

PSY 101: INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY, Fall 2016
Section 01: 9:00-9:50 AM MWF, 132 Lake Huron Hall
Section 16: 11:00-11:50 AM MWF, 132 Lake Huron Hall

Instructor: Glenn R. Valdez, Ph.D.
Office: 1313 AuSable Hall
Office hours: MWF, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM **and by appointment**
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Text: King, L.A. (2013) Psychology: The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View (3rd edition). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Course Homepage on Blackboard: <http://bb.gvsu.edu>. Pertinent information (e.g., announcements, syllabi, lecture notes, etc.) will be available on blackboard.

Course Description: This course provides a general survey of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and experience, including overt actions and mental activity. My main goal is to introduce you to psychology within the following context.

1) *Psychology is the **SCIENTIFIC** study of behavior.* Psychologists use a critical scientific approach to understand the world around them. This allows one to skeptically evaluate information he/she is provided with in order to valid conclusions regarding his/her observations.

2) *Psychology is a multi-disciplinary field.* Although you may hear about different fields within psychology (e.g. cognitive psychology, social psychology, behavioral neuroscience, etc.), these sub-disciplines interact in order to help us fully understand behavioral phenomena.

Course Attendance: You are responsible for all announcements and lecture materials presented in class. In addition, **exams will include material that is covered in class that IS NOT in the textbook.** Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to attend every class.

Office Hours: If you cannot make it to my regular office hours, please feel free to schedule an appointment at another time. I also keep an open door policy so feel free to stop in anytime my door is open.

Exams: There will be three, non-cumulative exams and a cumulative final emphasizing the last topics covered, that will be worth 100 points each. The exams will contain multiple-choice questions and **will be based on both readings and lectures. If you are unable to attend an exam due to an illness or family emergency, please notify me in writing before the exam or within 24 hours after the exam** and be prepared to provide documentation of the problem and complete a make-up exam promptly. **If you miss an exam and do not provide the appropriate documentation, you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam.**

Quizzes: There will be online quizzes posted on blackboard based on the assigned textbook chapters. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions worth one point each.

Quizzes must be completed by 11:59 PM on the due dates listed below in order to receive credit.

General Education Assessment: All courses that are part of GVSU's General Education program are required to assess students' strength of knowledge of core components of the course (i.e., theories, methodologies, etc.) as well as key skills that are developed during the course of studying the topical area (i.e., creative thinking, ethical reasoning). Thus, the General Education Assessment for PSY101 will involve a brief quiz, administered via Blackboard, during the last week of the semester. Completing the quiz will result in 10 points. Failure to complete the quiz (or take it seriously) will result in 0 points. Please monitor Blackboard and the announcements made in class for information regarding the deadline for this assignment (TBD). Note: This assessment is DIFFERENT from the Course Evaluation, which asks your opinion of various aspects of this course.

Class Participation: 10% of your semester grade will be based on class participation, and we will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit tinyurl.com/TopHatStudentGuide for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will also be sent to your school email account. If you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our course website.

Section 01: <https://app.tophat.com/e/436894>

Section 16: <https://app.tophat.com/e/882871>

Unless I specifically ask that responses remain anonymous, I will be tracking responses to the in class questions throughout the semester. Your grade will be based on the percentage of questions answered throughout the entire semester as follows:

<u>Percentage of questions answered</u>	<u>Participation points</u>
75-100%	10%
50-74.9%	8%
25-49.9%	5%
0-24.9%	0%

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and the standard pricing for the cheapest option is \$24 for 4-months of unlimited access. For a full breakdown of all subscription options available please visit www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you need assistance with Top Hat, due to the fact that Top Hat requires specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please have contact their incredible Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Enrichment Activities: Completion of the Enrichment Activities will count towards 5% of your grade according to the following scale. See the end of the syllabus for more information about this activity.

<u>Enrichment Activity Credits</u>	<u>Points</u>
4	100
3	85
2	75
1	65
0	0

Course Grades: Grades will be based on your performance on examinations, quizzes, assignments and completion of enrichment activities as outlined below. **Dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points available as listed in Blackboard WILL NOT accurately reflect your grade. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES WILL NOT BE LIKELY.**

Lowest Exam	10%
Exam	20%
Exam	20%
Exam	20%
Quizzes	15%
Class Participation	10%
Enrichment Activity	5%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following 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	60-66%
F	≤ 59%

Please consider this general description of what each grade means.

F/D/D+: Despite your best efforts, you are struggling with the material and need help to understand why you are having difficulty. **Please set up an appointment so that we can determine the best course of action for you if you fall in this range.**

- C-/C/C+: You did all the necessary work. You learned all the basic material and **know the correct answers**.
- B-/B/B+: You did all the necessary work. You learned all the basic material, and you know the correct answers. Plus you really get the material. You **understand the correct answers** and could teach it to a friend.
- A-/A: You did all the necessary work. You learned all the basic material, and you know the correct answers. You really get the material. You understand the correct answers and could teach it to a friend. Plus you can use it flexibly and adaptively. You **understand WHY the answers are what they are, and how this material can be applied to different situations**.

Academic Integrity: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. Grand Valley State University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, protect the validity of university grades. All academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Cheating and plagiarism are the two most obvious violations of academic honesty. In brief, plagiarism is borrowing ideas, words, organization, etc., from another source or person and claiming them as original. Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from the University. For further information, see the “Student Code.”

Student Academic Success Center: Students interested in additional help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Student Academic Success Center at 331-3588.

Accommodation for disability: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical or other disability, please contact the Disabilities Support Resources (DSR) Program in the Advising Resources and Special Programs Unit at 331-3588.

Tentative Course Schedule (Dates are subject to change):

Date	Topic	Reading	Quiz Due Date
8/29	Course Introduction		
8/31, 9/2, 9/7	What is Psychology	ch 1	9/9
9/5	Labor Day Recess, No Classes		
9/9, 9/12, 9/14	Psychology's Scientific Methods	ch 2	9/16
9/16, 9/19, 9/21	Biology of Behavior	ch 3	9/22
9/23	Exam 1		
9/26, 9/28	Sensation and Perception	ch 5	9/30

9/30, 10/3, 10/5	Learning and Behavior	ch 6	10/7
10/7, 10/10, 10/12	Memory	ch 7	10/13
10/14	Exam 2		
10/17, 10/19	Thinking, Intelligence and Language	ch 8	10/21
10/21, 10/24, 10/26	Human Development	ch 9	10/28
10/28, 10/31	Motivation and Emotion	ch 10	11/2
11/2, 11/4	Gender, Sex and Sexuality	ch 11	11/6
11/7	Exam 3		
11/9, 11/11	Personality	ch 12	11/14
11/14, 11/16, 11/18	Social Psychology	ch 13	11/28
11/23-11/27	Thanksgiving Recess, No Classes		
11/28, 11/30, 12/2	Psychological Disorders	ch 15	12/5
12/2	Last day to turn in Enrichment Activity Papers		
12/6	Last day to participate in Psychological Experiments		
12/5, 12/7, 12/9	Therapies	ch 16	12/13

Final Exams:

Section 01	Tuesday, December 13, 8:00 am - 9:50 am
Section 16	Wednesday, December 14, 10:00 am - 11:50 am

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES: LEARNING ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Students are required to participate in activities designed to acquaint them with the nature and variety of research in psychology. Students must participate in *four* enrichment activities.

Two kinds of enrichment activities are available. *Option 1* involves participating in research studies, while *Option 2* involves reading and writing about papers that report research in scholarly journals.

OPTION 1: PARTICIPATION IN PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIMENTS

Objective

The objective of this assignment is for you to gain direct experience with psychology research studies and what it is like to participate in them. In class, we shall discuss the social psychology of psychology research and how experimental designs take into account the expectations and beliefs of the participants. By participating in studies yourself, you can gain an understanding of the strengths and limits of psychological research. Psychology Department faculty and their research assistants perform the studies, all of which have been reviewed and approved by the university's Institutional Review Board.

Online Registration

To participate in studies, you must register on the *Study Scheduling System*, accessible from the Psychology Department website (<http://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/>). The vendor maintains a strict policy protecting privacy and confidentiality. (This policy is available for review in the Psychology Office.) Navigating the Study Scheduling System is straightforward, and if you need guidance, detailed instructions are available on the Psychology Department website.

Prescreening Survey

An on-line prescreening questionnaire is available during the first two weeks of the semester. Completing this survey counts as one Enrichment Activity. It will appear the first time that you log into the *Study Scheduling System*, and you can access it from your My Profile page. If you opt to complete the survey, plan to complete it in a single, one-hour sitting. Several of the studies taking place later in the semester determine eligibility according to the responses on the Pre-Screening Survey, so completing it may increase the number of studies you will be eligible to choose. (You may receive invitations based on the Pre-Screening responses.) The last date to participate in the prescreening survey is **Sunday, September 11**.

Participating in Studies

Register for studies on the Study Scheduling System. Before you sign up to participate in a study, review any listed restrictions (for example, "left-handed people only"). If you sign up for a study and you do not meet the posted eligibility requirements, you will not receive credit for the study.

Arrive before the scheduled time, as studies start punctually. You will be given a description of what participating in the study will involve, and you will be asked for your consent before the

study begins. If you then choose not to participate, you may leave without penalty. You can check to see that you have received credit by selecting [My Schedule/Credits](#), where credits are typically posted within a week after you participate in a study.

If you sign up for a study but cannot attend, please cancel your session on-line.

Under 18?

Special rules apply to students who are under 18. If you are under 18, please use *Option 2*, or see the Lab Assistant, Jeff Nolan, for information about permission requirements before participating in studies.

Need Help?

If you need assistance registering for studies, please contact Jeff Nolan, who can be reached in the Psychology Department Office (2224 Au Sable Hall, 616.331.2195) or by sending an email to psychlab@gvsu.edu.

Option 1 Deadline

The last day to participate in studies is **Tuesday, December 6th**.

OPTION 2: PAPERS ON EXPERIMENTS IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

A second Enrichment Activity option is to read a selected journal article and then write a brief report on the article.

Summary of the Assignment

Pick a current, empirical article from a psychological journal listed below. Read the abstract, introduction, and conclusions of the article and skim the remainder of it to understand the gist. You are not expected to understand the details of the article; your task is to understand the article's general thrust, content, and conclusions. Write a brief summary (as detailed below) to document your reading. *Be sure to use your own words. Do not copy or paraphrase the abstract or the paper.*

Objective

This option, like the first, is intended to familiarize you with the nature and variety of psychological research. The objective is to broaden your understanding of psychological research and how it is conducted.

Selecting an Article

Choose a current article published in 2016 that reports an empirical study (i.e. one that is based on the collection of data). The large majority of the papers published in the journals listed below are suitable for this assignment, but a few are not. In particular, reviews, meta-analyses, and other comparisons of studies from separate researchers are not appropriate for this assignment. The article you read should have sections labeled "Methods" and "Results." Note that there are other journals, not acceptable for this assignment, which have misleadingly similar names. Make sure the title of the journal matches *exactly* one on this list:

Behavioral Neuroscience
Developmental Psychology
Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology
Health Psychology
Journal of Abnormal Psychology
Journal of Applied Psychology
Journal of Comparative Psychology
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology
Journal of Counseling Psychology
Journal of Educational Psychology
Journal of Experimental Psychology: General
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
Neuropsychology
Psychological Science
Psychology and Aging

Finding the Journals

The journals are available electronically through databases you can access through the GVSU Library website. Base your paper on the “full text” of the paper. You can watch a video showing how to access the journals by going to <http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych> and then clicking on the *Recommended Journals* tab. Access the journals *only* through the GVSU Library, not other sources or websites, as such materials may be incomplete or from the wrong journal. Once you have located the journal article, select the “full text” version.

Documenting Your Reading

Write a brief, double-spaced paper summarizing the article. The body of your essay should contain three sections, each between 100-300 words. Start each of the three sections with a heading, copying the exact words for each heading described below. No separate introduction or conclusion is required, simply answer the three questions. Under each heading write a well-organized paragraph that specifically addresses the question posed in the heading:

1. *What question or questions does the article address?*
2. *Why are the question(s) that the article addresses important ones to consider?*
3. *What answers does the article provide?*

The Paper Must Be Your Own Work and Written in Your Own Words

At the core of Grand Valley State University’s policy on plagiarism (described in the catalog and in the Student Code) is the principle that “[a]ny ideas or material taken from another source... must be fully acknowledged.” This means that your paper must be written strictly in your own words, and it must acknowledge any ideas that you take from another source. Try to avoid

quoting from the article, but if you must quote to make a point, take care that the phrases quoted are in quotation marks. All quoted phrases must be in quotation marks, even if the phrases are only two or three words long. Words or ideas borrowed from a source other than the target article should be acknowledged and completely referenced. If you submit a paper that violates this policy, you may receive a failing grade for the course.

Required Identifying Information

At the top left-hand corner of the first page of your summary, on separate lines, put your name, your student number (G-number), your professor's name, and the date. Immediately below this, provide a full reference to the article, with the information in the following order: Names of all authors (last name, comma, initials), the year of publication (in parentheses), the exact title of the article, the full name of the journal, the volume number, and the page numbers. Here is a sample of a reference with the information in the proper order:

Lastname, F. and Othername, S.B. (2013) A study of titles of research reports. *Journal of Obscure Psychological Research*, 13, 93-108.

If the article you select has not yet appeared in print, instead of page and volume numbers, include the words "Advanced online publication. doi:" and then give the *doi* number. The *doi* number is typically found in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the full-text paper. This reference information must be complete and accurate for you to receive credit for the paper.

Copy of First Page of Journal Article

To the back of your summary, staple a photocopy or printout of the first page of the full-text version of the article that you read. Make sure that the photocopy includes the exact name of the journal, the title of the paper, the volume number, the page numbers, and the abstract and first paragraph of the article. If you copy from the printed journal, all of the required information will usually be on the first page of the article, but if you download the "full text" version of the article from a library database, you may have to print several pages to make sure all the required information is present. If you select an article that has not yet been published in print version, volume and page numbers will typically not be available. In such cases, make sure the photocopy or printout you submit includes the *doi* number of the article, which is usually in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the full-text article.

Credit/No Credit Grading of Papers

The papers will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. No partial credit will be given. Most papers that receive a failing grade are ones where the writer fails to follow the instructions. Double-check your paper before you submit it, to make sure it conforms *exactly* to all the rules described above.

Submitting Papers for Grading & Deadline

Option 2 papers can be turned in anytime during the semester. Consult your instructor for the last date when papers can be submitted.