SYLLABUS

PSYCH 501 * * * SPRING 2015

What will I learn in this course?

Google the question, "How is the Internet changing the way we think?," and you will find no shortage of opinions – or fears. In this course, you will examine empirical evidence for whether the Internet is changing the way we learn, communicate, socialize, play, and create.

THIS COURSE IS COMPLETELY ONLINE.

You must have access to high-speed Internet every day of the semester.

Psychological Effects of the Internet

How will I learn?

You will read and synthesize original research literature, which will be augmented with readings and videos from the popular press (Wired magazine, Edge, TED talks).

Your course grade will be based on the quality and timeliness of your completing multiple Assignments per week, including interactive discussions (conducted asynchronously, through the Learn@UW discussion board, and conducted synchronously, through text-based chat).

You will be expected to engage with the course, by logging into Learn @UW, multiple times per week. At the end of the course, you will also produce a Term Project, demonstrating your mastery of the course.

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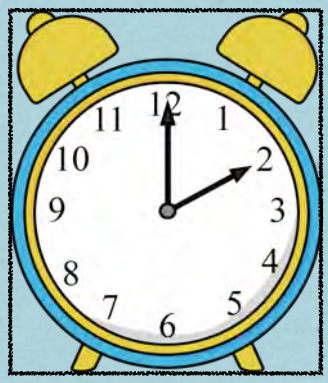


HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO SPEND ON THIS COURSE?

PSYCH 501, "Psychological Effects of the Internet," is a 4-credit, semester-long course.

Therefore, you're expected to spend **a total of 180 hours on the course** (15 weeks x 4 credits x 3 hours of work per credit).

You should plan to spend **10 hours of work each week on Assignments** and another **30 hours of work across the semester on your Term Project.**

IMPORTANT NOTE!

This is a completely online course. You are required to have daily access to high-speed Internet. Not having access to the Internet (because you forgot to pay your cable bill or you are traveling or your roommate is hogging all the bandwidth playing video games) will NOT be a valid excuse for not completing your work.

WHAT BOOKS DO I NEED TO BUY?

None!

(zero)

All course materials, including the Assignments and the instructions for the Term Project, will be available on Learn@UW.

WHAT EXAMS DO I HAVE TO TAKE?

None!

(zero)

There will be no quizzes, no tests, and no final exam. Instead, your grade will be based on Assignments and a Term Project.

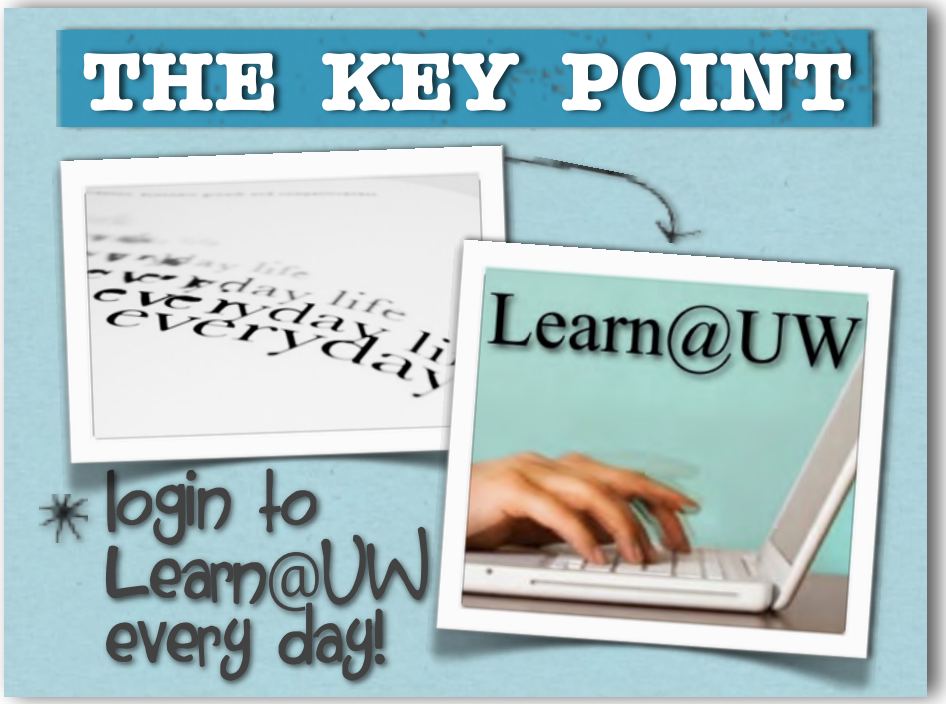
How can I do well in this course?

The best way to learn any new skill – be it playing acoustic guitar or speaking Portuguese – is to practice every day.

Similarly, the best way to do well in this course is to engage with the course every day. Login to Learn@UW every day.

If you've taken other online courses, you might be surprised by how this course works.

In other online courses, you might have been able to hang back and then cram in a lot of work at the end of the semester. A hang-back strategy will **not** work in this course.



In this course, you must keep up. You will have two weeks to complete each Assignment. You will also have one week of 'late time' after each Assignment is due to complete the Assignment late. But after two weeks of regular completion time and one week of 'late time,' you'll no longer be able to complete the Assignment. It will be gone, forever.

So, to do well in this course, you need to keep up. Indeed, work ahead to avoid unexpected mishaps, because after each Assignment is gone, it's gone – just like in real life.

HOW WILL I EARN A GRADE IN THIS CLASS?

On each Assignment, you can earn the following points:

2 points: If you complete the assignment before its due date and compose a well-organized assignment that's at least one paragraph long

1 point: If you complete the assignment within one week after its due date OR if you complete the assignment before its due date but you don't compose a well-organized assignment that's at least one paragraph long

0 points: If you haven't completed the assignment one week after its due date

All points you earn from your Assignments will be added to the points you earn on your Term Project.

Your final course grade will be the total points you earn as a percentage of the total points possible, using the grading scale to the right.

A	93-100%
AB	88-92.99%
B	83-87.99%
BC	78-82.99%
C	70-77.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	Less than 60%

What are the important dates to know?

Unit 1: January 20 to **January 25** ** Getting Started **

Unit 2: **January 26** to **February 1** ** Learning **

January 28: Last day to drop this course or withdraw from all courses without getting a grade of W on your transcript

January 30: Last day to add this course

Unit 3: **February 2** to **February 8** ** Education **

February 8: Last day to request instructional accommodations (for existing disabilities)

Unit 4: **February 9** to **February 15** ** Interpersonal Communication **

Unit 5: **February 16** to **February 22** ** Mass Communication **

Unit 6: **February 23** to **March 1** ** Social Interaction **

Unit 7: **March 2** to **March 8** ** Development & Aging **

Unit 8: **March 9** to **March 15** ** Motivation **

Unit 9: **March 16** to **March 22** ** Emotion **

March 20: Last day to drop this course

Unit 10: **March 23** to **March 29** ** Perception & Attention **

March 30 to April 5: Spring Break

Unit 11: **April 6** to **April 12** ** Judgement & Decision Making **

April 12: Last day to submit Term Project proposal

Unit 12: **April 13** to **April 19** ** Personality **

Unit 13: **April 20** to **April 26** ** Psychopathology **

Unit 14: **April 27** to **May 3** ** Conducting Research **

Unit 15: **May 4** to **May 10** ** Wrapping Up **

May 8: Last day to turn in Term Project

HOW DO I RECEIVE REASONABLE INSTRUCTIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES?

UW-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility.

Students are expected to inform the instructor of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. The instructor will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations, as part of a student's educational record is confidential and protected under FERPA.

FROM YOUR PROFESSOR

I am genuinely interested in each student succeeding in this course. If you encounter any barriers to your success, please let me know. I'm always available by email at **MAGernsb@wisc.edu**.

WHERE DO I TAKE FORMAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT A TEACHING ASSISTANT OR COURSE INSTRUCTOR?

Occasionally, a student may have a complaint about a Teaching Assistant or Course Instructor. If that happens, you should feel free to discuss the matter directly with your Teaching Assistant or your Course Instructor.

If your complaint is about the Teaching Assistant, and you do not feel comfortable discussing it directly with them, you can discuss it with the Course Instructor. If you don't want to approach the Course Instructor, you can discuss the matter with the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, Professor Brad Postle, Postle@wisc.edu.

If your complaint has to do with sexual harassment, you may take your complaint to Dr. Linnea Burk, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director, Psychology Research and Training Clinic, Room 315 Psychology (608-262-9079; Burk@wisc.edu).

If you believe the Teaching Assistant or Course Instructor has discriminated against you because of your religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or ethnic background, you may take your complaint to the UW-Madison Office of Equity and Diversity, room 179-A Bascom Hall, or go to http://www.oed.wisc.edu/.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO RESPOND TO ANOTHER STUDENT'S DISCUSSION BOARD POST?

*YOUR RESPONSES TO OTHER STUDENTS' DISCUSSION POSTS SHOULD ALWAYS CONTAIN AT LEAST **TWO (OR MORE)** OF THE FOLLOWING:*

★ A COMPLIMENT

I like how ...
I like that ...

★ A COMMENT

I agree that ... because ...
I disagree that ... because ...

★ A CONNECTION

I have also read that ...
I have also seen that ...
I have also heard that ...
I have also thought that ...

★ A QUESTION

I wonder why ...
I wonder how ...
I wonder who ...
I wonder what ...
I wonder when ...
I wonder where ...

WHAT ARE THE ETHICS OF BEING A STUDENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY?

THE FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AT UW-MADISON EXPECT THEIR STUDENTS TO UPHOLD THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT. BY REGISTERING FOR THIS COURSE, YOU ARE IMPLICITLY AGREEING TO CONDUCT YOURSELF WITH THE UTMOST INTEGRITY THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

In the Department of Psychology, acts of academic misconduct are taken very seriously. Such acts diminish the educational experience for all involved – students who commit the acts, classmates who would never consider engaging in such behaviors, and instructors.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments, sabotaging the work of classmates, plagiarizing the work of classmates or published sources, and assisting fellow students in acts of misconduct. For detailed information on how to avoid plagiarism, see http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html.

Students who have knowledge that classmates have engaged in academic misconduct should report this to the instructor.

What can I expect from Professor Gernsbacher?

Professor Gernsbacher and her Teaching Assistants abide by the "Seven Principles of Good Practice in Undergraduate Education."

1. She will educate using the methods of active learning.
2. She will emphasize your spending time on task.
3. She will provide rapid feedback to you.
4. She will encourage you to cooperate and reciprocate with other students.
5. She will communicate high expectations.
6. She will respond to your email within 24 hours.
7. She will respect your diverse talents.

WHO DO I CONTACT WHEN I HAVE A QUESTION?

If you are in The Apps, The Bookmarks, The Browsers, The Emoji, or The Hashtags Section, your TA is **Sohad Murrar**, SMurrar@wisc.edu

If you are in The Homepages, The Laptops, The Links, The Tablets, or The URLs Section, your TA is **Dorcas Akinniyi**, Akinniyi@wisc.edu

Or contact Professor Gernsbacher, MAGernsb@wisc.edu