Fall 2014 Course Syllabus
PSY 101(12): Introductory Psychology
Tuesday & Thursdays 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm  LMH 114
Department of Psychology

Instructor: Walter C. Sá, Ph.D.
Office: 2210 Au Sable Hall (ASH)
Office Phone: 616-331-3705
E-mail: saw@gvsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm (and by appointment)

Course Description
This will be an introductory course to the science of psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students are not expected to have any previous experience in psychology. We will survey a wide variety of topics including research methods in psychology, biology and behavior, sensation and perception, memory, language, thinking, intelligence, emotions, personality, social psychology and human development.

Course Objectives
Upon the completion of this course you should:
1. Have a firm foundation for understanding modern day psychology including its history, methods, major findings, controversies, and current programs of research.
2. Have an appreciation for the incredible diversity of domains that psychologists study.
3. Be able to make a clear distinction between psychology and “pop psychology.”
4. Have an appreciation for what issues psychological science can and cannot address.
5. Acquire some necessary background knowledge to evaluate claims of relevance to psychology.
6. Refine analytic thinking skills by using them and by studying and reflecting upon the “thinking” process itself.

Textbook (Required):

The above textbook is mandatory for this course. It is extremely important that you keep up with the readings throughout the entire duration of the course. It will not be necessary to bring your textbook to class.
Course Evaluation
There will be four (4) non-cumulative exams (including the final), several assignments / in-class activities and Enrichment Activities (see below).

Exam 1  22 points
Exam 2  22 points
Exam 3  22 points
Exam 4  22 points
Assignments/ in-class activities  12 points (includes 4 points for Enrichment Activities)

___________________________________

Total  100 points*

*Note that the terminology “points” and “percentage” are interchangeable in this scheme since the sum of all points is 100.

Exams
There will be four non-cumulative exams. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Questions will be drawn from both lectures and assigned readings. Although there will be much overlap between lecture material and assigned readings, I will present some material not found in the assigned readings and will also not cover all assigned reading material in class. A consequence of this is that a significant portion of exam questions will comprise of material that is unique to lectures, and material that is unique to assigned readings. In other words, to do “well” on the exams you must do both the assigned readings and attend class (which means paying attention and taking good notes—not just physically being there).

On writing exams
On exam days make sure you bring to class a black lead pencil (#2 or softer) and a “good” eraser. You will be filling out scantron forms.
A point of caution, be very conscientious about filling these scantron forms. Bubbles should be filled in properly, and you should thoroughly erase any changed answers. No corrections will be made as a result of errors on your part—think of this as part of the exam, i.e., can you fill these forms properly?

On missing exams
Don’t!
Rescheduling exams presents problems for the class as a whole, for me as an instructor, and for support staff in the psychology department. Numerous people may be inconvenienced by modifications to course scheduling. If, however, you miss an exam for an extremely good reason, be prepared to provide documentation for your justified absence (e.g., a doctor’s note) and be prepared to
make up the exam ASAP. This is by no means an issue I take lightly, you **must** have a very good reason for your absence and you **must** be able to document it for me.

If you are going to be absent, get in touch with me ASAP (via phone and/or E-mail)---**this is your responsibility** (do not wait for me to get in touch with you, or simply wait until you see me at the next class). If I do not hear from you within 24 hours of the exam, you have forfeited your opportunity to write the exam. You can contact me at my office number. **If you do not speak to me personally, make sure to E-mail me in addition to any phone messages you may leave.**

**Emergency closings and exams**

In the event that the university closes on the date of a scheduled exam, the affected exam will be held during our next regularly scheduled class. Students should assume the university is open unless they are notified otherwise via the GVSU website. Although rare, a particular building may also be closed due to a power outage. In such cases information may be posted by building entrances indicating a temporary classroom change. **It is your responsibility** to be vigilant about such postings.

**Assignments / In-Class Activities (12% of final grade)**

Throughout the term I will be handing out some assignments (**and unannounced in-class activities**). These assignments will be graded on a credit / no credit basis. Make sure you have a personal copy of each completed assignment in addition to the copy you submit to me. All assignments must be typed (preferably generated by a word processor). Due dates will be indicated on each handout outlining the assignment. The in-class activities will essentially amount to quick “mini” experiments yielding class data that will serve to illustrate upcoming course concepts/material.

**Late assignments will not be accepted**—No Exceptions. You will also not be able to “make-up” any in-class activity you miss due to absence. Think of this as the participation element of these assignments. You can miss one of these assignments without any consequence to your grade.

Four of the points for this portion of your grade (i.e., 4 of the 12 points) will be allotted to your participation in the **Psychology Enrichment Activities** (see page 8 of syllabus). A maximum of 4 points (one point for each obtained enrichment activity credit) will be awarded to this portion of your grade.

**Important Note:** Although missing one of the assignments / in-class activities will not hurt your overall score, you will lose points for not taking part in a total of four psychology enrichment activities. One percentage point will be lost for each enrichment activity credit not obtained (i.e., maximum loss of 4 points).
Concerning your final grade

Although I will provide you with numerical grades (e.g., 85%) throughout the course, your final mark will be recorded as a letter grade under the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance

You will not be directly penalized for missing classes. If you must miss a class you need neither secure my consent nor supply me with a reason for the absence. But please note that missing classes will most likely have consequences on your grade in this course: i) I will be presenting material in class that is not covered in the textbook; ii) any given assignment must be submitted on the due date in “hard-copy” form at the start of class—no email attachments accepted; iii) in-class activities will often be unannounced (see above section on Assignments / Participation Points); iv) I do not provide lecture notes for missed classes—please do not ask as I can make no exceptions on this out of fairness to all students; v) you may miss important announcements.

Please DO NOT email me the following (or variants of the following) questions:
1. “I missed class today. Did I miss anything important?”
2. “can you send me the lecture notes that I missed?”
3. “I am going to miss class because . . . will there be an in-class activity?”

Answers to above questions will always be:
1. YES!
2. Sorry, but NO.
3. Maybe.

You can mitigate some of the above consequences—see the A helpful suggestion section below.

On being late for classes

It is a mistake to think that missing the first few minutes of class is harmless. All things being equal, the worst x minutes that you could possibly miss in a lecture is usually the FIRST x minutes. Those first few minutes of class is where the stage gets set for all the remaining lecture material. Your comprehension of lecture material will often be “challenged” when you miss the preceding material—even just a few minutes.

A helpful suggestion

Get to know some of your fellow classmates. Pair up with someone as a Lecture-Notes-buddy. That is, in the event you do miss a class, your “Lecture-Notes-buddy” will allow you to photocopy her/his notes for the missed class and inform you of any announcements you missed. Do not expect the instructor to recap for you an
entire missed lecture after class. Do not expect the instructor to provide you the notes for a missed class.

Our responsibilities:
Both the professor and student have responsibilities in the teaching / learning process.

My responsibilities as an instructor include...
• being well organized
• being courteous and helpful with students
• providing an updated and informative course
• returning graded exams promptly
• being fair and unbiased with grading

Your responsibilities as a student include...
• attending classes and being punctual—especially for exams!
• paying attention in class
• taking notes during lectures
• asking questions about material you do not understand
• seeking help with material if you’re having difficulty (e.g., meeting with me during an office hour, and/or getting a tutor
• not creating distractions for other students or the instructor (e.g., PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL/SMART PHONES
• doing the assigned readings
• studying the course material

A note about student dissatisfaction with grades:
An unfortunate reality of any course is that not all students will obtain the final grade they desire. Some students may even fail the course. As an instructor of the course, my responsibility is to ensure that evaluation procedures were fair. To a very large extent, this can be determined by how the class is performing overall. If your performance as a member of this class is substantially below the general class performance, then you cannot simply claim that the evaluation procedures were unfair. Some careful thought has to be given to what else might possibly be wrong, and how it might be changed.

To minimize any damage to your student records, it is important that you consult with me very early once difficulty arises. Don’t fall asleep at the wheel—make sure you remain vigilant about your progress in the course.

When students approach me late in the term claiming that they NEED a specified grade, what can I (the instructor) do for them? the answer is nothing. As long as the grading procedures are fair, YOU as a student are in control and responsible for your own grade. As an instructor, I must be fair with the grading procedures, which includes sticking to the same procedures that applied to the entire class. Deviations on my part from the outlined procedures for any one student amounts to cheating those students who were evaluated under the original scheme.
Order of topics to be covered:
The following is a list of the topics (along with the assigned readings) that will be covered in this course. Although no dates are listed below, we will progress through the topics in the order listed. Exam dates have already been scheduled (see Exam and other important dates section). You will be tested on the lecture and reading material we cover prior to each scheduled exam date (not including the material already covered in a previous exam) Please

Note: Topic # ≠ Chapter #. Throughout the course I will refer to the topic number as indicated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Science of Psychology (&amp; introduction to course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research Methods &amp; Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Biology of Mind and Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Learning (Behavioral views)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Language and Thinking*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Intelligence*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Emotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Human Development (Psychology Over the Life Span)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These topics will have more material “unique” to lectures (i.e., not found in textbook) than usual.
Exam and other important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last day 100% refund</td>
<td>Aug 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Recess</td>
<td>Aug. 31 – Sept. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescreening Survey (last day to complete)</td>
<td>Thursday Sept. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm # 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tue Sept 16</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day 75% refund</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm # 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tue Oct 14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop deadline with a grade of “W”</td>
<td>Oct 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm # 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tue Nov 11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 2 Enrichment Activities:</strong></td>
<td>Thursday Nov 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(written assignments) submitted in-class in hard copy form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Recess</strong></td>
<td>Nov 26 – Nov 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Option 1 Enrichment Activities (last day)</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday Dec 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(participation in psychological research)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday Dec 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

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Suggestion: Keep an organized record of your grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>______/22 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>______/22 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>______/22 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>______/22 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>______/12 points (includes 4 points for Enrichment Activities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>______/100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important: Your continuation in this course indicates your acceptance of the above schedule and procedures. The above schedule and procedures, however, are subject to some modification in the event of extenuating circumstances.

The remaining text on the following pages concerns the Enrichment activities and has been provided by the lab coordinator for insertion into the course syllabus. The following applies to ALL PSY101 course sections. Please make sure you read this ASAP.
Are you under 18 years of age?
If you are UNDER 18 years old please especially note the bottom of this page.

**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 participate in four research-related enrichment activities. There are two different kinds of enrichment activities, and students can opt which to do. Option 1 involves participating in research studies, while Option 2 involves reading and writing about papers that report research in scholarly journals. Students can meet the requirement by doing multiple versions of either option, including mixing activities from the two options.

**Option 1: Participation in Psychological Research**

**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 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 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 will receive invitations based on the Pre-Screening responses.) The last date to participate in the prescreening survey is Tuesday, September 9.

**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 eligibility restrictions, 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 for completion by selecting My Schedule/Credits, but please allow at least one week after a study before checking.

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 before participating in studies, see the Subject Pool Secretary, Nicole O’Leary, for information about permission requirements.
Need Help?
For assistance registering for studies, please contact Nicole O’Leary, the Psychology Subject Pool Secretary, 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 2.

Option 2: Papers on Research 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 that is 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.

Objective
The objective of this assignment is to broaden your understanding of psychological research, and how it is conducted. This is important because psychology, as a science, is based on research. To understand psychology, it is important to understand its scientific basis.

Selecting an Article
Choose a current article, published in 2013 or 2014, that reports an empirical psychological study. (i.e. one that is based on the collection of data. Reviews, meta-analyses, and other comparisons of studies from separate researchers are not appropriate for this assignment. Your article should include 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
- Psychology of Women Quarterly

Finding the Journals
Most of the journals are available electronically through databases you can access through the GVSU Library website. You can watch a video showing how to access the journals by going to http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych and then clicking on the Psychology 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.
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. 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. Avoid quoting from the article, but any phrases quoted must be placed 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 turn in 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, put your name, your student number (G-number), your professor’s name, your section, 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. This reference information must be complete and accurate for you to receive credit for the paper.

To the back of your summary, staple a photocopy of the first page 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 article from a library database, you may have to print several pages to make sure all the required information is present.

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.

Option 2 Deadline: Thursday November 20, IN-CLASS—no exceptions, no extensions.