

Grand Valley State University
Psychology 101: Introductory Psychology



TODD J. WILLIAMS, PhD

1307 Au Sable Hall | Department of Psychology
Grand Valley State University | Allendale | MI | 49401
Co-Director: [Social Cognition Research Laboratory](#)

willitod@gvsu.edu

*During busier parts of the semester there *may* be delay between your email and my response. This delay should not be more than 5 days for any email with a regular title and not more than 48 hours for any email with “Important” in the title. If you find yourself waiting longer than the aforementioned times, please send me a quick reminder email to make sure it was received.

*Please include your course number and section in your email

Course Location: Lake Michigan Hall 114

Course Time:

Section 18: T/R 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Section 17: T/R 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Mask use is encouraged:

Masks are freely available at any department office on campus

Office Hours: Mondays 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

My preferred modality for meeting is Zoom, but I am happy to accommodate in-person appointments.

<https://gvsu-edu.zoom.us/j/99213725167?pwd=bk13Mm5UUFNwaWtxVHhBQ2hoMUViUT09>

If you are unable to attend scheduled office hours, appointments can also be made via email. Please provide several meeting times for me to choose from in order to facilitate scheduling.

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

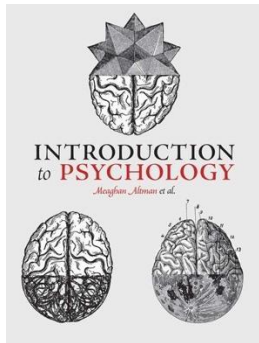
as scientists and how the study of its subject matter may be integrated at the biological, psychological, and social levels of analysis. Fulfills Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement. Fulfillment of the laboratory credit typically entails serving as a research participant but alternatively can be fulfilled through a directed written assignment.

Objectives : Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

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 of psychological research.
4. Recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life.

Required Text and Learning Management System:

These materials can be purchased directly via [TopHat](#). The join code for this class is: 624489. If you have not already received a Top Hat course invite by email, check your spam or email me directly for a fresh link.



INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY: A Multi-Media Text

BY ALTMAN
PRINT ISBN-13: 9781773300955
\$50.00

TOP HAT CLASSROOM – ONE SEMESTER ACCESS

ISBN: 9780986615108
\$30.00 or free if you’ve already purchased this for any other course

Links to videos, popular media articles, research articles, supplemental readings, and lecture slides will be posted in Top Hat.

Technology Requirements: Access to high-speed internet is required in order to access the text and complete homework and laboratory assignments.

Grade Evaluation:

	Description	Weight
Information Literacy	Assignment	5%
Effective Learning	Assignment	5%
APA / Evaluating Information	Assignment	4%
Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Assessment 3	Multiple Choice/In-class	19%

Top Hat	Text Questions/Homework Questions	19%
Personality Assignment	Assignment	5%
Research Enrichment	See “Enrichment Activities” document posted on Top Hat for details	5%

Tentative Lecture Schedule

August 30/ September 1	
Topic	Reading(s)
Tuesday: Introduction and Syllabus	Syllabus
Thursday: What is Psychology?	Top Hat: Module 1
September 6 (Labor Day Recess) September 8	
Tuesday: What is Psychology?	Top Hat: Module 1
Thursday: Information Literacy	Information Literacy Assignment
September 13/15	
Tuesday: Methods in Psychology	Top Hat: Module 2
Thursday: Effective Learning	Bjork et al., 2013
Information Literacy Assignment Due September 20 (midnight) September 20/22	
Tuesday: Methods in Psychology	Top Hat: Module 2
Thursday: Methods in Psychology	Top Hat: Module 2
Effective Learning Assignment Due Sept 27 (Midnight) September 27/29	
Tuesday: Development	Top Hat: Module 4
Thursday: Sensation and Perception	Top Hat: Module 5
Modules (Readings and Questions) 1, 2 and 4 -- Due October 3 (Midnight)	

October 4/6	
Tuesday: Assessment 1	
Thursday: Consciousness	Top Hat: Module 6
October 11/13 APA / Evaluating Information – Due October 13th	
Tuesday: Consciousness	Top Hat: Module 6
Thursday: Learning	Top Hat: Module 7
October 18/20	
Tuesday: Learning	Top Hat: Module 7
Thursday: Memory	Top Hat: Module 8
Fall Break – October 23-25 October 27	
Tuesday: No Class	
Thursday: Intelligence	Top Hat: Module 10
November 1/3	
Tuesday: Assessment 2	
Thursday: Motivation	Top Hat: Module 11
November 8/10	
Tuesday: Personality	Top Hat: Module 12
Thursday: Personality	Top Hat: Module 12
November 15/17	
Tuesday: Social Psychology	Top Hat: Module 13
Thursday: Social Psychology	Top Hat: Module 13
November 22 Thanksgiving Day Recess November 23 - 27	
Tuesday: Psychological Disorders	Top Hat: Module 14

Thursday: No Class	
Personality Homework Due November 29 November 29 / December 1	
December 1 – Last day to Participate in Research Enrichment	
Tuesday: Psychological Disorders	Top Hat: Module 14
Thursday: Psychological Treatments	Top Hat: Module 15
December 6/8	
Tuesday: Psychological Treatments	Top Hat: Module 15
Thursday: Exam Review	
Assessment 3	
Section 17: Tuesday, December 13, 4:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.	
Section 18: Thursday, December 15, 2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	
*Assessment is non-cumulative	

Grades will be determined by adjusting the class average to 75% (B) and assigning letter grades based on the below distribution. Thus, your grade in this class is based on your performance relative to the rest of the class.

This is a *tentative* grade distribution

Rating	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Grades
Excellent	A	4.0	90-100%
Excellent	A-	3.7	85-89%
Good	B+	3.3	80-84%
Good	B	3.0	75-79%
Good	B-	2.7	70-74%
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	65-69%
Satisfactory	C	2.0	60-65%
Satisfactory	C-	1.7	55-59%
Poor	D+	1.3	50-54%
Minimal Pass	D	1.0	45-49%
Failure	F	0	0-44%

Missed Exam/Assignment:

Unfortunately, not all of us are able to access adequate health care. Because of this, I typically will not require a note from a health professional to document your absence. However, documentation will be necessary if you are absent for the final exam or miss more than one

major component of the course. A registered health professional must provide the medical certificate, acknowledge the date of the missed exam/assignment, and provide their contact information. *If you miss any class component, you must report your illness to me within 48 hours of the exam/assignment due date.* For missed exams or assignments, students will be given an extension or have the weight of the missed examination/assignment added to the final examination.

Academic Integrity: Grand Valley State University is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behavior \(See section 4\)](#) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offense. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offenses and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Failure in the course and/or expulsion may result from violations of academic integrity.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: 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 (Room 200 STU; [https://dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu](mailto:dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu)). Furthermore, if you have a physical disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so that I can develop a plan to assist you.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTRE: Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Advising Resource Centre (200 STU; <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/>) for free tutoring sessions.