

# General Psychology Summer 2017 Syllabus

**The Instructor: Dr. Bill Altman**

*E-mail:* altmanws@sunybroome.edu

*Website:* <http://williamaltman.info/>

## **Course Description:**

Introduction to the study of behavior, focusing on the influences of physiological, cognitive, social, and personality factors on behavior, including discussion of the major theories in psychology and related research.

## **Class Meetings:**

We will meet Monday-Friday, 9:30-11:30 AM, and 1:00-2:30 P.M. Meetings will be organized discussions, following the agenda below. I expect them to branch out on various tangents within the broad limits of each topic area, as class interest dictates. We'll also engage in several in-class experiments and demonstrations. Attendance is extremely important so that you can participate in the demonstrations and fully understand the concepts covered. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all of the information discussed, materials provided, and announcements. In-class activities cannot be made up. If you miss a test due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., illness), you may arrange a make-up by appointment. If you know ahead of time that you will need to miss a scheduled test, please see me to arrange an alternate exam BEFORE your absence. If you require accommodations for testing or learning, please alert me as soon as possible. Be sure to read the assigned work for a chapter *before* that unit is discussed in class.

## **Textbook:**

The text for this class is *Psychology: A Concise Introduction* by Richard A. Griggs (2014), published by Worth Publishers (ISBN: 1-4292-9890-1). Additional readings may be specified for each topic; others may be recommended or provided in class. These recommendations are not meant to restrict your explorations, but to guide them. Follow your own interests and share your findings. I like to wander the library stacks in the general areas which contain works pertaining to my interests and root around on the shelves for things that seem interesting.

## **Course Goals.**

Through your work in this course, you will demonstrate:

1. the ability to approach and solve problems from a psychological perspective;
2. the ability to describe behavioral phenomena and the theories that attempt to explain them;
3. a working knowledge of the basic issues and constructs in psychological research;
4. critical thinking about science, especially of popular reports of psychological research; and
5. the ability to communicate effectively about psychological issues.

## **Evaluation:**

Grades are based on individual merit and accomplishment. There is no curve. Common expectations of collegiate level work will be applied to all evaluations. Violations of the Code of Academic Integrity will not be tolerated, and will be treated harshly. (See the Ithaca College Handbook for detailed information.) The final grade evaluation will be as follows:

	<b><u>Requirement:</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage of final grade:</u></b>
1.	Three Examinations	60% (20% per exam)
2.	Active Learning Project	25%
3.	In-class writing activities	15%

## **Classroom Etiquette:**

Please observe the following rules, so that everyone will have the best chance to participate and excel:

1. You are welcome to bring food or drinks to class, but please do not bring things that will cause distractions, such as strong-smelling cheeses or foods that create a lot of noise.
2. Electronic communications devices (e.g., cell phones) must be turned off. The only exception is if you must monitor a medical or emergency situation. In such cases, please let me know at the beginning of class, set your phone to vibrate rather than ring, and sit near the door so that you can leave to receive your call.
3. Video and audio recording of the class are not permitted.

**Nota bene:** I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time. All changes will be announced in class.

**Course Calendar:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Textbook Chapters</b>	<b>Exams &amp; Assignments</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>
M 7/3 AM	Administrivia & The Projects		Assign groups and choose topics	Franz Kafka, 1883
PM	The Science of Psychology	1		
T 7/4 AM	Research Methods	1		Louis Armstrong, 1900
PM	No class in the afternoon			
W 7/5 AM	Neuroscience (Biology and Emotions)	2		Phineas Taylor Barnum, 1810
PM	Neuroscience (The Brain)			
Th 7/6 AM	Neuroscience(Consciousness)	2		Dalai Lama, 1935
PM	Work on projects		Group work on projects	
F 7/7 AM	Sensation (not the mechanical biology bits) & Perception	3		Ringo Starr, 1940
PM				
M 7/10 AM	Memory	5	Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, & 3	Arthur Ashe, 1943
PM				
T 7/11 AM	Learning	4		Suzanne Vega, 1959
PM				
W 7/12 AM	Learning			George Eastman, 1854
PM	Motivation			
Th 7/13 AM	Thinking, Intelligence, and Creativity	6		Erno Rubik, 1944
PM				
F 7/14 AM	Thinking, Intelligence, and Creativity	6		Woody Guthrie, 1912
PM	Work on Projects		Do the Experiments	
M 7/17 AM	Human Development	7	Exam 2: Chapters 4, 5, & 6	Phyllis Diller, 1917
PM				
T 7/18 AM	Personality	8		Nelson Mandela, 1918
PM				
W 7/19 AM	Abnormal Psychology	10		Lizzie Borden, 1860
PM	Work on projects			
Th 7/20 AM	Social Psychology	9	Exam 3: Chapters 7, 8, & 10	Diana Rigg, 1938
PM				
F 7/21 AM	Cult Design and Project Presentations		Present Projects	Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam), 1948