SYLLABUS

Dr. Lawrence Burns, 2219 ASH, 331-2862, Email burnsl@gvsu.edu
Class hours: Tu/Th—11:30-12:45, room 2120 ASH

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 12:50-2:00. If these times are not convenient, please speak with me so we can arrange an appointment.

Required Text: None—primary sources only.

Course Objectives: 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.

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>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>348-373</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>340-347</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>333-339</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>307-332</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>297-306</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>275-296</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255-274</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;255</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</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.

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/texting during class time.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Header → Buss 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title centered → Human nature and culture: An evolutionary psychological perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---Your synopsis here---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Personality, 69, 955-978.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

→ 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 (except for Thursday 9/5 1st half). 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, or 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 5pm each Monday via email (except questions for 9/4--these are due on 9/3 by 5pm). No credit will be provided for questions delivered after 5pm. 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 -08 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

August 26th  Introduction of material &  August 28th  Review of Models

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

September 4th  Self-reflection: Epiphenomena or Epiphany? (1st half)
‡ (entirely optional, no write-up) Fight Club; I Heart Huckabees

September 9th  Self-reflection: Epiphenomena or Epiphany? (2nd half)

September 16th  Is lying a social necessity?
‡ Big Fish; The Invention of Lying

September 23rd  Normal can never be amazing”; [is] perfect more than just a state of mind?
*(write up) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R_D4V-Ns3Y;
‡ Gatacca (1997)

September 30th  It is not love that is blind, but jealousy—Lawrence Durell
‡ Amadeus (1984)

October 7th review &  October 9th  Exam 1
Section II  Mitwelt - our interpersonal world

October 14th  
“Lust is when you love what you see. Love is when you lust for what’s inside” - Renee Conkle
† The Notebook

October 21st  Relationships: Boon or Boondoggle?
† As it is in Heaven (2004) http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0382330/?ref_=sr_1

October 24th  Last day to drop with a “W”

October 28th  I’ll never do that when I’m a parent; are our dreams destined to be undone (notes to from myself)?
† Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close; Ordinary People (1980)

November 4th  Loss and Grief: Do we ever really ‘get over it’?
† Tsunami—Caught on camera (Boxing Day 2004) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikq0P7U0x4Q

November 11th  Review & November 13th  Exam 2
Section III  Eigenwelt - our identity – things that define us

November 18th  Can money buy happiness? ~ Can you be in the ‘right place at the right time’?
‡ The Pursuit of Happiness (2006); Wall Street (1987)

November 25th  Person or Profession: Can you have one without the other?
‡ Almost Famous (2000).

December 3rd  American Pop Culture: Cult or Culture? Or, reflections on a curious life.

Final Exam
Wednesday December 10th 12-1:50