



*The General Education Program prepares students for informed citizenship, leading to responsible participation in local, national, and global communities.*

## **PSY 101 Introductory Psychology**

### **Foundations - Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### **Knowledge Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Explain how knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences is created and applied.
2. Explain major approaches, methods, theories, and substantive findings of the field.
3. Evaluate and apply concepts and theories from the social and behavioral sciences to real-life examples.

#### **Skills Student Learning Outcomes**

1. **Critical Thinking:** Comprehensively evaluate issues, ideas, artifacts, or events before forming a conclusion.
  - States an issue clearly and describes it comprehensively.
  - Uses appropriate evidence that includes relevant context(s), which facilitates a comprehensive analysis or synthesis of the issue.
  - Develops a position that thoroughly takes into account the complexities of an issue, limits of the position, and synthesizes others' points of view.
  - Develops conclusions, implications, and consequences that are logical and reflect an informed evaluation based on strength of evidence.
2. **Ethical Reasoning:** Apply ethical principles and codes of conduct to decision making.
  - Recognizes ethical issues when presented in a complex, multilayered (gray) context and can recognize interrelationships among the issues.
  - Names the major ethical theory or theories used, presents the gist of said theory or theories, and thoroughly and accurately explains the details of the theory or theories used.
  - Applies ethical theories to a complex issue accurately and considers the full implications of the application.
  - States a position in-depth and effectively defends against other ethical perspectives.

**Grand Valley State University**  
**Syllabus**  
**PSY 101-14: Introductory Psychology, Winter Semester, 2022**

**Instructor Information**

Name: Benjamin Swets, Ph.D., Professor  
Office hours: TTh 1:15 – 2:15pm, or by appointment. Please email me to make appointments.  
Office location: 2317 Au Sable Hall  
Email: swetsb@gvsu.edu. Reaching me by email is generally easier than reaching me by phone.  
Phone: (616) 331-2169

**Class Time and Place**

TTh 2:30 – 3:45pm LMH 114

**Course Description (from GVSU)**

“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. Fulfills Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement.”

**Course Description (mine)**

This course serves as an overview of the scientific study of psychology from many different perspectives. We will cover such topics as learning, perception, emotions, psychological disorders, and social processes. I have a simple philosophy for the teaching of this course: to match student goals with instructor goals. My goal in teaching this course is to have students learn the essential skills, concepts and information that any student in Introductory Psychology ought to learn. I hope that one of your main goals is to get a good grade. By ensuring that the concepts and skills I want you to learn comprise the basis of evaluation for your grade, our goals become one and the same.

**Why Should You Take This Course?**

This course will provide you with fascinating insights into human thought and behavior. If that isn't enough, this course also satisfies a departmental requirement for Psychology majors and is a prerequisite for almost every other Psychology course. Introductory Psychology is also part of the Social Sciences General Education Foundation Category.

**Course Objectives**

- To demonstrate an understanding of the scientific process in Psychology. I consider this course to be an opportunity to teach more than just WHAT we know about psychology. It is an opportunity to also teach HOW psychology is studied. Psychology is a science, and this course will emphasize that point.
- To identify major psychological theories and use psychological terminology correctly.
- To critically evaluate the findings of psychological research. Be prepared to think skeptically in this class.
- To recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life.

**Required Text**

Textbook: Pomerantz, A. M. (2020). *My Psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) with LaunchPad access. You will complete required assignments in the Launchpad software, and the online textbook is included with this package. You can buy the LaunchPad access code from the bookstore, or directly through a link in Blackboard. *Make sure to register for Launchpad through Blackboard—if you register through Launchpad, your grades will not be counted.* There is more information about Launchpad Registration under a module with that title in Blackboard, and the video at the following link gives you more instructions about Launchpad registration as well: [https://youtu.be/5tw6OXPP\\_EY](https://youtu.be/5tw6OXPP_EY).

**Course Webpage**

The instructor will maintain a course webpage using GVSU's Blackboard system. The webpage will contain pertinent course information, reading assignments, grades, lecture slides, announcements, etc. The webpage is meant to supplement the lectures, not replace them. Students are responsible for all information provided in the lecture that may, or may not, be included on the web page.

## **Course Requirements**

*Quizzes/In-Class Assignments (35 points total):* Throughout the semester, short quizzes on the assigned reading will be given during lecture. The dates of these quizzes will be determined randomly. *No make-up quizzes will be administered*, but students may miss 2 quiz/in-class assignments without penalty. It is a good idea to do the reading assignments before the date on which they are listed.

*Reading Assignments (70 points total):* To help encourage students to read the textbook carefully before class and foster learning, they will complete reading assignments before class. The reading assignments can be found in Blackboard under Assignments, and will be completed through the Launchpad access that is described above and more carefully in Blackboard. Students can miss 2 of these reading assignments without penalty.

*Information Literacy Tutorials (15 points total):* Students will take an online pre-test on information literacy during the first two weeks of class, complete two online tutorials on information literacy, and take a post-test before the end of the semester.

*General Education Assessment Activity (10 points):* 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, which will be during the last week of class.

*Enrichment Activities (40 points total):* As a part of an enriched academic experience, you are required to participate in four (4) hours of psychology studies or alternative activities (see attached).

*Exams (150 points total):* There will be three exams worth 50 points apiece. Exam dates appear on the Course Schedule, below. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions that engage your understanding of course concepts. Questions may cover any information provided by the lecture, textbook, and supplementary classroom activities such as videos. Exams will not be cumulative.

## **Grading**

The Quizzes, Enrichment Activities, and Exams will collectively be worth 320 points. Based on your cumulative point score the following grades will be assigned:

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade</i>		
93 – 100%	A	73 – 76.99%	C
90 – 92.99%	A-	70 – 72.99%	C-
87 – 89.99%	B+	67 – 69.99%	D+
83 – 86.99%	B	60 – 66.99%	D
80 – 82.99%	B-	59.99% or less	F
77 – 79.99%	C+		

THE GRADING SCALE AS PRINTED ABOVE IS FINAL! Any changes in grading policy will be announced in class and on the course website.

## **Attendance**

There is no attendance requirement, but I strongly recommend attending class, for several reasons: 1) There will be material covered in class that will not be found in the text book, but will be found in exam questions. 2) Surprise quizzes/in-class assignments comprise part of the grading of this course. 3) Repeated and varied exposure to course material results in better memory and understanding of that material.

## **Emergencies and Schedule Conflicts**

Absences *from exams* related to participation in a university-sanctioned event, a personal illness, a family emergency, or a major religious holiday will be excused provided that you a) give the instructor at least one week advance notice (when the conflict is foreseeable) or a timely explanation upon your return (when the conflict is unforeseeable) and b) give the instructor written documentation. You may take a make-up exam either at another time on the normal exam day, or on the soonest possible date thereafter. An unexcused absence from an exam will constitute a score of 0.

## **Covid-19 Policies**

Masks will be required to attend class (<https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/face-covering-policy-27.htm>). Please wear masks in a way that covers both your mouth and nose.

Before attending class each session, you must complete the university's self-assessment of Covid-19 symptoms. (<https://www.gvsu.edu/hro/selfassessment-login.htm>).

The plan for the semester is to hold all class-related events in person, with no parallel remote attendance option. So please plan to attend class in person all semester. However, if the virus situation on campus gets worse, I am prepared to adjust the course in a way that keeps students safe.

## Tentative Course Schedule

**Learning Modules:** The learning modules in Blackboard are a foundational part of this course. Modules are where you will find instructions for each segment of the course including reading assignments, lecture slides, and review sheets. Modules will open up every two or three weeks and various assignments will be due during those windows.

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC(S)</b>	<b>READING</b>
Module 1: History of Psychology and Research	Jan 11	Syllabus, Introduction	
	Jan 13	History and Overview of Psychology	Chapter 1 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
	Jan 18	Research Methods I	
	Jan 20	Research Methods II	Chapter 1 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
Module 2: Biological Psychology and Behaviorism	Jan 25	Evolutionary Theory	See Blackboard
	Jan 27	Brain	Chapter 2
	Feb 1	Learning and Behavior Analysis I	Chapter 6
	Feb 3	Learning and Behavior Analysis II, Review	
	Feb 8	<b>EXAM I</b>	
	Feb 10	Sensation	Chapter 3
Module 3: Cognitive Psychology	Feb 15	Perception	
	Feb 17	Memory I	Chapter 5
	Feb 22	Memory II	
	Feb 24	Memory III	
	Mar 1	Development I	Chapter 9
Module 4: Development, Emotion, and Stress	Mar 3	Development II	
	Mar 8	<b>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK!</b>	
	Mar 10	<b>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK!</b>	
	Mar 15	Emotions, Stress and Health I	Chapter 8
	Mar 17	Emotions, Stress and Health II	Chapter 11
	Mar 22	<b>Review</b>	
Module 5: Psychological Disorders and Treatment	Mar 24	<b>EXAM II</b>	
	Mar 29	Psychological Disorders I	Chapter 14
	Mar 31	Psychological Disorders II	
	Apr 5	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
Module 6: Social Psychology	Apr 7	Social Cognition I	Chapter 13 (1 <sup>st</sup> half)
	Apr 12	Social Cognition II	
	Apr 14	Social Processes I	Chapter 13 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
	Apr 19	Social Processes II	
	Apr 21	Social Processes III, Review	

*The above schedule is tentative. Any changes in the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.*

**Exam III: Thursday, April 28, 2:00 pm - 3:50 pm**

## **Caveat**

All of the information included in this syllabus, including the course schedule, assignments, and grading procedure, is subject to change. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and on the course webpage. In addition, this course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) at (616) 331-2490. I would be happy to help, but DSR is the proper channel. If you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

## **Academic Integrity**

**Section STU 4.0 of GVSU's Student Code contains very specific information about maintaining academic integrity.**

**It states:** "The principles of academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to a community of scholars. The University expects that students will not engage in acts of academic dishonesty in curricular and non-curricular academic activities. Engaging in academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of university grades, and scholarship and research.

Academic dishonesty is defined as actions or behaviors that misrepresent one's contributions to or the results of any scholarly product submitted for credit, evaluation, or dissemination. This definition includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, falsification, cheating, and plagiarism. Terms are defined as the following:

- Cheating is defined as attempting to use materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise that have not been allowed by the instructor.
- Plagiarism is defined as offering the work of someone else as one's own. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students. Academic dishonesty compromises the integrity of grades, meaning that all academic work should be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid.

**Students will comply with the following rules, when engaging in coursework:**

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

## **PROCEDURES**

When the instructor feels that action beyond a failing course grade is warranted, the instructor will report the incident at [www.gvsu.edu/conduct](http://www.gvsu.edu/conduct) and request additional action via the University Conduct Process. When the alleged violation is related to the Academic Honesty - Integrity of Scholarships and Grades, the Hearing Body shall be composed of faculty members.

It is the instructor's responsibility to establish a classroom atmosphere that fosters academic honesty on the part of the students. If any instance of academic dishonesty is discovered by an instructor, they will notify the student and discuss the incident. After discussing the instance with the student, the instructor will make a decision. Depending on the instructor's judgment of the particular case, they may do nothing, impose additional course requirements, ask the student to repeat the work in question, or give a failing grade for the assignment, examination or the entire course. Any time an instructor addresses a violation of Academic Honesty with a failing grade on an assignment or in a course, they must report the incident at [www.gvsu.edu/conduct](http://www.gvsu.edu/conduct). Other incidents may be reported for tracking purposes. Reporting the incident will notify the Department Chair, the Dean of Students, and the Dean(s) of the Instructional Colleges. Reporting the incident does not automatically initiate additional action, but keeps record of the incident. Students may utilize the Academic Grievance Process to appeal a faculty initiated decision."

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**Enrichment Activities:  
Learning about Psychological Research**

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In the Enrichment Activities portion of the course, students will become acquainted with the nature and variety of research in psychology. Two kinds of enrichment activities are available:

- *Option 1* involves being a participant in research studies conducted by Psychology Department faculty and students.
- *Option 2* involves completing activities that will give you first-hand experience with research techniques used in Psychological research.

Students must earn *four* enrichment activity credits for this requirement. Enrichment activities are worth a varying number of credits depending upon how much time it takes to complete the study/research technique activity.

**Enrichment activities use an account in the SONA Systems Scheduling System Software.** You will receive an email at the beginning of the semester containing your User ID and an initial password. Once you have your account, you can log in at any time and sign up to participate in any available studies/activities for which you qualify. If you do not receive an account email by the end of the first day of classes, please contact Ember Tokarski at [psychlab@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychlab@gvsu.edu) or by phone at 616.331.3262.

To access SONA Systems, along with downloadable registration instructions, follow this link:  
<https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/be-a-participant-in-research-296.htm>.

SONA Systems maintains a strict policy protecting your privacy and confidentiality. This policy is available for review in the Psychology Office.

### **Option 1: Participation in Psychology Studies**

#### **Objective**

By participating in psychology research studies, you will experience directly some of the procedures used in psychological research while also making a valuable contribution to the generation of knowledge within the discipline. All studies have been reviewed and approved by the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is an administrative body established to protect the rights and welfare of human research participants.

#### **Step 1: Find a study and sign up**

When you log in using your new SONA Systems account, you will see a list of studies. If there are available timeslots there will be a link on the right that will take you to a sign-up page. Before you sign up to participate in a study, review any listed restrictions (for example, "left-handed people only"). If you do not meet the posted eligibility requirements, you will not receive credit for the study.

#### **Step 2: Participate in the study**

Some studies on SONA Systems may be completed online, while other studies will require you to participate in person at a physical location (usually the Psychology Laboratories in Au Sable Hall). If the study requires you to attend a session at a particular location, please arrive before the scheduled time, as

studies start punctually. If you sign up for a study session but cannot attend, please cancel your session on-line. Online studies must be completed by the study deadline to get credit.

At the beginning of a study session, you will first be given a description of what you will have to do, 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 24 hours after you participate in a study.

### **Under 18?**

Special rules apply to students who are under 18. A general non-study specific Parent/Guardian Permission form must be completed and placed on file in the Psychology office before you are able to participate in any of the studies. In most instances, having the general non-study specific document on file will allow you to participate in studies. However, it is important to read carefully the eligibility requirements for a study. If you need a study specific Parent/Guardian consent form signed in order to participate, it will say so in the eligibility section of the study description. If you are under the age of 18 when you create your SONA Systems account, you will receive an informative email from Ember Tokarski, the Psychology Department Laboratory Assistant detailing the steps you will need to take in order to document parental consent. Once your parental consent form is on file, you will see a list of studies for which you are eligible.

### **Optional Prescreening Survey:**

An on-line prescreening questionnaire is available when you log in to SONA Systems. It is not necessary to do this survey, but by completing it, you may be eligible for additional studies to choose throughout the semester. Completing the survey counts as one-half credit toward Enrichment Activities. The survey 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, half-hour sitting. The last date to participate in the prescreening survey is **Tuesday April 19, 2022**.

### **Option 2 Research Techniques Activities**

#### **Objective**

By completing research techniques activities, you will carry out some of the procedures researchers use in their psychological research. For example, you may be asked to watch an exchange between two people and carry out behavioral coding of their interaction. In doing these activities you will gain an understanding of the strengths and limits of various research methods used in psychological science. Research Techniques Activities are listed in SONA Systems along with the research studies. There are no age restrictions on these activities. You may complete each activity only once.

#### **Need Help?**

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the Enrichment Activities, please contact Ember Tokarski, 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).

#### **Enrichment Activity Deadline**

The last day to complete both Enrichment Activities types is **Tuesday April 19, 2022**.