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**Human Intelligence**

**New York University**

**G89.2042**

**Mondays, 6:20-8:10 Meyer, 159**

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**When and Where**

Term: Spring 2011

When: M, 6:20-8:10pm

Where: MEYR 159

**Instructor Information**

Name: Professor Scott Barry Kaufman, Ph.D.

Web: <http://www.scottbarrykaufman.com>

Email: [scott.barry.kaufman@nyu.edu](mailto:scott.barry.kaufman@nyu.edu)

Office hours: by appointment

**Course Description**

This course will take a broad approach to understanding human intelligence in its many manifestations, and attempt to answer the following questions: What is intelligence? Can it be measured? How many types of intelligences are there? What does intelligence predict? What are the biological and environmental determinants of intelligence? And, can intelligence be increased?

Objectives

By the end of this course, you should have acquired:

- An understanding of the importance of individual differences in psychology, and the way such understanding complements the standard approach of cognitive psychology.
- An appreciation of the difficulty of understanding the causes of individual differences, and how those causes, whether genetic or environmental, actually achieve their effects.
- A realization that seemingly innocent questions, such as what is intelligence, or do IQ tests really measure intelligence, are not at all simple, but require a diversity of approaches for their answer.
- Most optimistically, the belief that it is not wholly impossible to evaluate necessarily inconclusive scientific evidence impartially, without regard to one's social and political preconceptions.

## **Readings**

### Primary Text:

Hunt, E. (2011). *Human intelligence*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Additional journal articles and book chapters will be assigned throughout the course of the semester.

## **Assessment**

This course is just as much a discussion course as it is a lecture course. As you do the reading in the course, please write down your reflections and insights as they come to you and be prepared to share them in class. We are all in this exploration together.

There will be no tests in this course. Instead, there will be four main forms of assessment in this course.

1. *Class Discussion (10%)*
2. *6 Reaction Papers (50%)*
3. *Final Paper (20%)*
4. *Brief Class Presentation (20%)*

## **Course Schedule**

### **Syllabus**

**Lecture 1: Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, History of IQ Testing**

Hunt- Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-64)

**Lecture 2: Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, Psychometric Theories of IQ I: Does *g* exist?**

***\*\*\*REACTION PAPER #1 DUE\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 64-110)

**Lecture 3: Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Psychometric Theories of IQ II: What *is g*?**

***\*\*\*REACTION PAPER #2 DUE\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapter 10 (pp. 311-355)

**Lecture 4: Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Predictive Validity of IQ I: Academic and Occupational Achievement**

***\*\*\*REACTION PAPER #3 DUE\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapter 6 (pp. 140-171)

**\*\*\*Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: PRESIDENT'S DAY, NO CLASS\*\*\***

**Lecture 5: Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Predictive Validity of IQ II: Genius and Expertise**

***\*\*\*Readings TBA\*\*\****

**Lecture 6: Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, Genetic Basis of Intelligence**

***\*\*\*REACTION PAPER #4 DUE\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapter 8 (pp. 203-256)

**\*\*\*Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS\*\*\***

**Lecture 7: Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Working Memory, Intelligence, and the Brain**

***\*\*\*GUEST LECTURE: CHRISTOPHER CHABRIS\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapter 7 (pp. 172-202)

**Lecture 8: Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Environmental Effects on Intelligence**

***\*\*\*REACTION PAPER #5 DUE\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapter 9 (pp. 257-pp. 310)

**Lecture 9: Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, The Malleability of Intelligence**

***\*\*\*GUEST LECTURE: JOSHUA ARONSON\*\*\****

**Lecture 10: Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Beyond *g*: Contemporary Theories of Intelligence**

***\*\*\*REACTION PAPER #6 DUE\*\*\****

Hunt- Chapter 5 (pp. 111-139)

**Lecture 11: Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Mating Intelligence**

***\*\*\*GUEST LECTURE: GLENN GEHER\*\*\****

**Lecture 12: Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Executive Functioning and Emotional Regulation**

***\*\*\*GUEST LECTURE: CLANCY BLAIR\*\*\****

**Lecture 13: Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Future of Intelligence**

Hunt- Chapter 11 (pp. 356-447)

Hunt- Chapter 12 (pp. 448-452)

**Lecture 14: Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Paper Presentations, Part I**

***\*\*\*FINAL PAPERS DUE\*\*\****

**Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Paper Presentations, Part II**