Introduction
PSY 200
Greg Francis
Lecture 01

Four great mysteries.

1) Why is there something instead of nothing?
   - This is the domain of physics
   - Most of us are not going to understand the ideas

2) How did life form?
   - This question is addressed at the boundary between chemistry and biology

3) Why is there so much diversity of life?
   - This is the domain of biology
   - Evolution and natural selection answer this question

4) What is the basis of human intelligence and consciousness?
   - Cognitive psychology and neuroscience
   - Far from a complete answer
   - Lots of issues to discuss

Topics

- Discuss a sample of issues in cognitive psychology / cognitive neuroscience
- Try to relate cognitive psychology to stories you may have heard in the popular press
- Identify how the topics can help you to be a better person
Topics

- For example
  - What's the deal with left and right brains?
  - Why does everyone love Prozac?
  - Why telephone operators seem rude.
  - Why there is a gate at the first floor stairway in the Psychology building.
  - What to do if you are drunk while studying for an exam.
  - What is the plural of walkman?

Textbook

- There is no textbook
- Lecture notes are used instead
- If you want a book, borrow from a past class
- There are optional readings in the syllabus
  - Not for every subject

Lecture notes

- Downloadable from the class web page
  - Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format
  - Reduced form (6 to a page)

Lecture vodcast

- Vodcast of the lectures will be provided
- To me, these are a poor substitute for attending lecture
- Links will be posted on the class web page as the vodcasts become available
  - Often takes a few days
  - Sound may not be very good

Attendance

- When you enter the room each day, be sure to get a scantron
  - fill it out with your Purdue information
  - Sign it
  - No need to answer any questions
- Hand in the scantron at the end of class
  - It will function as a check on your attendance
- You can miss up to 6 lectures without any penalty
  - Beyond that you lose a proportion of points
  - 5% of your class grade
- Scantrons are only available for the first 15 minutes of class

Course web page

- Syllabus on the web
  - updates to the syllabus
  - Links to labs
  - Links to writing assignments
  - Study guides for the exams
  - (old) practice exams
  - Links to optional readings
  - Grades will be posted after the first exam
- This course does not use Blackboard

PSY 200: Intro. to Cognitive Psychology
Course outline

- Neuroscience -- EXAM 1 (10%)
- Perception, Attention & Memory -- EXAM 2 (10%)
- Memory & Mental representation -- Exam 3 (15%)
- Language -- Exam 4 (15%)
- Reasoning
- Cumulative Final (15%)

Exams

- Multiple choice (scantron)
- Detailed study guides are already on the class web site
- Beware the scheduling of the final exam!
  - The exam is during the final exam week
  - There are few excuses for changing the date

CogLab

- Homework
- You participate in classic experiments
- Total lab grade contributes to 15% of your class grade.
- Grade is based solely on completing the experiment, not on the quality of the data

CogLab

- Labs are listed on the syllabus
- They must be completed by 6:00 am at the date indicated in the syllabus
  - else you get no credit
  - Better to do it the night before
- Since I wrote CogLab, you get access to the experiments for free
  - (a $50 value!)
- See handout for instructions on getting started
- Registration code is on a label on the instructions
- First lab is due at 6:00 am on Wednesday!

Writing assignments

- You need practice writing!
- Four assignments, 3-5 pages of single spaced text.
  - If you struggle to fill 3 pages of text, you probably do not understand the assignment
- Assignments are due (submitted by email to the TA) as listed in the syllabus
- First assignment is September 1
  - By the start of class (not one second later!)
  - 15% of your class grade

Grading

- Straight scale
  - 98% - 100%  A+
  - 93% - 97%  A
  - 90% - 92%  A-
  - 88% - 89%  B+
  - 83% - 87%  B
  - 80% - 82%  B-
  - 78% - 79%  C+
  - 73% - 77%  C
  - 70% - 72%  C-
  - 68% - 69%  D+
  - 63% - 67%  D
  - 60% - 62%  D-
  - 0% - 59%  F
- No rounding up: 82.99 is a B-
- No extra credit
Grading

- Last semester's grades (Fall 2016)

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Grading

- Last semester’s grades (Fall 2016)

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Instructor office hours

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
  - Or by appointment
  - Psych 3186
  - Email: gfrancis@purdue.edu

Teaching assistants

- Grade writing assignments
- Keep track of grades and attendance
- Have office hours
- May provide out-of-class study sessions for exams

Teaching assistant

- Pierson Fleischer
- Office: Peirce Hall, 365B
- Office hours:
  - TBD
  - Email: pfleisch@purdue.edu

Attitude/Advice

- During lectures: turn off cell phones, don’t read newspapers, don’t play games
- Questions are always welcome. I can adjust my lecturing pace accordingly
- Print out the lectures and bring them to class. Take notes during class. Not everything is on the slides.
- Everything we talk about in class is important
- Work on the study guide every week, so the ideas/answers are fresh in your mind.
- This class is an introductory class, but that does not mean it is easy
  - It’s like Introduction to Physics or Introduction to Chemistry
  - Almost every other subtopic in psychology depends on the ideas in cognitive psychology
  - Everything is at least 10,000 times more complicated than what we discuss
- If you don’t find a topic interesting, just wait a week
Next time

- Cognitive neuroscience
- The brain
- The modularity hypothesis
- CogLab on Brain asymmetry due!
- What’s the deal with left and right brains?