

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 101 – Winter 2017

Prof. Paul Curran, PhD

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Section 02, MWF 9:00-9:50am, Kindschi Hall of Science 1113

Section 15, MWF 11:00-11:50am, Honors College 148

Section 20, MWF 12:00-12:50pm, Honors College 148

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Au Sable Hall 2115

Office Phone: 616 331 8514 (email is recommended)

I. Course Overview

This class serves as a wide-ranging introduction to the field of Psychology. Psychology is broadly the scientific study and understanding of human behavior, but takes many forms across many sub-disciplines. Some of the main goals of this class are to give you an understanding, history, and detail of these different areas in psychology, how psychological research works, and what research in these areas has informed us about the human experience.

II. About Your Instructor

- A. Contacting me.** The best way to contact me is via e-mail. I typically check e-mail throughout the day, but only during normal business hours (9 am – 5 pm). If you send me an email in the evening, you should not expect to get a response until the next business day.
- B. Office hours.** Office hours are listed above, but I am available to meet with you during other times, if you make an appointment with me by e-mail.
- C. My expertise.** I am trained as an industrial/organizational psychologist with a focus on quantitative methods. I earned a Ph.D. and a master's degree from Michigan State University and a bachelor of arts from Illinois Wesleyan University. I have conducted research in the areas of testing, psychological measurement, data quality and cleaning, motivation,

feedback systems, perceptions of weather, and personality.

III. Required Reading

Required Text: *Discover psychology 2.0: A brief introductory text.* (2014) by R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds.) www.nobaproject.com

Take note, the above textbook is not available for purchase in the bookstore, because it is an open-source, non-profit, and most importantly, a free textbook. A free pdf of the textbook can be downloaded from the above website, and a print version of the book can be ordered, also from that website, for around \$12.

Other Required Readings: Additional required readings will be posted on the course website.

V. Evaluation

A. Quizzes. In order to incentivise reading assigned materials and coming to class for lecture, there will be online quizzes (on Blackboard) throughout the semester. In general, there will be a quiz on Blackboard following each week that did not contain an exam. That quiz should be posted by Friday of each week, and be completed before 11:59pm the Sunday before the next week of class. These quizzes will be short, and should be fairly easy if you have been keeping up with class material.

B. Exams. There will be 3 exams throughout the semester, and a cumulative final exam during finals week. The exams during the semester will be non-cumulative, and cover only the material picking up where the prior exam ended.

C. Research Participation: 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.

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 contact the professor, 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.

Deadline

The last day to participate in studies is the Friday before the final regular week of classes.

Alternative to Research Participation

If for any reason you do not want to participate in the above research, an alternative exists that involves

writing a series of papers on existing psychological research. If you want to engage in this option instead of research please contact the instructor for more information. Take note that this alternative assignment is not an effective solution for finding yourself at the end of the semester without having participated in research, as the alternative is likely to be more time consuming than simple participation.

Any assignments completed this way are due the Friday before the final week of class, in this case Friday, April 14th.

- D. Papers.** The website and editors who compiled our textbook have additional chapters on the same website that supplement the material in our textbook. Our textbook draws from this full set of chapters, but there are many that we are not using. Those extra chapters can be found on blackboard, or downloaded as a pdf here:

<http://noba.to/7yceqk5f>

From this list of chapters, you can choose any 3 chapters that sound interesting to you. They cannot all be from the same main category (e.g., Psychology as Science, Biological Basis of Behavior, etc), as the goal is to give you a range of different information.

For each of these chapters, you will be required to read the chapter, then write a short paper (at least 500 words, approx. 2 pages) describing and summarizing that chapter. These papers will be due throughout the span of the semester.

- E. Other homework.** This component of the course will be a combination of small assignments as assigned throughout the semester.
- F. Late policy.** Unless otherwise noted above, the late policy for written work is as follows. Work may be submitted early, via Blackboard, for any assignment. The deadline for all assignments, unless otherwise specified, is 11:59pm, the day before the class it is due. **Work that is submitted past the deadline FOR ANY REASON receives a one full letter grade (10%) deduction**

per day late (e.g., a paper that earns a B is worth a C if 0-24 hours late; a paper that earns a B is worth a D if 24-48 hours late). Furthermore, no work may be submitted after the official close of the semester without an approved course extension. (Such extensions are granted in only the most extreme, and documented, circumstances.)

G. Point breakdown by category.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	% OF TOTAL
Quizzes	75	15%
Papers	25 + 25 + 25	15%
Homework	25	5%
Research Partic.	50	10%
Exams (3x)	50 + 50 + 50	30%
Final Exam	100	20%

VI. Grading Scale

GRADE	PERCENT
A	94%-100%
A-	90%-93%
B+	87%-89%
B	84%-86%
B-	80%-83%
C+	77%-79%
C	74%-76%
C-	70%-73%
D+	67%-69%
D	60%-66%
F	<60%

THESE ARE FIRM CUT-OFFS. I round up to the nearest percent (e.g., 86.5% rounds up to 87% and equals a B+, but 86.4% rounds down to 86% and equals a B). The point categories listed above reflect this rounding. DO NOT attempt to negotiate grades with me. It is your responsibility to make sure your grade ends up where you want it to be. I have provided ample extra credit opportunities for students who wish to improve their grades. Students who want to improve their *learning* (and therefore their grades) should see me *early* in the class for assistance. I will

not negotiate grades with you, but I will do everything in my power to help you put in the necessary work to be as successful as you desire.

VII. Disability Accommodation

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.

VIII. Academic Honesty

Unless otherwise noted, all work for this course should be independently completed. Students should take special care to provide proper citation of sources when submitting written work. Adopting words, passages, or ideas without citation is plagiarism and will be treated as such per GVSU guidelines. Furthermore, students should not self-plagiarize, that is, reuse their own work from another course.

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."

IX. Our Social Contract

In order for this course to function optimally, we both have parts to play, and when we each do our part, everyone benefits.

As professor, I promise to always do my very best to select interesting and thought-provoking course material. I will prepare course materials to the best of my abilities, and I will make decisions about the course according to the learning goals I have outlined here. I will act fairly - holding every student to the same high standard and providing equal opportunities for success.

As student, you promise to prepare diligently for class, to always contribute to the best of your abilities, to never cheat or act dishonestly, and to treat your classmates and me with the highest respect. You will do your best to attend class and be on time. You will not ask me to grant you special privileges that aren't available to the rest of your classmates, in order that I may adhere to my promise to be fair and just to all of you.

X. Course Calendar

Wk.	Date	Topics	Reading/Homework/Due
1	1/9	Introduction/Syllabus Psych as Science Psychology Research	-
	1/11		Chapter 1
	1/13		Chapter 2-3 Drop by 9/2 for 100% refund
2	1/16	MLK DAY	NO CLASS
	1/18	Biology and Behavior	Read: Chapters 4-5 Quiz 1
	1/20		Read: Chapter 6
3	1/23	Developmental Psych Gender	Read: Chapters 8-9 Quiz 2

	1/25		Read: Chapter 10
	1/27		Read: Chapter 7
4	1/30	Sensation & Perception Consciousness	Read: Chapters 11-12 Quiz 3
	2/1		-
	2/3		Exam 1
5	2/6	Learning & Memory	Read: Chapters 13-14
	2/8		Read: Chapter 15
	2/10		Due: Paper 1
6	2/13	Cognition, Language, & Intelligence	Read: Chapters 16-17 Quiz 4
	2/15		Read: Chapter 18
	2/17		-
7	2/20	Emotion & Motivation	Read: Chapter 19 Quiz 5
	2/22		Read: Chapter 20
	2/24		Read: Chapters 21
8	2/27	Personality 1	Read: Chapter 22 Quiz 6
	3/1		Exam 2
	3/3		-
X	3/5	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
9	3/13	Personality 2	Read: Chapter 23
	3/15		Read: Chapter 24
	3/17		Due: Paper 2
10	3/20	Psychological Disorders & Therapies 1	Read: Chapter 25-26 Quiz 7
	3/22		Read: Chapters 27
	3/24		Read: Chapter 28
11	3/27	Psychological Disorders & Therapies 2	Read: Chapter 29 Quiz 8
	3/29		Read: Chapters 30
	3/31		-
12	4/3	Social Psychology	Read: Chapters 31-32 Quiz 9
	4/5		Read: Chapters 33-34
	4/7		Exam 3
13	4/10	Other areas of Psychology	Read: TBD
	4/12		Read: TBD
	4/14		Due: Paper 3
14	4/17	Psychological Health	Read: Chapter 35 Quiz 10
	4/19		Read: Chapter 36

	4/21		-
	TBD	CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM