

Introductory Psychology

PSY 101 | Fall 2017

SECTION 25: MWF 10-10:50am in ASH 2310

SECTION 26: MWF 11-11:50am in ASH 2119

SECTION 27: MWF 12-12:50pm in LMH 253

SECTION 28: MWF 2-2:50pm in ASH 2146

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Eric Jones

Office Location: ASH 2111 (Office Hours: MW 3-4pm, T 2-3pm, or by appointment)

E-mail: joneser1@mail.gvsu.edu

Office Phone: 331-9234

Course Website: <https://mybb.gvsu.edu/>

For this course you will need to be able to access Blackboard. Some assignments will need to be turned in on Blackboard as well as in a hardcopy format.

Required Texts: Myers and DeWall (2015). *Psychology* (11th Edition). Worth.

It is okay to use the 10th edition, the Modules version, or an e-book version. Just keep in mind that page numbers and some content may be different.

Required Accessories: iclicker1, iclicker2, or iclicker+: Purchase whatever is cheapest for you. iclicker+ at bookstore for \$45. There may be a buyback price. You may be able to purchase a used iclicker online for under \$20. Please note that the iclicker is a specific brand of student response system (www.iclicker.com).

Course Description

This course offers a general survey of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and experience, including overt actions and mental activity. Content 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/cultural levels of analysis. A wide range of topics will be covered, with an emphasis on understanding theory and applications of psychological principles.

The format for the class is mixed and will include lectures, discussion, videos, and interactive activities. Students are responsible for all announcements and information provided in class or on Blackboard.

This class fulfills one of the requirements for GVSU's General Education Program. See the last page of this syllabus for more information on how this course contributes to the program.

Course Learning Objectives	Assessed By
1. Be able to understand and explain contemporary psychological theories, concepts, and principles	Exams, quizzes, assignments
2. Be able to appropriately integrate related concepts	Exams, quizzes, assignments
3. Be able to apply knowledge to more accurately describe, explain, and predict one's own behaviors and those of others	Exams, quizzes

Policies

Attendance: Regular attendance and participation in class are expected. You should arrive on time to class, because coming in late is distracting to both the instructor and other students.

Respect for others: Please be respectful of classmates' opinions and give them your attention when they are talking.

Academic honesty: Dishonesty in academic work violates the Student Code and may result in a failing grade for this course. Except for group projects, all papers, homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and other work should be completed independently from other students and should not be plagiarized.

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in failing an assignment or the entire course. Plagiarism occurs when you intentionally or unintentionally misrepresent another person's work as your own. This could occur in a number of ways: 1) by copying someone else's work word-for-word or just in part without quotation marks; 2) by paraphrasing a source without citing the original author; or 3) by submitting your own prior work (e.g., from this course or another course) without citing it.

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.

Class notes: Prior to the lectures, outlines will be posted on Blackboard. An advantage of the outlines is that they provide an additional level of organization than the PowerPoints by showing how topics are related. The outlines will have blanks with missing words. However, if you only fill in the blanks, your notes will still be incomplete. You should also write down supplementary explanations, notes about videos and demonstrations, and reminders about the meaning of different points in the outline. If you miss class, it is highly recommended that you get notes from another student.

Incomplete Policy: A grade of "Incomplete" may be granted in the case of serious medical illnesses. Written documentation of illness may be required.

Electronic devices: Cell phones, iPads, and other electronic devices should be turned off (not just placed on vibrate/silent mode) during class. They should be packed away and not on desks, laps, etc. If you have a legitimate need for your phone, please talk to me and we will work something out. It is okay to use your phone as a calculator when applicable.

Laptops: Laptops, iPads, Kindles, etc. cannot be used in class. Research shows that even when these devices are used for notetaking, handwritten notes are superior. When taking notes by hand, students tend to use their own words, which facilitates information processing.

Campus Emergencies: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Changes will be announced in class and/or on Blackboard.

Counseling Services: As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic

performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The University Counseling Center is a team of trained professionals committed to improving the mental health of the GVSU student body through counseling, education, and consultation. The center helps students cope with difficult times and offers a variety of counseling services to all currently registered GVSU students free of charge. To make an appointment, stop by the office at 204 STU or call (616) 331-3266. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/counsel/>.

Written Assignments: For written assignments/projects that are more than one page, all pages must be stapled together. Please use a separate title page and have this be the only page with your name on it. This will ensure that papers can be graded blindly. Papers are due in class on (or before) the due date. Late papers will receive a 5% penalty for each day late. Late work will not be accepted if it is turned in more than one week from the assigned due date.

Uploading Assignments to Blackboard: Many assignments should be uploaded to Blackboard (along with turning in a hard copy). Papers should be uploaded to Blackboard by the start of class on the due date. Please upload a Microsoft Word document, not a PDF. When uploading your assignment to Blackboard, please label your file with your last name, first name, course number, semester, and description of the assignment (e.g., SmithJohn_PSY101_F17_Homework1).

Missing Class: It is expected that you will attend class each day, because attendance is vital for doing well in the course. There are no excused absences. If you miss an in-class assignment, there will be extra assignments offered during the semester, so you can make up a couple of them (see below). This policy allows you a couple of missed classes due to illness or an emergency. You should ask a fellow student for any notes that you missed. If you know that you will miss class, please turn in your assignment in advance. If you unexpectedly miss class due to illness, please have another student turn in the assignment for you.

Liaison Librarian

Gayle Schaub is the librarian for the psychology dept. You are welcome to stop by her office or make an appointment. Her office is located in the Mary Idema Pew Library, 240C. Her email is schaubg@gvsu.edu.

COURSE EVALUATION

Assignment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Exam 1*	100	
Exam 2*	100	
Exam 3*	100	
Exam 4*	100	
In-Class Assignments or ICAs (attendance, participation, clicker questions, activities, quizzes)	100	
Enrichment Activities (4 activities each worth 10 points)	40	
Homework Assignments (2 assignments each worth 25 points)	50	
General Education Assessment	10	
Total	600	

Points	Percent	Letter Grade
558+	93.00-100.00%	A
540-557.99	90.00-92.99%	A-
522-539.99	87.00%-89.99%	B+
498-521.99	83.00-86.99%	B
480-497.99	80.00-82.99%	B-
462-479.99	77.00-79.99%	C+
438-461.99	73.00-76.99%	C
420-437.99	70.00-72.99%	C-
402-419.99	67.00-69.99%	D+
360-401.99	60.00-66.99%	D
<360	59.99% and below	F

*Exam 4 is scheduled for the time of the final exam. It will cover all new material since Exam 3. There will also be an optional cumulative portion of the final. If you decide to take it, you can use that grade to replace a low grade on Exam 1, Exam 2, or Exam 3. You can also take the cumulative portion of the final exam as a replacement for 1 missed exam.

EXAMS

There will be four required exams and an optional cumulative final in this class. Both Exam 4 and the cumulative final will take place during the scheduled final exam time (each will take approximately 50 minutes). Exam 4 is required whereas the cumulative final is optional. Please bring a #2 pencil and your ID number to the exams.

GOOD NEWS: If you take all four exams, you do not have to take the cumulative final. **MORE GOOD NEWS:** If you are unhappy with a grade on Exam 1, 2, or 3, you can take the cumulative final and replace your score on Exam 1, 2, or 3. **EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS:** If you unexpectedly perform even worse on the cumulative final, it will not count against you, because your grade will be calculated using your scores from Exam 1, 2, and 3 instead.

Exams will consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice items. However, some of the multiple-choice questions could be traded for other types of questions (short answer, fill-in-the-blank, true or false, essay). More details will be given prior to the exam. Prior arrangements should be made if you wish to take the exam at an alternative time or date due to an unavoidable conflict. Documentation will be required. The exams will assess your knowledge of the material covered in class and the textbook. Some topics may be covered in both lecture and the textbook. However, many other topics may only be covered in one or the other. Therefore, it is wise to come to class and to read the textbook. Although the second, third, and fourth exams are not cumulative, they will assume knowledge from topics already covered in class. Furthermore, it is possible that some questions may integrate knowledge from previous chapters. The optional cumulative portion of the final will cover material from Exams 1, 2, and 3, and it will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

Study Guides. A study guide will be provided for each of the 4 exams. Keep these to study for the cumulative portion of the final exam. There will not be a separate study guide for the cumulative portion of the final.

Disability Services. GVSU will make reasonable accommodations for a student with a documented disability. If you are in need of accommodations due to a learning, physical, or other disability, you must present a memo to me from Disability Support Resources (DSR), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested reasonable accommodations. If you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Support Resources office (4015 JHZ) by calling 331-2490 or emailing dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the DSR issued memo. All discussions will remain confidential. Once you have done this, come and talk to me within the first two weeks of class so we can put your accommodations in place within the classroom.

Furthermore, if you have a physical 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.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

To acquaint students with the nature and variety of research topics and experimental methodologies in psychology, students will complete 4 enrichment activities of their choosing, worth 10 points each. There are two types of enrichment activities, and any combination of these two types of activities can be completed to receive full credit (e.g., 4 credits of option 1; 2 credits of option 1 and 2 credits of option 2):

EA#1: Participating in research studies.

Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to participate in research projects being conducted by the faculty and students in the Psychology Department. You can view descriptions of these studies and schedule appointments via the GVSU Study Scheduling System (link can be accessed from the Psychology Department website). Please carefully read the Enrichment Activities section at the end of this syllabus for detailed instructions on how to set up a SONA account and utilize the SONA system.

EA#2: Reading and summarizing professional research.

This enrichment activity involves reading a current empirical article published in a psychological journal, and writing a brief summary to document your reading. Please refer to the Enrichment Activities section at the end of this syllabus for detailed instructions. Please turn in a hard copy and upload a WORD document to Blackboard. Summaries are to be turned in during class and are **due by the start of class on Monday, December 4.**

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two homework assignments, one **DUE NOV 3** and the other **DUE NOV 29**. More details will be provided closer to the due date.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (ICAs)

In-Class Assignments are composed of two parts.

1. Assignments and quizzes will be worth 5-10 points each. If you miss an in-class assignment or quiz, a couple of extra assignments will be offered during the semester. Quizzes will either occur in class or on Blackboard. All quizzes should be completed independently, even those on Blackboard. See course schedule on next page for approximate due dates for each quiz.
2. Approximately 25-35 in-class assignment points will be awarded for iclicker use in class (1 point for each class the iclicker was used). To be eligible for the points, you must have answered all iclicker questions for that day. Points will be based on participation, not correctness. However, you must choose one of the answers provided. Clicker points will be updated on Blackboard after each exam. **NOTE: Clicking for an absent student is academic dishonesty.**

NOTE: There will be more than 100 ICA points offered, so that a couple of missed assignments can be made up. Because of the extra assignments, any points earned over 100 will count as extra credit (up to 105 points).

GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

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 (TBD). Note: This assessment is DIFFERENT from the Course Evaluation, which asks your opinion of various aspects of this course.

PSY 101 Course Schedule (Fall 2017)

This schedule is tentative; topics may take more or less time than expected. Unless otherwise specified, you may complete the readings before or after the material is covered in lecture, whichever works better for your learning.

Date	Topic(s)	Readings (11th)
AUG 28	Introduction	
AUG 30, SEPT 1	Research Methods in Psychology	CH 1 + Methods reading + Quiz (9/1), pp. 42-47 optional
SEPT 6, 8, 11	The Biology of Mind N® CLASS SEPT 4 – LABOR DAY	CH 2 + Quiz (9/13)
SEPT 13, 15	Consciousness	CH 3, skip pp. 112-130
SEPT 18	Spillover Day, Review	
SEPT 20	EXAM 1 (covers all previous material)	
SEPT 22, 25, 27, 29	Sensation and Perception	CH 6, skip pp. 256-274
OCT 2, 4	Development	CH 5 + Quiz (10/6)
OCT 6	Learning	CH 7
OCT 9	Spillover Day, Review	
OCT 11	EXAM 2 (covers all previous material)	
OCT 13, 16, 18, 20	Memory	CH 8 + Quiz (10/23)
OCT 23, 25	Thinking	CH 9, read only pp. 355-365 (stop at "Thinking Creatively")
OCT 27, 30, NOV 1, 3	Social Psychology	CH 13, skip pp. 520-523, 532-536, 545-550
NOV 6	Spillover Day, Review	
NOV 8	EXAM 3 (covers all new material since Exam 1)	
NOV 10, 13, 15, 17	Personality N® CLASS NOV 22-24 – THANKSGIVING BREAK	CH 14, skip pp. 583-585, 596-605 + Quiz (11/10)
NOV 20, 27, 29	Emotions, Stress, and Health	CH 12
DEC 1, 4, 6	Psychological Disorders	CH 15
DEC 8	Spillover Day, Review	
Final Exam Week (time varies - see below)	EXAM 4 (covers all new material since Exam 3) + OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE FINAL (covers material from Exams 1, 2, and 3)	

Mid-semester course evaluation due

Final Exam Times

Section	Time of Exam
Section 25 (10am class)	Tuesday, December 12 12-1:50pm
Section 26 (11am class)	Wednesday, December 13 10-11:50am
Section 27 (12pm class)	Wednesday, December 13 2-3:50pm
Section 28 (2pm class)	Monday, December 11 2-3:50pm

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 must participate in *four* enrichment activities.

Two kinds of enrichment activities are available. *Option 1* involves participating in research studies, while *Option 2* involves reading and writing about papers that report research in scholarly journals.

OPTION 1: PARTICIPATION IN PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIMENTS

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 10th**.

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 use *Option 2*, 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, 616.331.3262) or by sending an email to psychlab@gvsu.edu.

Option 1 Deadline

The last day to participate in studies is **Tuesday, December 5th**.

OPTION 2: PAPERS ON EXPERIMENTS 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 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 or the paper.*

Objective

This option, like the first, is intended to familiarize you with the nature and variety of psychological research. The objective to broaden your understanding of psychological research and how it is conducted.

Selecting an Article

Choose a current article published in 2016 or 2017 that reports an empirical study (i.e. one that is based on the collection of data). The large majority of the papers published in the journals listed below are suitable for this assignment, but a few are not. In particular, reviews, meta-analyses, and other comparisons of studies from separate researchers are not appropriate for this assignment. The article you read should have 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

Finding the Journals

The journals are available electronically through databases you can access through the GVSU Library website. Base your paper on the “full text” of the paper. You can watch a video showing how to access the journals by going to <http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych> and then clicking on the *Recommended 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.

Once you have located the journal article, select the “full text” version.

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. No separate introduction or conclusion is required, simply answer the three questions. 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. Try to avoid quoting from the article, but if you must quote to make a point, take care that the phrases quoted are in quotation marks. All quoted phrases must be 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 submit 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, on separate lines, put your name, your student number (G-number), your professor’s name, 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. Here is a sample of a reference with the information in the proper order:

Lastname, F. and Othername, S.B. (2013) A study of titles of research reports. *Journal of Obscure Psychological Research*, 13, 93-108.

If the article you select has not yet appeared in print, instead of page and volume numbers, include the words “Advanced online publication. doi:” and then give the *doi* number. The *doi* number is typically

found in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the full-text paper. This reference information must be complete and accurate for you to receive credit for the paper.

Copy of First Page of Journal Article

To the back of your summary, staple a photocopy or printout of the first page of the full-text version 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 “full text” version of the article from a library database, you may have to print several pages to make sure all the required information is present. If you select an article that has not yet been published in print version, volume and page numbers will typically not be available. In such cases, make sure the photocopy or printout you submit includes the *doi* number of the article, which is usually in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the full-text article.

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.

Submitting Papers for Grading & Deadline

Option 2 papers can be turned in anytime during the semester. The last day to turn in the written enrichment activities is **Monday, December 4**.



PSY 101 Introductory Psychology

Foundations – Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course is part of GVSU's General Education Program. PSY 101 is designed to help you learn:

1. How knowledge in the social or behavioral sciences is created and applied.
2. The major approaches, methods, theories, and substantive findings of the field.
3. An informed critical stance that will allow students to weigh and apply ideas and claims from the social and behavioral sciences outside the classroom.
4. Critical and creative thinking, which uses systematic reasoning to examine and evaluate ideas, leading to new ways of thinking or doing. Students will:
 - Assess differing perspectives and assumptions.
 - Evaluate evidence and the logic of arguments.
 - Formulate novel approaches or create alternative interpretations.
5. Ethical reasoning, which is a decision making process based on defining systems of value. Students will:
 - Recognize ethical issues when presented in a complex situation.
 - Demonstrate their understanding of key concepts and principles underlying various systems of reasoning.
 - Participate in activities that engage them in ethical reasoning.
 - Demonstrate the ability to deal constructively with ambiguity and disagreement.

Teaching in the liberal tradition is at the heart of Grand Valley's identity, and this focus is critical in our General Education Program. Liberal education transcends the acquisition of information; it goes beyond the factual to ask important evaluative and philosophical questions. Liberal learning holds the fundamental principles and suppositions of a body of knowledge up to inquiry, question, and discussion. It helps a person recognize the assumptions under which he or she operates and encourages the examination and questioning of those assumptions. Liberal learning begins in the General Education Program and continues through the more specialized studies comprising each student's major and minor areas of study.

Grand Valley State University educates students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.