

Grand Valley State University
PSY 101 Introductory Psychology
Course Syllabus
Sections: 02 - OL, 45 - OL

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Kelsey Augustyn, MS, Psy.S
she/her/hers

Email

Auguskel@gvsu.edu

Email is the quickest way to get in touch with me. Please put your course number and a brief statement about what you need support with in the subject line of your email. (ex: PSY 101 – 02, question about assignment #2). You can expect a response from me within 24-36 hours. If you have not heard from me, feel free to send me another email. I do not typically get behind on emails, but it does not bother me at all if you send me a follow-up message.

Student/Office Hours: Student hours will be held Tuesdays from 5-6pm, and Thursdays from 3-4pm via Zoom. Meetings are by appointment only, and you can access my booking link below. If the regularly scheduled office hours do not work for you, and you would like to meet, please email me. I am happy to work with you to figure out other possible options. Once your appointment is confirmed, I will email you my Zoom office hours link.

Scheduled Virtual Office Hours:

Tues. 5:00-6:00pm

Thurs. 3:00-4:00pm

Schedule appointment by following the link below:

<https://auguskel.youcanbook.me/>

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Format: This is an **online, asynchronous course**, meaning there is no regular meeting time. We will not be meeting via zoom at a scheduled time for lectures. You are able to watch video lectures and complete the course work each week, online at a time this is most convenient for you, *however, you must complete and submit all posted class work materials (lectures, reading, assignments, quizzes) by their due dates in the outlined date ranges provided in the course schedule below.*

Course Webpage: <https://lms.gvsu.edu/ultra>

This class will take place via the Blackboard (Bb) system. Blackboard will contain all course materials and information. Students are responsible for all information provided via Blackboard, including online lecture videos, lecture study guides, announcements, reading assignments, homework assignments, projects, and exams.

Take a look at the GVSU Online Learning pages to find numerous materials about using Blackboard and online learning <http://www.gvsu.edu/online/> . If you experience technical problems with Blackboard, contact the help desk by email or phone - helpdesk@gvsu.edu or 616-331-3513. The help website is <http://www.gvsu.edu/it/learn/> .

Textbook: Our course will be using *Psychology 2e* by Spielman, Jenkins, and Lovett (made available by OpenStax). This textbook is REQUIRED and is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. You can find the

textbook linked in our Blackboard (Bb) classroom page. You DO NOT need to purchase a hard copy of the textbook, unless you prefer to do so.

Course Overview: This course will introduce you to the theories, research methodologies, and applications of psychology – the study of human behavior – and help you appreciate the importance of psychological phenomenon in your own life. A wide range of topics will be covered; some students consider the course to be rigorous and difficult because of this. However, it is important to remember that all these topics refer to our experiences as humans. I can confidently say that each of you have spent time contemplating the causes and consequences of your own behavior, and the behavior of others. You are encouraged to apply your knowledge of the material you learn in this course to your own lives, and the world around you.

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

- Identify major psychological theories and concepts and use psychological terminology correctly
- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific process in psychology
- Critically evaluate the findings of psychological research
- Recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life

Required Course Equipment (owned or accessible):

- Reliable high-speed internet access
- Computer with a sound card and speakers and operating system that meets current Blackboard browser requirements (Windows 7 or above, OS 10.10 or above)
- Computer microphone built in or external (most laptops have a microphone)
- Computer camera - built in or external (most laptops have a camera)

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

What You Can Expect from Your Professor:

- Timely feedback and communication.
- Information will be presented in an interesting and organized fashion.
- Weekly study guides will be posted and will include exactly what content to expect on the exams.
- Weekly ‘to-do’ lists will be posted so you can stay on top of your work and know exactly what is expected of you each week.
- I will post Weekly Modules at 8:00am sharp, every Monday. I will post all the week’s content at once, and will never post pop-up quizzes, lectures, or assignments at random times.
- There will be very predictable due dates. The weekly coursework is always due at 11:59pm, every Sunday so you don’t have to juggle dates and times.
- I am happy to provide you assistance with any of the course content and have flexibility to meet with you outside of the regularly scheduled office hours if you reach out to me in advance.
- I will be timely when grading and giving feedback on assignments to ensure you have what you need to be successful on exams.

Advice I Have for You:

Self-management is key: Online courses require perseverance, self-discipline, self-motivation, and the ability to work independently – more so than face-to-face on-campus classes. Be sure to:

- Log into Blackboard at least 4-5 times per week
- Stay organized and track due dates
- Plan weekly study times and stick to a schedule
- Make a habit of checking your email, and Blackboard announcements for the most up-to-date information regarding this course.

Plan on spending roughly 6-9 hours per week on this course: Approximately 1-2 hours watching video lectures and completing the embedded lecture quiz questions. 1-2 hours completing assignments, 1-2 hours reading, and 2-3 hours studying for exams and/or working on assignments, or enrichment activities.

Read: Read the assigned weekly readings. This will help you understand the content immensely. I would encourage you to read **before** completing the posted weekly lectures.

Watch the online lectures posted each week: You must watch the video lectures and complete the embedded quiz questions each week. Missing one lecture, and the corresponding lecture quiz, will substantially lower your ability to understand the content necessary for exams and assignments, in turn, lowering your grade.

Take good notes: Review the posted weekly study guides prior to reading and watching the lectures. Print out the lecture slides, take electronic notes, and make note of examples given in lecture. The lecture slides are intended as a guide only. Please email me with any questions you have about the lecture material! GVSU has many wonderful (and free!) note taking resources. Check those out at <https://www.gvsu.edu/accessibility/notetaking-options-148.htm>.

Prepare for exams well in advance: You should re-read your lecture notes regularly. You should review your weekly study guides regularly. Research shows that regular review of learned material (flash cards, re-writing notes, talking it over with a friend) for short period of time each day results in much better examination performance than if you wait until the last minute to begin preparing for your exam. I know you know this – but, if you procrastinate, you are unlikely to perform as well.

Communicate with me: Email me or make an appointment to meet with me on Zoom if you need to discuss anything pertaining to this course. ***I am here to help you, and love the opportunity to connect with my students.***

COURSE GRADING

Course grades will be based on total points earned from the following sources (*see information below regarding in-depth explanation of each course activity under 'Course Requirements'*):

Course Activity	Total Assigned	Point Value
Exams	3 x 50 pts each	150 pts
Homework Assignments	3 x 10 pts each	30 pts
Lecture Participation & Quizzes	13 x 5 pts each	65 pts
Enrichment Activities (EA)/SONA	4 credits x 10 pts each	40 pts
Extra Credit	10 x 1 pt each	*10 pts

***Total of 285 points, not including extra credit**

Percent Earned	Letter Grade	Percent Earned	Letter Grade
94 and above	A	73-76.9	C
90-93.9	A-	70-72.9	C-
87-89.9	B+	67-69.9	D+
83-86.9	B	63-66.9	D
80-82.9	B-	62.9 and below	F
77-79.9	C+		

****If your grade is at the .95 mark, I will round up to the next full percentage. I will not adjust your grade in any other way. Please do not ask at the end of the semester. (Ex. 76.98% will be adjusted to 77% bringing the student's grade from a C to a C+.)**

Accommodations for Late Work/Make-ups: First and foremost, turn in all assignments, ON TIME! Late assignments receive a 0. Missing one assignment will substantially lower your grade in the course. While university policy does indicate that accommodations can be granted for absences under certain 'excused' circumstances, due to the nature of this course, and the flexibility of the schedule, due dates are considered firm. Keep in mind that you have one full week to complete the coursework posted each week, and that should provide you with plenty of flexibility should personal or professional issues arise. *Please, please, please* reach out to me ahead of time if you need assistance. I cannot help you if you wait until Sunday at 11:59pm when assignments are due.

If a student misses a deadline for an assessment/assignment and they are seeking an accommodation (i.e. permission to turn it in late), they must **contact the professor via email within 48 hours of the deadline with an explanation. The professor may grant accommodations based upon:**

- 1) **The cause for the missed deadline (student will be responsible for providing documentation)**
 - a. Examples of excused reasons: medical conditions that limit time or ability to engage with the course material (e.g. concussion, inpatient medical or mental health care), funerals/memorial services, birth and adoption, Jury Duty/court appearances, medical conditions of a loved one where student is serving as caretaker.
 - b. Non-Examples: forgetting the deadline, not budgeting time wisely throughout the week, failure to properly upload assignment to Blackboard, leaving campus early for the weekend.
- 2) **The extent to which the student's ability to complete the assignment was impaired.**

***Accommodations will NOT be granted for missed deadlines if the student does not reach out to the professor within 48 hours of the assignment/assessment due date. If you are unsure of whether you are eligible for an accommodation, just ask! Please reach out if you are struggling.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Exams:** There will be three exams in this course, all of which are multiple choice, non-cumulative, and worth 50 points each. You will be given 90 minutes to complete each exam.

Exams will be taken online, accessed via **Blackboard**, and will require **Respondus Lockdown and Monitor**. The software allows for fair, secure tests by preventing students from accessing other programs and ensuring that student knowledge is being validly measured. It's best to think of this software as a way to simulate the experience of students taking a proctored exam in a regular classroom, but from the location of the student's choice.

Using LockDown Browser and a Webcam for Online Exams: The purpose of exams is to gauge whether students have successfully learned course content and skills. To support that success, exams must be administered fairly. I find that students want exactly that—they want to know that when they have studied hard for an exam, they are being fairly recognized for that work and knowledge. The suspicion that others might be “gaming the system” can be dispiriting. This is especially relevant for online courses, where there is no in-class proctor or instructor present to ensure fair testing circumstances for all concerned. To help alleviate these problems, this course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The software simulates conditions of taking an in-person exam—it prevents students from looking at notes and course materials, and from communicating questions and answers with each other.

*****Although further information about this software will be provided after the course has begun, it is important to be aware up front that this is how exams will be administered, and that there are certain hardware requirements to take exams this way.***** The required webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable.

Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. <https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

Download and Install LockDown Browser and Webcam Feature from this link:
<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=936312756>

When taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the exam
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
 - Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete
- Take the exam in a well-lit room, but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window)
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted.

Getting Help: Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

2. Weekly Reading:

You will be assigned weekly reading that is supplemental and supportive of the weekly lectures in our course. The weekly reading will be fair game for exam content and extremely helpful for completing assignments. You can access the weekly reading content via Blackboard.

3. Homework Assignments:

A total of 13 homework assignments, worth 10 points each, will be assigned throughout this course (available via Blackboard). Students are required to complete 3 of the 13 possible homework assignments. Assignments involve answering approximately 4 to 6 short-answer questions that correspond to the textbook chapter, weekly lectures, and/or additional available reading/resources/media posted with the assignment. You can choose which three homework assignments you want to complete. Students can also earn 1 point of extra credit for each additional homework assignment they complete above and beyond the required 3. Students can earn up to a total of 20 extra credit points. Each assignment is due by 11:59pm on Sunday of the week it was posted. I encourage you to complete the additional assignments wherever possible, as it gets you a little extra credit, and will be a great studying tool for the exams in this course. **See student example below for grading/extra credit explanation.**

Student Grading Example:

Assignment	Completed	Turned in by deadline?	Points Earned
1	YES	YES	10
2	NO	-	0
3	YES	YES	10
4	YES	NO	*0
5	NO	-	0
6	NO	-	0
7	YES	YES	10
8	YES	YES	1
9	YES	YES	1
10	NO	-	0
11	YES	YES	1
12	NO	-	0
13	YES	YES	1

This student earned 34 out of a total 30 homework points for the semester, resulting in 4 extra credit points. Even though the student completed the 4th assignment, they did not turn it in by the posted deadline, so did not receive credit/extra credit.

4. Lecture Participation and Quizzes

Video lectures will be posted weekly, and they will be worth a total of 5 points. Students are required to attend their virtual/video lectures just as if they are attending an in-person course. The student ultimately has the flexibility to choose when to attend/complete the lectures throughout the week but should not expect this course to be less demanding than an in-person course. Each weekly lecture video(s) will have embedded quiz questions. The corresponding quiz questions within the lecture video are designed to help you understand and retain the information, and the student will not be able to move on to the next segment of the video lecture unless they have answered the question(s) correctly.

Students will earn points based on the percentage of each lecture completed. For instance, if a student completed 75% of the lecture video prior to the weekly deadline, they would receive 3.75/5 lecture points for that week.

5. Enrichment Activities, Learning about Psychological Research (SONA): In the Enrichment Activities (EA) portion of the course, students will be given the opportunity to experience psychological research first-hand. 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 introduce you to a variety of research techniques used in psychological research.

Students must earn **four** EA credits for this requirement. The credit you earn by completing each EA is a function of the amount of time it takes to complete it. For example, by participating in a brief online study (30 minutes or fewer) you would earn ½ of an EA credit whereas an EA that takes one hour to complete would earn 1 credit. Both types of Enrichment Activities will be available in face to face and online formats. You may complete the EA requirement using any combination of EA types.

Enrichment activities are scheduled and offered through the Sona Study Scheduling System. You will receive an email from Study Scheduling System at the beginning of the semester containing your User ID and an initial password, and a link to the Sona system website at <https://gvsu.sona-systems.com>. If you do not receive an email regarding your account by Tuesday January 14th, please check your spam folder. Should the email still not appear, please contact the Lab Supervisor, Hannah Todd, at psychlab@gvsu.edu.

SONA Systems maintains a strict policy protecting your privacy and confidentiality. This policy is available for review in the Psychology Office. Additional details regarding the enrichment activities and an FAQ are available online at <https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/psy-101-participation-in-research-sona-435.htm>

Screening Instrument: Once you receive your User ID and password, you will be able to immediately earn .5 credits by completing an online prescreening questionnaire. This is a short questionnaire used by some researchers to determine your participation eligibility for studies carried out throughout the semester. You must be 18 or older to complete the prescreen survey. You are not required to complete it, but doing so increases the number of studies you will be able to choose from during the semester. You can complete the prescreen at any time from the My Profile tab on the blue bar at the top of the page, however, completing it early (within the first two weeks of class) ensures that you will have access to the widest variety of EA activities within the Sona System.

Enrichment Activity Deadline

The last day to complete your EA requirement is **Friday, April 18th @ 5:00pm**.

Please note that Enrichment Activities and the corresponding deadline was established by the PSY department and applies to all sections of PSY 101. Given enrichment activities can be completed throughout the semester, there are no make-up opportunities for this assignment and late assignments are not accepted.

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the Enrichment Activities, please contact the Lab Supervisor Hannah Todd, who can be reached in the Psychology Department Office (2224 Au Sable Hall, 616-331-2427) or by sending an email to psychlab@gvsu.edu

COURSE SCHEDULE

Below is the tentative course schedule for the semester. New Modules are posted weekly at 8:00am, Mondays, and all content will be due to be completed by Sunday of that week, at 11:59pm. If any portion of the schedule changes, students will be notified in advance.

Module	Due Date (Due @ 11:59pm)	Lecture Topic/Reading	Tasks
1	January 12	Welcome and Introduction <i>Chapter 1</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 1
2	January 19	Psychological Research <i>Chapter 2</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 2
3	January 26	Biopsychology <i>Chapter 3</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 3
4	February 2	States of Consciousness <i>Chapter 4</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 4
5	February 9	Sensation and Perception <i>Chapter 5</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 5
6	February 16	Learning <i>Chapter 6</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 6 EXAM #1
7	February 23	Thinking and Intelligence <i>Chapter 7</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 7
8	March 2	Memory <i>Chapter 8</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 8
9	OFF	HAPPY SPRING BREAK	STAY SAFE 😊
10	March 16	Lifespan Development <i>Chapter 9</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 9
11	March 23	Emotion and Motivation <i>Chapter 10</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 10 EXAM #2
12	March 30	Personality <i>Chapter 11</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 11
13	April 6	Social Psychology <i>Chapter 12</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 12
14	April 13	& Stress, Lifestyle and Health <i>Chapter 14</i>	Lecture Video/Quiz Assignment # 13
15	April 20	Therapy and Treatment	Lecture Video/Quiz

		<i>Chapter 16</i>	*SONA/EA deadline is Fri. Apr 18 @ 5:00pm
FINALS	April 25	**note this is Friday of Finals week (still due at 11:59pm)	EXAM #3 (finals week)

COURSE POLICIES & RESOURCES

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

Withdrawing from a Course: The ultimate deadline for withdrawing from this course, or any course at GVSU, is Friday, March 21st at 5:00pm.

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities: If you have a learning, physical or other disability that would impact your ability to master and/or access the material in this course and/or take the exams as described above, please contact GVSU's Student Accessibility Resources (SAS) at 616-331-2490 or <https://www.gvsu.edu/accessibility/> to arrange for special accommodations. You can also email access@gvsu.edu to connect with someone who can help.

Academic Dishonesty: If I have evidence of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam, giving or receiving information about what is asked in the exam, or any other form of cheating such as plagiarism), you will receive a failing grade in that activity and other consequences as dictated by GVSU policy. Plagiarism is presenting work, ideas or words that are not your own as though they were your own—this includes work of other students or work that is in a published source (the textbook, a journal article). To avoid plagiarism be sure to do your own work, and put information in your own words. Use of quotes with appropriate reference to the original source from which you got the information or ideas is acceptable but less preferred than paraphrasing (with referencing of the source provided) in psychological writing.

AI Policy Statement by David A. Joyner @davidjoyner@fediscience.org

We treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT and Copilot, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants.

However, all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes).

Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, we recommend the following:

1. Never hit "Copy" within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
2. Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Like above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge. This includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission.

Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentors: Psych Friends mentors are upper-level psychology and behavioral neuroscience students who are trained to provide support in many areas, such as: effective studying and time management techniques, exam preparation and reflection skills, understanding the PSY and BNS major requirements, potential jobs and careers in the field, the process of applying for graduate school, and how to maintain physical and mental health as a student. Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate> to schedule an online or in-person meeting today!

SASC Tutoring Center: Need help understanding your course content or writing a paper? Want to learn more efficient study strategies? SASC Tutoring Center can assist with most courses and academic writing assignments. Visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/tc/> for the most current information on services, hours, and locations.

Employment Options for Psych Majors: Learn more about careers in psychology at <https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/employment-options-for-psychology-majors-228.htm>

Laker Guardian Mobile Safety App: Creates a two-way connection between you and the campus police anywhere on campus. Find out more at <https://www.gvsu.edu/dps/laker-guardian-129.htm>

University Counseling Center: Short-term individual and long-term group therapy are provided at no cost to currently registered GVSU students. Seminars and events, online self-help tools, and consultation/referral are just a few of the additional services we provide to the GVSU community. <https://www.gvsu.edu/counsel>

Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (OURS): The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship provides support for undergraduates to pursue the research and creative practice in their discipline. Essentially, we support curious students, by connecting them with ways to discover, research, and explore. Students work with faculty on student initiated, or faculty initiated research. <https://www.gvsu.edu/ours/>

Study Abroad: Contact the Padnos International Center <https://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/> There are programs in every region of the world!

CLAS Advising Center: offers accessible, accurate, timely, and consistent academic advising to all students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. <https://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/>

Career Center: Interested in exploring careers and majors? Interested in finding an Internship or job? Need help with your resume and cover letter? Contact GVSU's Career Center <https://www.gvsu.edu/careers/>

If you made it to the end of this syllabus, I'm proud of you, and you are going to do great! :)