**Introduction to Psychology**

PSY 101-12, Winter 2023

Course Syllabus

Grand Valley State University, Department of Psychology

Instructor: Felicia Diaz, MA

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Virtual Office Hours: by appointment

Office Location: <https://wmich.webex.com/meet/felicia.a.diaz>

**NOTE: You are responsible for knowing the contents of this syllabus. The contents and requirements of the syllabus may need to be modified over the course of the semester.**

REQUIRED TEXT:

Lilienfeld, S. O., Lynn, S. J., Namy, L. L. (2017). Psychology: From Inquiry to Understanding. (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN-13: 9780134567747 **(AVAILABLE VIA GVSU SAVE)**

CLASS DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the science of Psychology. This course will emphasize the major theories of behavior and mental processes, the contemporary methods used by psychologists, and the major findings of psychological research. This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the breadth of topics studied by psychologists (such as neuroscience, perception, learning, memory, personality, social behavior, and psychological disorders, among others), as well as foster critical thinking about psychological phenomena, and awareness of how empirically validated psychological principles apply to daily life.

This course fulfills the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gened/foundations-social-and-behavioral-sciences-277.htm>

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific process in Psychology.

2. Identify major psychological theories and use psychological terminology correctly.

3. Critically evaluate the findings of psychological research.

4. Recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life.

**Course Requirements**

Grades in this class will be based on quizzes, examinations, and weekly discussion posts.

**Exams:**

There will be three multiple choice exams. **No make-up exams will be given.** The exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and will be worth 100 points. Exams are designed to assess student knowledge of content. Exams will be completed on Blackboard by 10pm on the due date. Exams should be completed *on your own*.

**Quizzes:**

There will be three multiple choice quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will contain 10 questions and will be worth a total of 20 points. Quizzes are designed to help students review material between exams and to keep up with the reading. **No make-up quizzes will be given.** Quizzes will be completed on Blackboard by 10pm on the due date. Quizzes should be completed *on your own*.

**Discussion:**

Each week, there will be a discussion post due to ensure students are keeping up with course material. Each discussion post is worth 5 points, and the lowest 2 scores will be dropped. Discussions should be thoughtful and respond to readings and lectures.

**Course Policies**

**Preparation:**

It is expected that you read each chapter prior to viewing the online lecture. Reviewing your notes each day will also help you retain course information.

**Grading:**

Grades in this course will be based on performance on 4 quiz scores, 3 exam scores, and potential extra credit. The following shows the total amount of points that each student can earn.

Assignment pts possible number total points % of total grade

Quizzes 20 3 60 ~14

Discussions 5 14 70 ~16.3

Exams 100 4 300 ~70

Total 430

Letter grades will be assigned based on percentage according to the following scale:

**A = 100 – 93**

**A - = 92 – 90**

**B + = 89 – 87**

**B = 86 – 83**

**B - = 82 – 80**

**C+ = 79 – 77**

**C = 76 – 73**

**C - = 72 – 70**

**D+ = 69 – 65**

**D = 64 – 60**

**F = 59 or below**

**Grade Questions: Grades** will be posted via the course page on Blackboard on a regular basis throughout the semester. You are responsible for routinely checking your grade. If you suspect an error has been made in recording one of your grades, bring it to my attention, preferably during office hours (where we will have access to the grade book and the material in question), **as soon as it is noticed**. If you disagree with the grading of an assignment, you must submit a written request for re-grading based on the existing content of the paper. Submit the request directly to me and arrange an appointment for feedback.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Required Reading** | **Content** | **Associated Deadlines/Assignments** |
| Read Ch. 1-2 | Course Introduction, Syllabus Review | Discussion 1 due 1/17 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 3 | Psychology & Scientific Thinking; Research Methods | Discussion 2 due 1/23 @10pm |
|  |  | Quiz 1 due 1/27 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 5 | Consciousness | Discussion 3 due 1/30 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 6 | Learning | Discussion 4 due 2/6 @10pm |
|  |  | Exam 1 due 2/10 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 7 | Memory | Discussion 5 due 2/13 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 8 | Thinking, Language, Intelligence | Discussion 6 due 2/20 @10pm |
|  |  | Quiz 2 due 2/24 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 9 | Human Development | Discussion 7 due 2/27 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 10 | Emotion and Motivation | Discussion 8 due 3/13 @10pm |
|  |  | Exam 2 due 3/17 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 11 | Stress, Coping, Health | Discussion 9 due 3/20 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 12 | Social Psychology | Discussion 10 due 3/27 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 13 | Personality | Discussion 11 due 4/3 @10pm |
|  |  | Quiz 3 due 4/7 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 14 | Psychological Disorders | Discussion 12 due 4/10 @10pm |
| Read Ch. 15 | Psychological and Biological Treatment | Discussion 13 due 4/14 @10pm |
|  |  | Exam 3 due 4/21 @10pm |

**Academic Integrity:**  Students are responsible for making themselves aware of and understanding the University policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If I have evidence of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam, giving or receiving information about what is asked in the exam, or any other form of cheating such as plagiarism), you will receive a failing grade in that activity and other consequences as dictated by GVSU policy. Plagiarism is presenting work, ideas or words that are not your own as though they were your own—this includes work of other students or work that is in a published source (the textbook, a journal article). To avoid plagiarism be sure to do your own work and put information in your own words. Use of quotes with appropriate reference to the original source from which you got the information or ideas is acceptable but less preferred than paraphrasing (with referencing of the source provided) in psychological writing.

**Special Needs:** The instructor is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students. If you have any physical or learning disabilities, please contact the instructor during the first week of class to discuss any necessary accommodations to ensure equity.

Any student that is having difficulty with the class materials, pace of the class, or test scores is encouraged to contact the instructor **as soon as possible**. The instructor is happy to help and provide assistance to students that may be struggling with their class achievement; however, help is often less effective if it is requested too late in the semester. Please do not wait to ask for help.

**Diversity:** It is important for students to feel comfortable in the classroom. If the instructor or anyone else in the course says or does something that strikes you as culturally insensitive or inappropriate, please notify the instructor immediately.

**Psych Friends:**

If you feel you could use some extra help/guidance/support in any academic domain or for your well-being, please consider scheduling an appointment with a mentor through Psych Friends. Psych Friends mentors are upper-level undergraduate peer mentors who are trained to provide support in many areas including: effective study and time management techniques, exam preparation and reflection skills, comprehension of the psychology and behavioral neuroscience major requirements, tips for engaging in the field, strategies for education continuation, methods for maintaining physical and mental health. Schedule an appointment here: https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate and Questions? Email psychfriends@gvsu.edu

### University Closures

### If the University is closed on the date of an exam or quiz, the exam will be re-scheduled for the next class meeting. If the University is closed on the day an assignment is due, the assignment will also be due at the next scheduled class meeting. Closures occurring on other scheduled meeting days will result in the material that was to be covered on that day being discussed during the following class meeting (in addition to the assigned readings for that meeting).

**University Information about policies**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/