

Introductory Psychology (PSY 101), Winter 2024,

Sections 17

Syllabus

Instructor: Leon Lou, Ph.D.

How to reach me:

1. Correspond via email (recommended): loul@gvsu.edu. Please mention your section (17).
2. Chat by Zoom. Contact me via email and suggest a day and time to talk. I will confirm.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

OpenStax **Psychology 2e**

We use a free electronic version of the above textbook that is pre-loaded into your Blackboard course page and available to you the first day of class.

COURSE 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, including the biological foundation of the mind and behavioral, perception, learning, memory, personality, social behavior, and psychological disorders, as well as to 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 of General Education: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gened/foundations-social-and-behavioral-sciences-277.htm>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course you 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 FORMAT

This section of the course is conducted online and asynchronously. The textbook and other course material (homework assignments, videos and exams are delivered on the Blackboard Ultra. All you are required to do is to spend the necessary time each week to read the assigned chapter of the textbook, complete the homework of the week, and take the three exams which are open-book, on-line and in multiple-choice format.

COURSE WORK

Homework

Each homework contains four kinds of questions: Review questions, critical thinking questions, application questions, and video discussion questions. There will be one homework each week for the topic covered in the week. All the homework will be graded credit/no credit.

Exams

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. Exams #1 and #2 (both 40 points) are not cumulative. For the final exam (60 points), 40 points will come from the material covered since the last exam (non-cumulative portion), and 20 points will come from prior material (the cumulative portion). All exams will include multiple-choice questions.

Enrichment Activities

See the last part of the syllabus.

Extra credits

Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and on BB. The assignments could involve 1) addition homework assignment, 2) a brief paper that summarizes and/or applies your knowledge of some psychological topic, or 3) completing additional enrichment activities. There are no make-up opportunities for this assignment and late assignments are not accepted.

EXPECTATIONS

Basic expectations your professor have from students include:

- 1) Read the syllabus and consult it throughout the semester.
- 2) Read assigned readings completely and in a timely manner.
- 3) Complete all assignments/exams on time.
- 4) Take notes when reading/studying.
- 5) Study regularly throughout the week.
- 6) Communicate your questions and concerns.

PSY101 is a 3-credit course, so this equates to spending around 6-9 hours a week on this class, which includes time spent in the classroom. Each week, you will have assigned reading (~3 hours), one homework assignment (~2 hour to complete, not including study time), so please

consider how you are spending the remaining 1-4 hours on this course. Study tips and strategies are provided on the course Blackboard site.

You can expect your professor to

- 1) Post homework assignments and Exams in a timely manner. More specifically, I will make the homework assignment available one week before its due date, and I will make each exam available all hours on the examination day
- 2) Be responsive to questions and concerns. This includes posting announcements regularly, responding to emails promptly (within 24 hours on weekdays), meeting online with students who request it, and providing feedback and prompt grading. In particular, I will provide correct or suggested answers to each homework assignment one week after its due date or the day before an exam, whichever comes first. Please take time to learn from the feedback.

GRADING

Course grades will be based on total points earned from the following sources:

COURSE ACTIVITY		POINT VALUE
Exam #1 and Exam #2	40 pts each	80 pts
Final Exam		60 pts
Homework Assignments	14 assignments x 10 pts each	140 pts
Enrichment Activities	4 activities x 5 pts each	20 pts
Extra Credit		15 pts

****Total of 300 points, not including extra credit****

Final grades will be as follows:

Grade	% Earned	Grade	% Earned
A	94 and above	C	72 – 75.9
A-	90 – 93.9	C-	68 – 71.9
B+	86 – 89.9	D+	64 – 67.9
B	82 – 85.9	D	60 – 63.9
B-	79 – 81.9	F	59.9 and below
C+	76 – 78.9		

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Topics/Readings	Reminders of Due/Exam Dates
Week 1 (1/8-1/14)	Introduction to Psychology/Chapter 1	1/14: Homework 1 due
1/15: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Day		
Week 2 (1/16-21)	Psychological Research/Chapter 2	1/21: Homework 2 due
Week 3 (1/22-28)	Biopsychology/Chapter 3	1/28: Homework 3 due
Week 4 (1/29-2/4)	States of Consciousness/Chapter 4	2/4: Homework 4 due
Week 5 (2/5-11)	Sensation and Perception/Chapter 5	2/11: Homework 5 due
Week 6 (2/12-18)	Learning/Chapter 6	2/12: Exam 1 ; 2/18: Homework 6 due
Week 7 (2/19-2/25)	Thinking and Intelligence/Chapter 7	2/25: Homework 7 due
Week 8 (2/26-3/2)	Memory/Chapter 8	3/3: Homework 8 due
Week 9 (3/3-3/10): Spring Break		
Week 10 (3/11-3/17)	Lifespan Development/Chapter 9	3/17: Homework 9 due
Week 11 (3/18-3/24)	Emotion and Motivation/Chapter 10	3/24: Homework 10 due
Week 12(3/25-3/31)	Personality/Chapter 11	3/25: Exam 2 ; 3/31: Homework 11 due
Week 13(4/1-4/7)	Social Psychology/Chapter 12	4/7: Homework 12 due
Week 14 (4/8-4/14)	Stress, Lifestyle, and Health/Chapter 14	4/14: Homework 13 due
Week 15 (4/15-4/21)	Psychological Disorders/Chapter 15	4/21: Homework 14 due
	Therapy and Treatment/Chapter 16	4/19: Enrichment Activities due
4/22		Final Exam

*This schedule (including assigned readings) is subject to change. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class or on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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

Withdrawing from a Course: The ultimate deadline for withdrawing from this course (or any course at GVSU) is Friday March 22nd, at 5pm.

Accommodations for late work/make-ups: Importantly, if a student misses the deadline for an assessment and they are seeking an accommodation (i.e., permission to turn it in late), they must contact the professor via email within 48 hours of the deadline with an explanation. From there, the professor will grant accommodations based upon 1) the cause for the missed deadline, and 2) the extent to which the student's ability to complete the assignment was impaired.

The University makes a distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. Consistent with University policy, missed deadlines are excused and eligible for accommodations for the following reasons:

- 1) Active participation in an intercollegiate event;

- 2) Observance of religious holidays,
- 3) Military duty;
- 4) Jury duty, or appearance in court or other government hearings;
- 5) Student medical conditions that limit time or ability to engage with the course material;
- 6) Birth or adoption of child;
- 7) Attendance at an academic and/or professional conference;
- 8) Medical or professional appointments (e.g., job interviews);
- 9) Medical conditions of a loved one if the student is serving as a caretaker;
- 10) Funerals or memorial services; and
- 11) Previously scheduled family celebrations (e.g., weddings, etc.).

Blackboard Access: The course Blackboard (BB) website is essential to your success. It is the student's responsibility to visit BB regularly and stay up to date with the material posted in this forum.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact your professor as well as Disability Support Resources (DSR) at (616) 331-2490 for assistance as soon as possible.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: The following is adapted from the Student Code, Sections 223.00 and 223.01: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind.

- a. No student shall knowingly procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
- b. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
- c. No student shall allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
- d. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without specific authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.
- e. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs, to entire articles copied from the internet, books, periodicals, speeches, or from the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. In short, any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

Students can (and are encouraged to) study together, but all academic work should be the sole work of the individual student, unless otherwise stated.

Any violation of academic integrity, even on a small scale, can result in a failing grade in the course. The University is implementing a new oversight process for cases of academic dishonesty – this

process requires all professors to report all cases to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, which then investigates each case and makes a determination.

Psych Friends Resource

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, 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>. Questions? Email psychfriends@gvsu.edu.

Enrichment Activities: Learning about Psychological Research

In the Enrichment Activities (EA) portion of the course, students will be given the opportunity to experience psychological research first-hand. Two kinds of enrichment activities are available:

- *Option 1* involves being a participant in research studies conducted by Psychology Department faculty and students.
- *Option 2* involves completing activities that will introduce you to a variety of research techniques used in psychological research.

Students must earn **four** EA credits for this requirement. The credit you earn by completing each EA is a function of the amount of time it takes to complete it. For example, by participating in a brief online study (30 minutes or fewer) you would earn ½ of an EA credit whereas an EA that takes one hour to complete would earn 1 credit. Both types of Enrichment Activities will be available in face to face and online formats. You may complete the EA requirement using any combination of EA types, however, **at least two full credits of EAs must be completed in person.**

Enrichment activities are scheduled and offered through the Sona Study Scheduling System. You will receive an email at the beginning of the semester sometime during the first week of class containing your User ID and an initial password, and a link to the Sona system website at <https://gvsu.sona-systems.com>. If you do not receive an email regarding your account by the **end of the first week of class**, please contact Hannah Todd at psychlab@gvsu.edu.

SONA Systems maintains a strict policy protecting your privacy and confidentiality. This policy is available for review in the Psychology Office.

Additional details regarding the enrichment activities and an FAQ are available online at <https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/psy-101-participation-in-research-sona-435.htm>

Screening Instrument: Once you receive your User ID and password, you will be able to immediately earn .5 credits by completing an online prescreening questionnaire. This is a short questionnaire used by some researchers to determine your participation eligibility for studies carried out throughout the semester. You must be 18 or older to complete the prescreen survey. You are not required to complete it, but doing so increases the number of studies you will be able to choose from during the semester. You can complete the prescreen at any time from the My Profile tab on the blue

bar at the top of the page, however, completing it early (within the first two weeks of class) ensures that you will have access to the widest variety of EA activities within the Sona System.

Enrichment Activity Deadline

The last day to complete your EA requirement is **April 19th @ 5:00 pm.**

Some Additional Information about Psychology Department Enrichment Activities (EAs)

There are two types of Enrichment Activities (EAs). Details regarding each type are listed below.

Enrichment Option 1: Participation in Psychology Studies

By participating in psychology research studies, you will directly experience some of the procedures used in psychological research while also making a valuable contribution to the generation of knowledge within the discipline. All studies have been reviewed and approved by the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB), an administrative body established to protect the rights and welfare of human research participants.

Some studies may be completed online, while other studies will require you to participate in person at a physical location (usually the Psychology Laboratories in Au Sable Hall). Both online and face to face psychology studies use the Sona Study Scheduling System. If the study requires you to attend a session at a particular location, please arrive before the scheduled time, as studies start punctually. If you sign up for a study session but cannot attend, please cancel your session on-line. Online studies must be completed by the study deadline to get credit.

At the beginning of a study session, you will first be given a description of what you will have to do, and then be asked for your consent before the study begins. If you choose not to participate, you may leave the study without penalty. Once you have completed a study, you can check to see that you have received credit by selecting [My Schedule/Credits](#). Credits are typically posted within 24 hours after completion of a study.

Optional Prescreen: The prescreen is a short questionnaire used by some researchers to determine your eligibility for future research. **You must be 18 or older to complete the prescreen survey.** You are not required to complete it but doing so may increase the number of studies you will be eligible for throughout the semester. It will take approximately one-half hour to complete, and you will earn ½ of an EA credit for doing so. You can complete the prescreen at any time from the [My Profile](#) tab on the blue bar at the top of the page. If you plan to complete the survey, please plan to complete it in a single half-hour session.

Under 18 rules: If you are under 18, you are welcome to participate in activities marked as Enrichment Activity (EA) option 2: Research Techniques without parental/guardian consent forms on file. To participate in Psychology Department research studies (EA option 1: Psychological Studies), you will need to have your parent/guardian complete a permission form and file it with the Psychology department. Please note that some studies require that you be at least 18 years old to participate. If you are under 18 and have a parental consent form on file, the SONA system will display only those studies without an age requirement. obtain the parent/guardian permission form, please email psychlab@gvsu.edu to obtain a copy of the parent/guardian permission form.

Enrichment Option 2: Research Techniques Activities

By completing research techniques activities, you will engage in activities related to procedures researchers use in their psychological research. For example, you may be asked to watch an exchange between two people and carry out behavioral coding of their interaction. In doing these activities you will gain an understanding of the strengths and limits of various research methods used in psychological science. Research Techniques Activities are listed in SONA Systems along with the

research studies. There are no age restrictions on these activities. You may complete each activity only once.

Need Help?

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the Enrichment Activities, please contact Hannah Todd, who can be reached by sending an email to psychlab@gvsu.edu.