

## Grand Valley State University (GVSU)

Fall 2022; Syllabus:

**Introduction to Psychology—Online Only:****Asynchronous<sup>1</sup>, And With Live Lectures—Via Zoom/Other—Each Wednesday; 7 to 8:30 PM (EST)****Instructor: Seif Sekalala, Ph.D.****(Please call me Dr./Prof. Se-ka-la-la or Dr./Prof. Seif, pronounced “Safe”.)****>> What may I call you?****Please note that I will respectfully address you by your last name—i.e., Mr./Ms. Jones, unless you request otherwise. Also, please tell me if you prefer specific/distinct all-inclusive gender-pronouns!****\*\*VERY Important Note:\*\******One of the best/easiest ways to either fail a class, or to perform at a sub-par level and/or create disagreements/misunderstandings between yourself and your instructor, is:******FAILURE TO READ THE SYLLABUS!******>>> For this reason, one of this class' graded assignments will be a test of your knowledge of the rules, policies, guidelines, etc., that are stated throughout the syllabus. To ensure that you read it attentively, watch out for “Still Reading?” random letter-&-number codes (e.g., T6ZX2308F), or funny/quirky phrases placed throughout the document.******Random letter-number code example: T6ZX2308F******Random quirky/funny sentence example: I kicked a squirrel in your bathroom because I'm cool like that (source: <https://funnysentences.com/sentence-generator/>)*****Part A: Introduction****➤ Course Description:**

General survey of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and experience, including overt actions and mental activity. 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. This course fulfills the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement.

**➤ Required Text & Other Resources, & Optional Resources:*****The class' required text is this free book, available here:******<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>******>> Students have the option of getting<sup>2</sup> the hard copy version, which is NOT available in the school bookstore. Reason: to help you save money! Textbooks in the US tend to be overpriced!******>> In addition to the main text, the instructor will provide handouts, links to online resources, etc. Some of these materials will be optional—i.e., vis-à-vis whether or not you should read them. However, others might affect your grade; so pay attention via the relevant Blackboard (online) announcements!*****➤ Learning Objectives:**

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<sup>3</sup> of psychological research.
4. Recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life.

**Part B: Class Format & Instructor's School / Department Policies/Rules, Initiatives, etc.****➤ This is an online-only class. Materials will be distributed via Blackboard (BB), but we will also have a lecture-discussion session via Zoom (^ ^) every Wednesday. Attendance is mandatory! Please refer to the calendar tables at the end for details.****➤ Students' & Prof's Mutual Obligations, & Expectation of (Mutual) Fairness:****The instructor and students should each strive to be fair to each other (!); e.g., among other relevant examples (related to part C, sub-part 3, on page 3):*****i)—Instructor to Students 1:* Students should expect the instructor to be responsive via email or Google Voice, or whichever phone system s/he's using.*****ii)—Instructor to Students 2:* Students should also expect the instructor to be well-prepared overall—i.e./e.g., via class structure/organization—e.g., via a clear syllabus, and throughout the**

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to tables 1 and 2 at the end—i.e., on pages 4 & 5!

<sup>2</sup> Still reading? Prove it! JV9XR8T2YN

<sup>3</sup> Still reading? Prove it! I ran over a phone in a hole because Big Bird told me to.

term; e.g., before and during lecture-discussion sessions. In other words, does s/he reasonably seem/look/sound prepared/organized, attentive, cogent, and sure of what they're saying, etc.?

**iii)—Students to Instructor: a)**--Students should NOT have unreasonable expectations: e.g., expecting good grades without doing well on assignments, or vis-à-vis quick timeframes for return of grades, making assignments very easy, etc. **b)**--Students should NOT expect the instructor to have **\*\*ALL\*\*** the answers to their questions, or to be infallible vis-à-vis their knowledge. Theories and best practices are updated constantly; if you reasonably believe I'm wrong, tell me! You might help yourself and your classmates earn some extra credit!

**iv)—Students to Instructor, and Instructor to Students:** Both parties should strive to clearly communicate throughout the semester. For instance (among numerous other examples): Professors are “only human!” If I make an innocent mistake, please tell me, and I will rectify the situation. Or if my rubric is unclear or confusing, please tell me! Don't suffer in silence!

**v) Students to Each Other and to Instructor:**

>> **BE RESPECTFUL** to yourself, your fellow classmates and instructor!

>> **On the class' online forums or other platforms, ILLEGAL, MEAN, CALLOUS, AND OTHER SUCH UNNECESSARY LANGUAGE AND OR ATTITUDE SUCH AS THAT INDICATIVE OF RACISM, SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, XENOPHOBIA, ETC. WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

➤ **Required Assignments & Grading-Scheme Summary; See Tables 1 & 2 For Details!**

>> 1--“A’ for Effort (AFE)” Deliverables: -----	20% // 100 Points
>> 2--Reading Reactions & Presentation-Discussions: -----	20% // 100 Points
>> 3--Midterm and End-of-Term Exams -----	30% // 150 Points
>> 4--Final Paper -----	30% // 150 Points
>> 5--Extra <sup>4</sup> Credit -----	0 % // <25 Points

**Please Note (!):**

*Extra-credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester. As indicated above, a student cannot earn above 25 extra credit points. Moreover<sup>5</sup>, all students in the class will be accorded a fair/equal opportunity to earn these credits.*

➤ **Special Needs Accommodations**

If anyone in this class has special needs because of a cognitive, physical, or other disability, please let me know, and contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) at (616) 331-2490. Although students with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students, accommodations will be provided as appropriate.

➤ **Academic Dishonesty (Credit: Largely sourced from Dr. Mary Bower's statement):**

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. **Academic dishonesty/cheating and plagiarism is—among other vices (i.e., this brief list is not comprehensive):**

>>--1--Cheating on an exam, or giving and/or receiving information about the exam.

>>--2--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.

>>--3--***Various other forms of dishonesty that the instructor and/or department and school can prove beyond reasonable doubt, and/or in a fair manner to the students and instructor.***

<sup>4</sup> Still reading? Prove it! *I had lunch with a banana in your bathroom because I'm NOT crazy.*

<sup>5</sup> Still reading? Prove it! 4FHDNGBU5W

- **GVSU Psychology Department “Psych Friends” Program:**  
“Psych Friends” allows students to receive guidance and support from upper-level undergraduate peer mentors who seek to enhance the academic success and well-being of those they assist. The primary domains of focus include 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; and methods for maintaining physical and mental health. For any questions, email [psychfriends@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychfriends@gvsu.edu). To schedule an appointment with a mentor, go to <https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate/>.
- **GVSU’s Guidance/Policies in Relation to the COVID Pandemic:**  
<https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/>
- **Miscellaneous Needs I; Department Contacts:**  
Please note that I am willing to go “above and beyond”—within reasonable limits, of course—to help you, and I thus encourage you to please reach out to me for any needs not addressed in this syllabus or otherwise. However, please note also, that you can reach out to the department chair, or the assistant dept.-chair for advising, Mikhila Wildey (Email: [wildeymi@gvsu.edu](mailto:wildeymi@gvsu.edu)), for further assistance.
- **Miscellaneous Needs II; University Resources**  
For your use, I’m attaching links to other supports for students below. Please assist students with reaching out to these supports if you find they would benefit. Many of these have both in person and virtual sessions available.
  - >>-- The Knowledge Market (Located in the Library: Assistance with Research, Writing and Presentations) <https://www.gvsu.edu/library/km/>
  - >>-- The Tutoring and Reading Center <https://www.gvsu.edu/trc/>
  - >>-- Mental Health Needs<sup>6</sup> (Counseling Center) <https://www.gvsu.edu/counsel/>
  - >>-- Financial Wellness (Money Smart Lakers) <https://www.gvsu.edu/moneysmart/>
  - >>-- Financial Aid Issues <https://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid/>
  - >>-- COVID information <https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/>
  - >>-- Career Services (Career related events, resume writing, sample interviews): <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/>
  - >>-- Professional Advising (for major and graduation requirements, etc.): <https://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/> ...

### **Part C: School & Instructor’s Caveats And Disclaimers:**

- Sub-part 1: This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>
- Sub-part 2: All information, policies, assignments, grading scales, etc. contained in this syllabus, can at any time before the end of the semester be changed or contradicted without warning, verbally and or in writing at the discretion of the university/department, and or the professor.
  - ***In such circumstances, the professor and/or institutional<sup>7</sup> authorities will make a good faith effort to be reasonable and fair to students.***
- Sub-part 3: Students should also expect additional addenda, guidelines, rubrics, etc., for assignments as necessary<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Still reading? Prove it! GNE5R6AKYZ

<sup>7</sup> Still reading? Prove it! *I kicked a surfer in line at the bank because I'm NOT crazy.*

<sup>8</sup> Still reading? Prove it! ACG-0201-2012-272180

**Part D: (\*\*Very !)\*\* Important Details:**

**Table 1:**  
**Semester Schedule By Week And Activities, Chapters, etc.**

<u>Week- No.</u>	<u>Activities &amp; Deadlines</u>	<u>Text-Chapter Coverage</u>
Week 1	>> <i>Due: AFE-1: Self-Intro Questionnaire</i>	Chapter 1 & 2
Week 2	>> <i>Due: AFE-2: Assumptions/Baseline-Knowledge</i>	Chapter 3
Week 3	>> <i>Due: AFE-3: Syllabus Test</i>	Chapter 4
Week 4	<b>RR-PD 1—Strict Deadline!</b> <b>// <u>Office-Hour Visits Start</u></b>	Chapter 5
Week 5	Office-Hour Visits Continue // Other Activities	Chapter 6 & 7
Week 6	Office-Hour Visits Continue // Other Activities	Chapter 8
Week 7	<b>RR-PD 2—Strict Deadline!</b> <b>// <u>Midterm-Exam (!): Ch(s) 1 to 8</u></b>	Chapter 9
Week 8	Office-Hour Visits Continue // Other Activities	Chapter 10 & 11
Week 9	Office-Hour Visits Continue // Other Activities	Chapter 12
Week 10	<b>RR-PD 3—Strict Deadline!</b>	Chapter 13
Week 11	<b><u>Office-Hour Visits END--Strict Deadline!</u></b> <b><i>Final Paper “Early-Bird” Submissions</i></b>	Chapter 14
Week 12	<b><u>Final Paper’s Strict Deadline!</u></b>	Chapter 15
Week 13	Final Extra-Credit Opportunity!	Chapter 16
Week 14	<b>RR-PD 4—Strict Deadline</b> <b>// <u>Final Exam (!): Ch(s) 9 to 16</u></b>	N/A

**Table 2: Assignments, Deadlines, And Grading Details**

<u>Asg't-#</u>	<u>Assignment/Activity Name</u>	<u>Worth: %</u>	<u>Worth: Points</u>	<u>Due-Date</u>	<u>Other Notes</u>
<b><u>"A for Effort"</u></b>					
1)	i Self-Intro Questionnaire	5	25	Week 1	Strict-DDL <i>(See Note*^)</i>
	ii Assumptions/Baseline-Knowledge	5	25	Week 2	Strict-DDL
	iii Syllabus Test	5	25	Week 3	Strict-DDL
	iv Office-Hour Visit	5	25	Week 4	<i>See Note*^^</i>
<b><u>Sub-Total Percentage &amp; Points 1 ("AFE")</u></b>		<b>20%</b>	<b>100</b>	9	
<b>2) Reading Reactions &amp; Presentation-Discussions</b>					
	>> Textbook Part 1 (Foundations)	5	25	Week 4	Strict-DDL // <i>See Note^^^</i>
	>> Textbook Part 2 (Study & Application 1)	5	25	Week 7	Strict-DDL
	>> Textbook Part 3 (Study & Application 2)	5	25	Week 10	Strict-DDL
	>> Textbook Part 4 (Study & Application 3)	5	25	Week 14	Strict-DDL
<b><u>Sub-Total Percentage &amp; Points 2 (RR-PDs)</u></b>		<b>20%</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>3) Midterm and End-of-Term Exams</b>					
	Midterm--Ch(s): 1 to 8	15	75	Week 7	<i>Closed Book / Timed</i>
	Final (End of Term)--Ch(s): 9 to 16	15	75	Week 14	<i>Open Book; Details Later</i>
<b><u>Sub-Total Percentage &amp; Points 3 (Exams)</u></b>		<b>30%</b>	<b>150</b>		
4)	Final Paper--See Note(s)	<b>30%</b>	<b>150%<sup>10</sup></b>	Week 12	<b><i>Very Strict DDL!</i></b> <i>// See Note*^^^</i>
5)	Extra Credit	0	< 25	Varies	<i>See Note*^^^</i>
<b><u>Grand Totals</u></b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>500 Points</b>		
<b><u>Other Notes ("Key")</u></b>					
• <b><i>*^Note 1: DDL = Deadline</i></b>					
• <b><i>*^^Note 2: Office-Hr.-Vz Note: First-come first-serve from early-, mid-, and late semester, starting week 4.</i></b>					
• <b><i>*^^Note 2: The instructor will give students a rubric of detailed grading criteria.</i></b>					
• <b><i>*^^^ Note 3: i--Please note that you are <b>**REQUIRED**</b> to base your final paper on all--or roughly, 95%--of the content of your self-intro questionnaire, baseline-knowledge/assumption assignment, and the RR-PDs! ii--The instructor will give students a rubric of detailed grading criteria.</i></b>					
• <b><i>*^^^ Note 5: Extra-credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester. As indicated above, a student cannot earn above 25 extra credit points. Moreover, all students in the class will be accorded a fair/equal opportunity to earn these credits.</i></b>					

<sup>9</sup> Still reading? Prove it! I did the Macarena with a snowman in your bathroom because I'm a ninja!

<sup>10</sup> Still reading? AU-310172431-09

**Part E: Final Grading Scale**

A	93-100%	465-500
A-	90-92%	450-464
B+	88-89%	440-449
B	83-87%	415-439
B-	80-82%	400-414 <sup>11</sup>
C+	78-79%	390-399
C	73-77%	365-389
C-	70-72%	350-364
D+	68-69%	340-349
D	63-67%	315-339
D-	60-62%	300-314
F	0-59%	001-299

**An “F” can also be earned by:**

- *Consistently failing to complete assignments, without officially withdrawing<sup>12</sup> from the class!*

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<sup>11</sup> Still reading? Prove it! 5GZNPL8QTS

<sup>12</sup> Still reading? Prove it! *I smelled a noodle in my car because my family thinks I'm stupid anyway.*