SYLLABUS

Dr. Lawrence Burns, 2219 ASH, 331-2862, Email burnsl@gvsu.edu
Class hours: Tu/Th—11:30-12:45, room 2320 AuSable Hall

Office Hours: I am looking forward to meeting and talking with you this semester. I will be in my office Tuesdays and Thursdays after classes 1:00-2:15. If these times are not convenient, please speak with me so we can arrange an appointment.

Required Text: None—primary sources only.

Course Overview: Psychology is a diverse area of study. Based on contemporary work, both theoretical and applied, this course will offer a survey of major viewpoints in psychology. Readings from other disciplines (biology, medicine, sociology, and philosophy, etc.) will be included to highlight various aspects of the study of psychology and its relation to other sciences.

Class Format: This is not a lecture class. This is a discussion-based course. I encourage you to ask questions and participate in classroom discussions. Your grade is based in part on your participation. Reading class material prior to class attendance will be required. Due to class format frequent absences from class may reduce your final grade.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) Identify concepts associated with major theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in the discipline. 2) Engage in the application of major theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in the discipline. 3) Describe alternative theoretical perspectives within the discipline and, where possible, integrate/synthesize across these perspectives. 4) Recognize various sources of bias in psychological research, and how these can affect the interpretation or usefulness of research findings. 5) Analyze and explain interdisciplinary approaches to psychological questions. 6) Recognize and produce an appropriate level of professional-style writing.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on three (3) exams, eleven (11) write-ups and questions related to the assigned readings (submitted weekly), and class participation. Each exam will consist of a minimum of four (answer three) essay questions drawn from the readings and class discussions. Each exam will cover material from a particular section of the course, and will count equally toward your final grade. The third exam (given during finals week) will not be comprehensive. Each exam will count for 60 points. Questions & write-ups will be worth 187 points (11@17 points combined). Participation will be worth 57 points [19@3.0 of 22 (drop three of your choice)]. Thus, the maximum number of points you can gain for all exams, write-ups, questions, and participation is 424 points. You are guaranteed the following grade based on your total score:

Grade Point Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>393-424</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>384-392</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>374-383</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>348-373</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>340-347</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>333-339</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>307-332</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>297-306</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>275-296</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>255-274</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;-255</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Instructor reserves the right to increase by ½ grade for exceptional participation)

Make-up Exams: I will give make-up exams based on extenuating circumstances.
GVSU Policy Pointers—
Disabilities Support Resources
If you have any condition, such as a physical or mental disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined, or which will require extra time on examinations, please notify me in the first week of the course so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Due to the discussion-based format of the course—please, no computer use/cell phone texting during class time.

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/

Emergency Procedures:
Fire: Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use elevators.
More information is available on the University’s Emergency website located at http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency
Course processes (3)

I. Weekly essays. (15 points for all articles- each week)
What is the point of the article? Focus on the theoretical premise of each article. You may (briefly) discuss
the methodological strengths and weaknesses of the article, but this is not to be a “book report” or simple
reiteration of the article. Please make sure each of your essays provides a concise synthesis of the article.
Based on the article, what is your impression of the author(s) perspective, and why? Explain and apply the
material, findings, and/or data within each of the readings (please see Bb for several examples).

→Use the weekly grade sheet as your cover sheet for each set of weekly write-ups (attached as well as posted on Bb) and
assemble your essays in the exact order as on Bb.

Use APA style for each write-up. Use the author’s name as the header along with page number, center the title of each paper
being reviewed on the first line, and place the bibliographic listing as the final lines of each essay.

Feel free to use smaller font (to make it all fit on one page) and to use both sides of the page to save paper.

* denotes a half-page write-up.

Your weekly write-ups are due by the end of class each Tuesday.
Late papers lose 3 points a day starting Tuesday after class.
I am unable to accept any papers via email. Period.

Please note (General Academic Policies, p.78; 1996-1997) Plagiarism is "Any ideas or material taken from another source...
must be fully acknowledged... sentences or paragraphs... any student who fails to give credit, is guilty of plagiarism."
"Such activity (plagiarism) may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, of if flagrant, dismissal from
GVSU."

II. Weekly Questions? (2 points)
Based upon your reading and personal beliefs list a minimum of three questions related to the articles (as a whole, not three
per article), but they need to come from at least three (3) different articles assigned for the week (list source for each
question). Please consider asking questions about aspects of any given paper that move you, or confuse you.

These will be due by 5:00 p.m. each Monday via email.
No credit will be provided for questions delivered after 5:00 p.m. → 5:05 p.m. is late = zero (0) credit.
Please do not delay! (You may feel free to send them in on Sundays if you like.)
→ Please place a header on your e-mail “Psy-492 Week XX Questions”
Send these in the main body of your email—do not use an attachment.

III. Participation (up to 3.0 points per class, excluding three ‘skips’ and review sessions/exams)
See participation handout on Bb for specific grading criteria.
Section I  Umwelt - our model of the world around us

January 8th Introduction of material & January 10th Review of Models

Review only (no write ups & no questions):

REMÉMBER to read all papers in the order as presented on Bb!

January 15th  Mirror, mirror, on the wall…is what others you see, who ‘you’ are?

January 22nd  Is lying a social necessity?

January 29th  Can normal ever be amazing; is perfect really the enemy of the good?
- *Mini Cooper.* (2016, August 22). Mini: Not Normal [Advertisement]. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVIk8LrT3Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVIk8LrT3Q)

February 5th  It is not love that is blind, but jealousy—Lawrence Durrell

February 12th review  &  February 14th  Exam 1
Section II Mitwelt - our interpersonal world

February 19th

"Lust is when you love what you see. Love is when you lust for what's inside" - Renee Conklin


February 26th Relationships: Boon or Boondoggle?


March 8th Last day to drop with a “W”

March 12th I’ll never do that when I’m a parent; are parents’ dreams destined to be undone (notes to from myself) ?


March 19th Loss and Grief: Do we ever really ‘get over it’?

(part one if you have an interest http://www.nbcnews.com/health/cancer/why-newlywed-brittany-maynard-ending-her-life-three-weeks-il21731)

March 26th Review & March 28th Exam 2
Section III - Eigenwelt - our identity – things that define us

April 2nd  Can money buy happiness? ~ Or is it just being in the ‘right place at the right time’?

April 9th  Person or Profession: Can you have one without the other?

April 16th  American Pop Culture: Cult or Culture? Or, reflections on a curious life.

Final Exam
Wednesday April 24th 12-1:50