

# Introductory Psychology 1AA3

(2002-2003)

## 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.

## 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 2002-2003, the 1AA3 midterm will be held on **Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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 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.

## 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.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Topic:</b>       | <b>Developmental Psychology</b> (Weeks of Jan. 6, 13 and 20)  |
| <b>Readings:</b>    | <b>Basics and Beyond</b> , section on Developmental Psychology  |
| <b>Description:</b> | 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. |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Topic:</b>       | <b>Personality &amp; Psychopathology</b> (Weeks of Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10)   |
| <b>Readings:</b>    | <b>Basics and Beyond</b> , section on Personality & Psychopathology   |
| <b>Description:</b> | 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. |
|                     | <b>Midterm Recess - Week of February 17th</b>   |
| <b>Midterm</b>      | <b>Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup></b>  |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Topic:</b>       | <b>Social Psychology</b> (Weeks of Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17)  |
| <b>Readings:</b>    | <b>Basics and Beyond</b> , section on Social Psychology  |
| <b>Description:</b> | 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. |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Topic:</b>       | <b>Animal Behavior/Sociobiology</b> (Weeks of Mar. 17, 24, 31, Apr. 7)   |
| <b>Readings:</b>    | <b>Basics and Beyond</b> , section on Animal Behavior/Sociobiology   |
| <b>Description:</b> | 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. |

## The Organization of Course Materials

There are two major sources of course information in Psych 1AA3: The First is this *Basics and Beyond* text, and the second is the lectures.

The lectures either discuss especially important and complex information, or highlight special topics that reflect recent social issues or exciting new research findings in psychology.

This *Basics and Beyond* text contains outlines of the material to be covered in lecture. These outlines are designed to give you a general idea of the content and organization of the lectures, and to guide your note-taking during lectures. These outlines do **not** contain all the important information in the lecture. The outlines sometimes includes printed versions of the most important diagrams and illustrations that appear in the lectures.

In the case of the Developmental Psychology section, this *Basics and Beyond* text also contains important course information that is **not** discussed in lectures.

The *Basics and Beyond* includes several study aids. At the end of each topic section, there are a number of questions about that topic that you should be able to answer. In addition, you will find a sample of multiple-choice questions covering the topic material.

These questions are similar to (or identical to) the questions you will be asked on the midterm test and final exam. These questions do not cover all the required information on the topic, and being able to answer them correctly is not a guarantee of success on the tests. The purpose of these questions is to familiarize you with the kind of questions you will be asked on the midterm test and final exam.

These questions also serve as an check on your study strategies. If you understand the topic material thoroughly enough to do well on the tests, you should be able to answer most of these sample

questions correctly. If you have trouble with the questions, that suggests you are probably not well prepared for the tests, and should spend more time absorbing the material. The answers to all the sample questions are provided at the back of this text.