



## **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.*

**Introductory Psychology (PSY 101-01)**  
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 9:45am, 174 Lake Ontario Hall  
Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Ernest Park, Ph.D.

**Office:** 2136 AuSable Hall

**Office Phone:** 331-5062

**Email:** [parker@gvsu.edu](mailto:parker@gvsu.edu)

I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours if they are received Monday-Friday. See me in person (e.g., during office hours) if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response. Please be aware that I may not respond to email inquiries that involve information that has already been covered in the syllabus or in class.

**Office Hours:** Tues and Thurs: 10am-12pm, and by appointment

**Required Textbook:**

Myers, D. G., & DeWall, C. N. (2015). *Psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Worth.

\*This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced in class. Students are responsible for keeping informed of any such notices.

**Course Description:** This course offers a general survey of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and experience, including overt actions and mental activity. Content covers how psychologists think and act as scientists and how the study of its subject matter may be integrated at the biological, psychological, and social levels of analysis. A wide range of topics will be covered, with an emphasis on understanding theory and applications of psychological principles.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the semester, students will be able to: 1) understand and explain contemporary psychological theories, concepts and principles, 2) appropriately integrate related concepts, and 3) apply knowledge to more accurately describe, explain, and predict one's own behaviors and those of others

**Basis for grading:**

Exam 1 = 80 points

Exam 2 = 80 points

Exam 3 = 80 points

In-class quizzes = 4 X 10 points = 40 points

Homework assignment #1 = 20 points

Homework assignment #2 = 20 points

Enrichment activities (4 activities each worth 5 points) = 20 points

General Education Assessment = 10 points

Total possible points = 350 points

Number grade = Earned points/350 X 100 (grades ending with .499 and below will be rounded down, and .50 and above will be rounded up)

**Grading scale:**

|                  |            |                 |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| A = 94 and above | C+ = 77-79 | F= 59 and below |
| A- = 90-93       | C = 73-76  |                 |
| B+ = 87-89       | C- = 70-72 |                 |
| B = 83-86        | D+ = 67-69 |                 |
| B- = 80-82       | D = 60-66  |                 |

**Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Students are required to bring their own No. 2 pencils on exam days. Students are responsible for knowing material from the text and any content discussed in class (including content from videos). If an exam is missed due to illness, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled exam time and a doctor's note must be provided to reschedule the exam. If an exam is to be missed for a reason other than illness, students must contact me in person at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled exam time. A valid excuse must be provided and students should wait for my approval before assuming an excuse is acceptable. Missed exams or failure to comply with these policies will result in a zero on the exam.

**In-class quizzes:** There will be 4 in-class quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will each consist of 5 multiple choice questions that cover **any material** that has been discussed in the text or in class by the time of the quiz. These will be “pop” quizzes (students will not be given advanced notice about the quiz). To receive credit, students must be seated in class at the time quizzes are distributed, and quizzes must be completed within the designated time. To maintain fairness to all, make-up opportunities cannot be granted. If a quiz is missed due to illness, students must see me in person upon recovery and must provide a doctor’s note that justifies one’s absence from class. Students who receive my approval for missing a pop-quiz must then make up the points by completing 2 *additional* enrichment activities, or else a zero will be received (the deadline may depend on the justification, so the deadline will be determined when you meet with me to present your doctor’s note). Since “pop” quizzes will cover any material discussed up to the time the quiz is taken, it is critical for students to keep up with the assigned readings and to remember what has been covered throughout the semester. Class attendance and attentiveness are thus strongly encouraged.

**Homework assignments:** Students will be required to complete two homework assignments. These assignments are designed to provide students with the opportunity to thoughtfully apply principles that have been covered in class. For each assignment, students will be given an essay topic and will write a brief paper in response (*at least* one double-spaced, typed page). More information about these assignments will be provided later in the semester.

**Enrichment Activities:** To acquaint students with the nature and variety of research topics and experimental methodologies in psychology, students will complete 4 enrichment activities of their choosing, worth 5 points each. There are two types of enrichment activities, and any combination of these two types of activities can be completed to receive full credit (e.g., 4 credits of option 1; 2 credits of option 1 and 2 credits of option 2):

EA#1: Participating in research studies.

Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to participate in research projects being conducted by the faculty and students in the Psychology Department. You can view descriptions of these studies and schedule appointments via the GVSU Study Scheduling System (link can be accessed from the Psychology Department website). Please carefully read the Enrichment Activities section at the end of this syllabus for detailed instructions on how to set up a SONA account and utilize the SONA system.

EA#2: Reading and summarizing professional research.

This enrichment activity involves reading a current empirical article published in a psychological journal, and writing a brief summary to document your reading. Please refer to the Enrichment Activities section at the end of this syllabus for detailed instructions. Summaries are to be turned in to my office (they can be placed under my office door if I am not in) and are **due by 5pm on 12/5/17**.

**General Education Assessment:** All courses that are part of GVSU’s General Education program are required to assess students’ knowledge of core components of the course, as well as key skills that are developed during the course of studying the topical area (i.e., critical thinking, ethical reasoning). The Psychology Department is currently constructing a brief quiz, to be administered via Blackboard around the last week of the semester, as part of this General Education Assessment. Completion of this quiz will result in 10 points towards your grade. Failure to complete the quiz will result in 0 points. Information about this assignment and the deadline for completing it will be mentioned later in the semester.

**Policies:**

**Late assignments:** If an exam or homework assignment deadline is missed due to illness, I must be notified by email within 12 hours of the scheduled due date and a doctor’s note must be provided. To turn in a late assignment for a reason other than illness, students must contact me in person at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled due date. A valid excuse must be provided and students should wait for approval from me before assuming the excuse is acceptable. Assignments that are not turned in, or are turned in late and fail to meet these regulations will result in a zero.

**Academic integrity:** The following are statements provided by the university and can be found in the Student Code, Sections, 223.00 and 223.01.

Students will do original work and will not take or receive the efforts of another person on any test or assignment, use unauthorized resources on quizzes or tests, plagiarize, or give/sell other students papers or assignments not authorized by the instructor. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity. To that end, be sure to familiarize yourself with the GVSU Student Code (Section 223.00 and 223.01) related to academic integrity. Furthermore, be sure to reference sources at all times. If you are uncertain about such an issue prior to submission of an assignment, project, or test, please see me so we can eliminate that uncertainty.

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 material 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 writing 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.

**Disability:** If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me and Disability Support Services (DSS) at (616) 331-2490. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so that the university and I can develop a plan to assist you. It is the student's responsibility to request assistance from DSS.

**Electronic devices:** Use of computers in class is permitted only for taking notes. Unless authorized by me, phone and internet activity is not permitted since it is distracting to other students and is disrespectful. Unless authorized by me, any audio/visual recordings during class are not permitted. If you fail to comply with these policies you may be asked to leave class.

**Cancelled classes:** If the university is closed and classes are cancelled, any scheduled exam will take place the next class meeting (unless you are notified otherwise by me).

**Students are expected to read the assigned chapter before the first lecture of the week**

**Tentative Schedule**

|                                                        | <b>Topic</b>                                                                          | <b>Assignments Due</b>                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1, Aug. 29                                        | Syllabus<br>Time Management, Prologue and Ch. 1: Thinking critically                  |                                                                                                      |
| Week 2, Sept. 5                                        | <b>LABOR DAY – NO CLASS (Tuesday)</b><br>Chapter 2: Biology of the mind               |                                                                                                      |
| Week 3, Sept. 12                                       | Chapter 2 continued                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
| Week 4, Sept. 19                                       | Chapter 3: Consciousness                                                              |                                                                                                      |
| Week 5, Sept. 26                                       | Chapter 5: Developing through the life span                                           | <b>HW Assignment # 1<br/>Due 9/26/17 (5pm)</b>                                                       |
| Week 6, Oct. 3                                         | <b>Exam 1 (Tuesday Class)</b><br>Chapter 6: Sensation and Perception (Thursday class) | <b>Exam 1 on 10/3/17</b>                                                                             |
| Week 7, Oct. 10                                        | Ch. 6 continued                                                                       |                                                                                                      |
| Week 8, Oct. 17                                        | Chapter 7: Learning                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
| Week 9, Oct. 24                                        | Chapter 8: Memory                                                                     |                                                                                                      |
| Week 10, Oct. 31                                       | Chapter 11 – Motivation                                                               |                                                                                                      |
| Week 11, Nov. 7                                        | <b>Exam 2 (Tuesday class)</b><br>Chapter 12 – Emotions (Thursday class)               | <b>Exam 2 on 11/7/17</b>                                                                             |
| Week 12, Nov. 14                                       | Chapter 13 – Social Psychology                                                        |                                                                                                      |
| Week 13, Nov. 21                                       | Ch. 13 continued<br><b>THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS (Thursday)</b>                         | <b>HW Assignment #2<br/>Due 11/21/17 (5pm)</b>                                                       |
| Week 14, Nov. 28                                       | Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Week 15, Dec. 5                                        | Ch. 15 continued                                                                      | <b>-Option 1 and 2<br/>Enrichment activities<br/>due 12/5/17<br/>-Ged Ed Test due<br/>(date TBD)</b> |
| <b>Final (Exam 3)</b><br>Monday, Dec. 11, 10 - 11:50am |                                                                                       |                                                                                                      |

## 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 10<sup>th</sup>**.

#### 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, 616.331.3262) or by sending an email to [psychlab@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychlab@gvsu.edu).

## Option 1 Deadline

The last day to participate in studies is **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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 to broaden your understanding of psychological research and how it is conducted.

### Selecting an Article

Choose a current article published in 2016 or 2017 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.