

Introduction

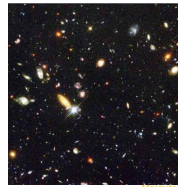
PSY 200
Greg Francis
Lecture 01

Four great mysteries.

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Four great mysteries

- Humans face four great mysteries about the universe
- 1) Why is there something instead of nothing?
 - This is the domain of physics
 - Most of us are not going to understand the ideas



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Four great mysteries

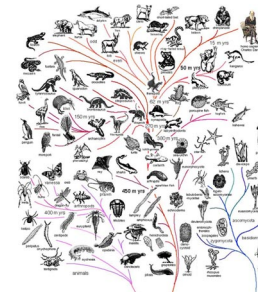
- Humans face four great mysteries about the universe
- 2) How did life form?
 - This question is addressed at the boundary between chemistry and biology



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Four great mysteries

- Humans face four great mysteries about the universe
- 3) Why is there so much diversity of life?
 - This is the domain of biology
 - Evolution and natural selection answer this question



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Four great mysteries

- Humans face four great mysteries about the universe
- 4) What is the basis of human intelligence and consciousness?
 - Cognitive psychology and neuroscience
 - Far from a complete answer
 - Lots of issues to discuss



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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

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Topics

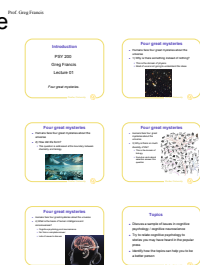
- For example
 - ♦ *What's the deal with left and right brains?*
 - ♦ *Why does everyone love Prozac?*
 - ♦ *Why telephone operators seem rude.*
 - ♦ *Why there is a gate at the first floor stairway in the Psychology building.*
 - ♦ *What to do if you are drunk while studying for an exam.*
 - ♦ *What 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
 - ♦ <http://www.psych.purdue.edu/~gfrancis/Classes/PSY200/indexF17.html>
 - ♦ 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

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%)

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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

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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

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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!**

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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

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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

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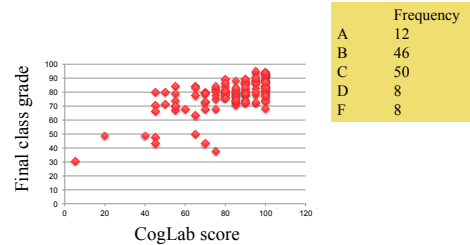
Grading

- Last semester's grades (Fall 2016)

	E1	E2	E3	E4	Final	CogLab%	Writing	Attendance
Average	76	75	78	82	79	82	72	96
Max	94	100	96	100	100	100	98	100
Min	42	38	45	40	45	5	0	27

Grading

- Last semester's grades (Fall 2016)



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?*

