicated on each section syllabus and will be available on Moodle. Do not hesitate to seek help, advice, and further information from us. Come visit!

Our Psychology Department Intern, Christopher Ju ([cpju@colgate.edu](mailto:cpju@colgate.edu); Colgate Class of '15), is also an important resource for the class. Chris organizes tutoring sessions, exam reviews, and other course-related learning opportunities. In addition, there will be two regular tutors for the course: Julia Yarrington ([jyarrington@colgate.edu](mailto:jyarrington@colgate.edu)) and XXX ([vfontana@colgate.edu](mailto:vfontana@colgate.edu)). The Intern and tutors will hold weekly study sessions to review course material and will be available for one-on-one tutoring as well.

### Required Reading:

1) The course syllabus and all written materials distributed by the instructors; 2) Passer, M. W., & Smith, R. E. (2011). *Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behavior, Fifth Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill; and 3) Kraly, F. S. (2009). *The Unwell Brain: Understanding the Psychobiology of Mental Health*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN 978-0-393-70596-6 (paperback).

### Grading and Examinations

There will be a total of six hour-long examinations and one cumulative final examination that will assess mastery of material studied over the entire term. Each will consist of multiple-choice questions. **Please bring with you to each testing session your student ID card and two #2 pencils.** Within about a week after the exam is scored, each instructor will hold a session to review the correct answers. **Exams will be available to students only during the scheduled review session unless arrangements are made with the instructor before the scheduled review session.**

### Examination Dates:

Exam 1 (50 points, Kelly): Friday, September 11	Exam 2 (50 points, Kelly): Wednesday, September 30
Exam 3 (50 points, Kraly): Friday, October 16	Exam 4 (50 Points, Kraly): Monday, November 2
Exam 5 (40 Points, Shiner): Monday November 16	Exam 6 (60 Points, Shiner): Thursday, December 10
Final Exam (100 Points): Monday, December 14, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	

Any students who have a conflict with these times for religious (or other) reasons should contact the instructors **at the beginning of the semester.** **Do not make travel plans that conflict with these dates (or the final exam!)**

### **Examination Policy:**

ALL STUDENTS **MUST** TAKE EACH EXAM AT THE SCHEDULED TIME. Because no authorized copies of previous exams are available, using copies of these examinations to prepare for tests is considered academic dishonesty and a violation of the Honor Code (see the Colgate Student Handbook section on Policy on Academic Dishonesty). Students also are forbidden from copying down exam questions during the exam review sessions; however, students may copy down general information during the review session.

If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact one of the professors privately to discuss your specific needs and contact Lynn Waldman, Director of Academic Support and Disability Services. Ms. Waldman coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Her office is in the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research (228-7375).

### **Pass/Fail Option:**

First-year students and sophomores cannot choose the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Option. Others must register by Monday, September 7, which is also the last day to drop or add a course.

### **Class Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all classes (M,W,Th,F) unless an instructor explicitly designates class meetings as optional.

### **Expected Conduct:**

Everyone in our learning community should be able to focus on course content without being distracted. The use of cell phones and surfing the web, texting, tweeting, Facebooking, etc., are distracting to fellow students and the instructors. Please do NOT use electronic equipment in class for any other purpose besides note taking. To be fair to those around you, please turn your cell phone off, and keep webpages and close social networking apps. See “Dangers of Multi-tasking During Lecture” article on Moodle for the evidence!

### **Participation in Experiments:**

Students are expected to participate in 6 hours of experimental research projects conducted by the psychology faculty and senior thesis students. Through these experiences, students will develop an appreciation of the methods used by psychologists in their attempts to acquire knowledge that will ultimately lead to a more thorough understanding of behavior. Students should refer to the Research Participation for Psychology 150 handout for details regarding participant and experimenter obligations and assignment of hours. Students should finish earning their 6 hours prior to Thanksgiving break (11/20). Your participation is important to maintain on-going faculty/student research.

Students who do not wish to participate in experimental research may, instead, earn their six participation “hours” by writing 6 short research papers (2 pages maximum each). Each short essay must be related to topics/techniques from different sub-areas of scientific Psychology. Those who choose to follow this option must inform one of the course instructors of their decision **within the first three weeks of classes (9/18)**; the student must consult with the faculty instructor in order to develop together topics/techniques related to material in the course, as well as the time-line for paper due dates.

### **A Note Regarding Letter Grades:**

The instructors will use their professional judgment in assigning letter grades at the end of the semester, based, in part, on your performance relative to all other students in the class. You should NOT assume that any given percent correct score will earn any particular letter grade.

Professor	Dates	Exams
Kelly:	8/28 – 9/30	9/11 and 9/30
Kraly:	10/1 - 11/2	10/16 and 11/2
Shiner:	11/4 - 12/11	11/16 and 12/10
Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. ( <b>This date is firm, so do not make travel plans that conflict with this time.</b> )		

#### Other Important Dates

- Last day to Drop/Add: Monday, September 7
- Last day to withdraw with a “W”: Wednesday, October 28
- No classes: Midterm Break: October 10 (Saturday) – 13 (Tuesday)
- Thanksgiving Break: November 21 (Saturday) – 29 (Sunday)