

Introductory Psychology (PSY 101)

Grand Valley State University

Department of Psychology

Winter 2017

Instructor: Gwenden L. Dueker, Ph.D.
Contact Information: dueker@gvsu.edu
Office: 2208 ASH
Office Hours: T TH 12:55-2:10 and by appointment

Required Text: Psychology 7th Edition

by Sandra E. Hockenbury, Susan A. Nolan, and Don H. Hockenbury

ISBN: 9781464108808

Course Description

This course is meant as a general introduction to the broad field of psychology. Students will be introduced to basic methodologies used by Psychologists and will be expected to think critically about the conclusions drawn from Psychological research. This course is part of the Social Sciences General Education Foundation Category.

Course Objectives. By the end of the semester, students will:

1. have improved critical thinking skills.
2. have insight into the way psychologists view the world and acquire data.
3. demonstrate a basic understanding of the science of Psychology including important theories and terminology.
4. be critical consumers of Psychological information and research presented in the general media.
5. be able to identify examples of psychological concepts in their daily lives.

Respect

Academic Honesty. Academic honesty and integrity are expected from the instructor and students at all times. Academic dishonesty is defined as an attempt to obtain or to help another student obtain a grade higher than what is honestly earned – this includes getting information about exams or assignments from students in an earlier or previous section of the course. Do not assume that any assignment for this course is a group assignment unless I specifically tell you that it is. Anything you turn in to me, whether a written assignment or an exam, needs to be your own, individual work. It is your responsibility to properly cite all sources in your written work and to avoid plagiarism. An occurrence of academic dishonesty will result, minimally, in failure of the course and a recommendation for University judicial action. It is every student's responsibility to avoid even the appearance of cheating. For more information about academic honesty please see the GVSU student code.

Communication. We will maintain a respectful atmosphere in the classroom for all students (and professors) regardless of age, gender, favorite type of music, ethnicity, sexual orientation, learning disability, or driving skills. By that I mean (a) respectfully attending to the contributions that others make in the class, and, (b) consciously examining your own contributions to ensure that they are respectful to others around you. If you experience a lack of respect at any point during this class, please contact me, and I will work with you to address the problem. Any student who is consistently disrespectful towards the classroom community will be dropped from the course.

E-mail: Please include your name and section number in the subject line so your message is likely to get through my spam filters. I do not knowingly ignore emails - if you have emailed me and have not received a reply within 2 days, check to be sure that you included all of the correct information and email me again or call or drop by during office hours.

Electronic devices & Food. All electronic devices should be deactivated during class time so that you and your fellow students can focus on the material with a minimum of distractions. Quiet food and drink is fine except on exam days.

Attendance. Be at class. Be on time. Coming in late is rude to the classroom community. Failure to attend class regularly will negatively affect your grade as missed in-class and group assignments cannot be made up under any circumstances.

Evaluation Procedures/Course Credit

Credit for this course will be based on student performance in these areas:

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Cumulative final exam	100
In-class Assignments	80
Enrichment Activities	40
WebQuest assignments	40

Total	560 points
--------------	-------------------

Exams: All tests will be challenging in-class examinations covering the readings, lectures, videos, student contributions and any guest presentations. Electronic devices are prohibited on exam days.

In-class and group assignments: In class assignments might range from unannounced quizzes over readings to participation in group discussions or activities. Credit for in class assignments cannot be made up under any circumstances. If you are not present for the activity you will not be able to earn credit.

Enrichment Activities: The study of Psychology is enriched by actual student engagement with the process of research either by participating in research or by reading research reports and writing about them. Each student is required to participate in 4 enrichment activities during this course. Information about how to meet this requirement is posted on the course BlackBoard site.

WebQuest: This assignment requires students to make connections between information in the course and information in the media and to apply critical thinking skills to critique media reports about Psychological concepts.

Grading Scale:

	A 93-100	A- 90-92
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 63-66	F 62 or lower

* I reserve the right to adjust this scale (downward) if I see the need

Useful things to know

Exam Dates: You are responsible for attending and completing an exam at the time and day for which it is scheduled. Only in cases of extreme illness or family emergency will an exam be given at a time other than that scheduled. Rescheduled exams will be given (or not) at the professor's discretion and will probably be in a format other than the original exam (e.g. oral or essay). If you realize that you will need to request a make-up exam please contact me before the exam. I will **always** require documentation.

Due Dates: You are responsible for turning in all work by the **start** of class time on the announced due date. If you are submitting an assignment other than to me you must turn it in to the Psychology Office (room 2224 AuSable Hall) – ask them to mark it with the time and date. Do not put assignments under my office door. **I do not accept assignments via email. I do not accept late work.**

Readings & Videos: *You are responsible for reading and/or watching the materials assigned for each class period.* Not all of the material will be explicitly discussed during class time, however, these materials have been chosen to prepare you for class and to give you the background information necessary to understand some of the activities planned for the class. You are responsible for the material contained in the readings and videos regardless of whether or not it is specifically covered during class time. Only the chapters from the texts are listed on the syllabus. Supplementary articles and videos etc. will be announced in class.

Blackboard Website: I will post grades, announcements, assignments and other course information on the course info web site for this class. The WebQuest assignments will be submitted only through BlackBoard. Make sure that you have access. Contact the help desk if you need assistance accessing BlackBoard 331-2101. Please check your grades on the Blackboard website often as it is both of our responsibilities to ensure the accuracy of the information. Be sure to keep all papers that are returned to you until the end of the semester and contact me ASAP if you think an error has been made.

Students with special needs: If you need special accommodations for either testing or note-taking please let me know and I will work with you and the learning center to set up the necessary services.

Tentative Schedule (Note: This is an approximate schedule – it can and no doubt will change during the course). I will announce any schedule changes in class and you are responsible for tracking such changes.

Date	Textbook Chapter	Important Dates
Jan 10-12	1	
Jan 17-19	2	
Jan 24-26	3	
Jan 31-Feb 2	4	
Feb 7-9	5	Exam 1 Feb 7
Feb 14-16	6	
Feb 21-23	7	
Feb 28 – March 2	8	
March 7-9		No class. Spring break!!!!
March 14-16	9	Exam 2 March 16
March 21-23	10	
March 28-30	11	
April 4-6	12	
April 11-13	13	Exam 3 April 13
April 18-20	14	April 18 Enrichment credit Deadline
April 24-28		Cumulative Final Exam week



PSY 101 Introductory Psychology

Foundations – Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course is part of GVSU's General Education Program. PSY 101 is designed to help you learn:

1. How knowledge in the social or behavioral sciences is created and applied.
2. The major approaches, methods, theories, and substantive findings of the field.
3. An informed critical stance that will allow students to weigh and apply ideas and claims from the social and behavioral sciences outside the classroom.
4. Critical and creative thinking, which uses systematic reasoning to examine and evaluate ideas, leading to new ways of thinking or doing. Students will:
 - Assess differing perspectives and assumptions.
 - Evaluate evidence and the logic of arguments.
 - Formulate novel approaches or create alternative interpretations.
5. Ethical reasoning, which is a decision making process based on defining systems of value. Students will:
 - Recognize ethical issues when presented in a complex situation.
 - Demonstrate their understanding of key concepts and principles underlying various systems of reasoning.
 - Participate in activities that engage them in ethical reasoning.
 - Demonstrate the ability to deal constructively with ambiguity and disagreement.

Teaching in the liberal tradition is at the heart of Grand Valley's identity, and this focus is critical in our General Education Program. Liberal education transcends the acquisition of information; it goes beyond the factual to ask important evaluative and philosophical questions. Liberal learning holds the fundamental principles and suppositions of a body of knowledge up to inquiry, question, and discussion. It helps a person recognize the assumptions under which he or she operates and encourages the examination and questioning of those assumptions. Liberal learning begins in the General Education Program and continues through the more specialized studies comprising each student's major and minor areas of study.

Grand Valley State University educates students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.