

PSY 101: INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY, Winter 2025

Lecture

Section 15: Mon, Wed, and Fri, 2:00-2:50 PM, 154 Lake Superior Hall

Structured Learning Assistance (See Appendix 2 for more info on the SLA Program)

Section 16: Fri, 12:00-12:50 PM, 225 Lake Superior Hall

Section 17: Fri, 1:00-1:50 PM, 230 Lake Superior Hall

Section 18: Thurs, 5:00-5:50 PM, 225 Lake Superior Hall

Instructor: Glenn R. Valdez, Ph.D.
Office: 1313 AuSable Hall
Office hours: Mon, Wed, Fri, 10:00-11:00 AM, 1313 AuSable Hall or by appointment through Navigate
<https://gvsu.campus.eab.com/pal/SJc6c1-HHk>
Email: valdezg@gvsu.edu

SLA Facilitator: Gia Randazzo
Email: randazgi@mail.gvsu.edu

Course Description: This course provides a general survey of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and experience, including overt actions and mental activity. My main goal is to introduce you to psychology within the following context.

1) *Psychology is the **SCIENTIFIC** study of behavior.* Psychologists use a critical scientific approach to understand the world around them. This allows one to skeptically evaluate information and draw valid conclusions regarding their observations.

2) *Psychology is a multi-disciplinary field.* Although you may hear about different fields within psychology (e.g. cognitive psychology, social psychology, behavioral neuroscience, etc.), these sub-disciplines interact to help us fully understand behavioral phenomena.

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

Learning 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.

Lecture Attendance: This course will be taught in a traditional face-to-face format. I do not take attendance in lectures and technically speaking, simply missing lectures does

not result in point deductions from your grade. **However, you are responsible for all material covered in class and in-class announcements.**

Please do NOT come to class if you are sick. At any point in the semester if you cannot come to class because you have symptoms, have had a potential COVID exposure, etc., you should contact me and we will work together to ensure you can still meet class requirements.

SLA Workshop Attendance: You should attend the SLA section you are enrolled in, unless you make prior arrangements with Gia. Below is the detailed attendance policy created by the [Tutoring Center](#) for SLA workshops. **Please note that the attendance policy for SLA workshops is DIFFERENT from the attendance policy for lecture class sessions.**

- All students are **required** to attend weekly SLA workshops until Exam 1 grades are posted.
- After Exam 1 grades are posted, students with an overall grade of a B or higher on the exam (so, 83% or higher) are excused from weekly SLA workshops, although they are encouraged to continue attending. **Students will continue to be excused from the workshops if their grade on Exam 2 is also B (83%) or higher.** That means that if a student scores lower than a B (83%) on Exam 2, they will be required to attend weekly SLA workshops again.
- Students are strongly encouraged to monitor their grade through the Blackboard Gradebook. It is the student's responsibility to know – or find out - if they are required to continue attending SLA workshops after an assessment has been graded. Students should ask the professor or just continue to attend the workshops.
- If a student has 1, 2, or 3 unexcused absences for weekly SLA workshops, 10 points will be deducted from the SLA attendance portion of the final grade for each unexcused absence. **No more than 3 unexcused absences from the weekly SLA workshops will be permitted during the semester. Students who exceed their allowable number of unexcused absences will receive an F in their PSY101 course.** Please see below for examples of excused and unexcused absences.
- Attendance for the complete workshop session is required. A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late or leaves more than 5 minutes early will be marked as absent.

Course Blackboard Site: lms.gvsu.edu

All relevant content can be accessed through the course website on Blackboard. When you first access the site, click on the “Start Here” link in the course menu for an overview of the site. Links to course content, course tools, and other relevant information can be found in the course menu. A detailed weekly course schedule can be found at the end of the syllabus.

Technology Needs: Although this course is being taught in a traditional face to face format, there are some basic technology requirements for the course.

High-speed internet access.

Laptop, tablet, and/or smartphone. A video camera and microphone are only required if you would like to meet with me virtually. If you do not have a laptop, you may be able to apply for financial aid to help cover the cost of one. Please visit the GVSU [Special Circumstance & Financial Hardship Requests](#) site for more information. Laptops may also be checked out from the Library for up to four hours with a photo ID.

Microsoft Office. As a GVSU student, you have access to Microsoft Office 365 for free. You will find the information on how to access this at <http://www.gvsu.edu/it/softwarehardware-discounts-31.htm>.

Zoom. I will be holding virtual appointments through Zoom. All current term enrolled students are eligible to use the GVSU Zoom Business license. You can find more information at <https://www.gvsu.edu/it/gvsu-zoom-business-plan-247.htm>

Communication: I will be sending emails regularly (at least once a week) through Blackboard. You are expected to check your GVSU email regularly for course announcements and updates. The best way to contact me is by email. Monday through Friday, I will check my email regularly between the hours of 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response after 24 hours, please feel free to follow up on the original email. I check my email occasionally during the weekend. However, I do reserve the right to limit my email access over the weekend so please do not expect a response until the following Monday unless it is something urgent. If your email is regarding an urgent matter (i.e. illness, family emergency, etc.), please include the word “URGENT” in the subject line, and I will do my best to respond to your email as soon as possible.

Office Hours: My regularly scheduled office hours will be held face to face in my office (1313 AuSable Hall) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00-11:00 AM. I also keep an “Open Door Policy” so please feel free to drop in any time I am in my office and the door is open or knock if the door is closed. I am also available to meet in person or online outside of my regularly scheduled office hours by appointment. Appointments can be scheduled through the “Book an Appointment” link on Blackboard or through the link above.

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

Text: King, LA. (2023) The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View (6th edition).

This text is available as an eBook in the Course Blackboard site as part of the GVSU Save program. You can also rent or purchase an electronic version of the text online via the websites below.

Course Topics: The course Blackboard site is organized by course topic. PowerPoint slides can be found in each course topic folder. Links to quizzes, readings, online discussions, and other relevant materials will also be found in these modules.

Course Deadlines: All assignments are expected to be completed by the due date listed in the weekly course schedule. **However, accommodations – extended/alternative deadlines, waiving late work point deductions – are available for the following “excused” reasons:**

- intercollegiate event (e.g., sports travel) or University-sponsored event (e.g., class field trip)
- observance of religious holidays
- military duty
- jury duty, or appearance in court or other government hearings
- birth or adoption of child
- attendance at an academic and/or professional conference
- medical or professional appointments (e.g., job interviews, graduate school interviews, doctor’s appointment)
- student medical conditions (e.g., COVID quarantine, hospitalization) that significantly limit ability to engage with the course material
- medical conditions of a loved one if the student is serving as a caretaker
- death of a loved one, funerals or memorial services
- conflicts due to childcare

This list is not exhaustive. If you believe your reason/experience fits the general rationale behind “excused” (e.g., circumstances beyond your control despite your best efforts to take control), please reach out to discuss it. **The following is a list of reasons that are unexcused and NOT eligible for accommodations:**

- vacation travel, this includes leaving campus early/arriving back late for long weekends
- forgetting or mixing up deadlines
- improperly submitting the assignment, or submitting an incomplete or inaccessible version
- conflicts due to work schedules (although training appointments for work are considered excused)
- incarceration

To request an accommodation please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your situation. If you are unsure whether you are eligible for accommodations, just ask.

Exams: There will be three in class exams that will be worth 100 points each. The exam format will be multiple choice. **The goal of the exams is to gauge your ability**

to integrate and explain concepts in a manner that goes beyond a simple repetition of facts and definitions. See the weekly schedule for specific exam dates.

Quizzes: There will be 13 online quizzes based on the topics covered in the course. **The goal of these quizzes is to evaluate your basic understanding of the material.** These quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions worth one point each, for a total of 10 points per quiz. **You will only have one attempt to submit the quiz.** Once you submit the quiz, you will no longer be able to revise your answers. You are free to use your notes, readings, and other supplemental materials to complete the quizzes. If a technical error occurs and your quiz is not submitted properly, please email me as soon as possible. **All quizzes will be due on a Friday by 11:59 PM** (see specific dates in the weekly course schedule). Your score will be available upon submission of the quiz. Correct answers will be available for you to review after the due date for the quiz. **Late quizzes will only be accepted due to excused reasons as outlined above.**

Online Video Discussions: There will be three graded discussions during the semester, worth 10 points each, using Blackboard's Padlet tool. These discussions may be accessed directly in Blackboard.

The topics for these discussions are:

- Introductions
- Cognitive Biases
- Stigma and Psychiatric Disorders

The goal of this assignment is to allow us to have more interactive discussions regarding contemporary topics in the field of psychology. For each topic, you will be required to record a post regarding the discussion topic that will be worth 10 points. These posts **will be due on a Friday by 11:59 PM** (see specific dates in the weekly course schedule). **After the due date, 2 points will be deducted from the overall grade per calendar day for late submissions unless there is an excused reason for the late submission.**

Enrichment Activities: Students must complete four Enrichment Activity credits during the semester. Each credit is worth 10 points. See Appendix 1 for more information about this activity.

Course Grades: Grades will be based on your performance on examinations, quizzes, short papers, discussion assignments, and in-class participation. **EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES WILL NOT BE LIKELY.** Grades are calculated based on the following point values.

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Quizzes	130 points
Padlet Discussions	30 points
Enrichment Activities	40 points
SLA Attendance	50 points
Total Available Points	550 points

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale. Final grades are calculated as the percentage of points based on the of the total points available and are rounded to the nearest whole number.

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	≤ 59

Please consider this general description of what each grade means.

F/D/D+: Despite your best efforts, you are struggling with the material and need help to understand why you are having difficulty. Please set up an appointment so that we can determine the best course of action for you if you fall in this range.

C-/C/C+: You did all the necessary work. You learned all the basic material and know the correct answers.

B-/B/B+: You did all the necessary work. You learned all the basic material, and you know the correct answers. Plus you really get the material. You understand the correct answers and could teach it to a friend.

A-/A: You did all the necessary work. You learned all the basic material, and you know the correct answers. You really get the material. You understand the correct answers and could teach it to a friend. Plus you can use it flexibly and adaptively. You understand WHY the answers are what they are, and how this material can be applied to different situations.

Academic Integrity:

The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The university expects that both faculty members and students will honor these principles and in so doing protect the validity of university grades. This means that **all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind**. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as their own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

Accommodation for disability:

If you are in need of accommodations due to a learning, physical, or other disability you must present a memo to me from Student Accessibility Resources, 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 (215 CON) by calling 331-2490 or email to access@gvsu.edu. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the issued memo. All discussions will remain confidential.

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.

Weekly Course Schedule (Subject to change)

Week	Date	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	1/6 Course Introduction	Required Readings: - Syllabus	Due Friday, 1/10 by 11:59 PM - Padlet: Introductions - What is Psychology? Quiz
	1/8, 1/10 What is Psychology	Required Readings - King: Chapter 1	
Week 2	1/13, 1/15, 1/17 Psychology's Scientific Methods	Required Readings - King: Chapter 2	Due Friday, 1/17 by 11:59 PM - Psychology's Scientific Methods Quiz
Week 3	1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess No Class		
	1/22, 1/24 Biological Foundations of Behavior	Required Readings - King: Chapter 3	
Week 4	1/27 Biological Foundations of Behavior (continued)	Required Readings - King: Chapter 3	Due Friday, 1/31 by 11:59 PM - Biological Foundations of Behavior Quiz
	1/29, 1/31 Sensation and Perception	Required Readings - King: Chapter 4	
Week 5	2/3 Sensation and Perception	Required Readings - King: Chapter 4	Due Friday, 2/7 by 11:59 PM - Sensation and Perception Quiz
	2/5 Exam 1 Review		
	2/7 EXAM 1 - What is Psychology, Psychology's Scientific Methods, Biological Foundations of Behavior, Sensation and Perception		

Week	Date	Readings	Assignments
Week 6	2/10, 2/12, 2/14 Learning	Required Readings - King: Chapter 6	Due Friday, 2/14 by 11:59 PM - Learning Quiz
Week 7	2/17, 2/19, 2/21 Memory	Required Readings - King: Chapter 7	Due Friday, 2/21 by 11:59 PM - Memory Quiz
Week 8	2/24, 2/26, 2/28 Thinking, Intelligence, and Language	Required Readings - King: Chapter 8	Due Friday, 2/28 by 11:59 PM - Thinking, Intelligence, and Language Quiz - Padlet: Cognitive Biases
Week 9	3/2-3/9 Spring Break No Classes		
Week 10	3/10, 3/12, 3/14 Human Development 3/14 Exam 2 Review	Required Readings - King: Chapter 9	Due Friday, 3/14 by 11:59 PM - Human Development Quiz
Week 11	3/17 EXAM 2 - Learning, Memory, Thinking, Language, and Intelligence, Human Development		
	3/19, 3/21 Motivation and Emotion	Required Readings - King: Chapter 10	Due Friday, 3/21 by 11:59 PM - Motivation and Emotion Quiz
Week 12	3/24, 3/26, 3/28 Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Required Readings - King: Chapter 11	Due Friday, 3/28 by 11:59 PM - Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Quiz
Week 13	3/31, 4/2, 4/4 Personality	Required Readings - King: Chapter 12	Due Friday, 4/4 by 11:59 PM - Personality Quiz

Week	Date	Readings	Assignments
Week 14	4/7, 4/9, 4/11 Social Psychology	Required Readings - King: Chapter 13	Due Friday, 4/11 by 11:59 PM - Social Psychology Quiz
Week 15	4/14, 4/16, 4/18 Psychological Disorders and Treatment	Required Readings - King: Chapters 15 and 16	Friday, 4/18 by 5:00 PM - Deadline for Enrichment Activities
			Friday, 4/18 by 11:59 PM - Psychological Disorders and Treatment Quiz - Padlet: Stigma and Psychiatric Disorders
Finals Week	Wednesday, 4/23 2:00-3:50 PM	EXAM 3 - Motivation and Emotion, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality, Personality, Social Psychology, Psychological and Treatment	

APPENDIX #1: Enrichment Activities: Learning about Psychological Research

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, however, **at least two full credits of EAs must be completed in person.**

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.**

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.

APPENDIX #2: Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) Program Expectations

What is SLA? What are SLA workshops?: Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) is a form of peer-led supplemental instruction that involves collaboration, group learning, and interaction to help students succeed in historically difficult courses. SLA workshops provide students with learning and study strategies like notetaking, test-taking, reading skills, etc. as well as structured review and study time with peers.

What are the benefits of SLA?: While the data changes every semester, students who enroll in an SLA section of a course and attend workshops regularly, typically gain: A greater sense of community and belonging

- Higher test and final course grades
- A deeper understanding of course content
- Positive study habits and reading skills
- A positive relationship with a peer tutor/mentor

What should I expect from the SLA workshops?: These are all about active engagement and discussion, so attendance AND participation are important. Students should expect to:

- Bring their textbooks/notes to workshops.
- Participate fully and actively.
- Work with other students and/or individually when asked.
- Work only on PSY101 course material during the workshop.
- Address the Peer Facilitator respectfully.
- Treat classmates respectfully.
- Strive for a positive attitude about your learning.

Who is the Peer Facilitator for PSY 101?: We are lucky to be working with Gia Randazzo this semester! You will see Gia during our lecture class, and she will be leading the SLA workshops. Gia and Dr. Valdez will work closely throughout the semester to ensure SLA workshops are informative and interesting, and that student needs are addressed.

Here is a message from Gia: I'm in my junior year, a psych major, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone and being your SLA facilitator for the semester!

You can connect with Gia before and after lecture and workshops and via email at randazgi@mail.gvsu.edu.

Here are some things you can expect from Gia as your SLA Workshop Peer Facilitator:

- Attend all lecture class sessions (a great way to touch base with her if you have questions).

- Prepare weekly workshop sessions that address difficult course content, engage students in active learning activities, and build important learning and study strategies.
- Answer questions about course material.
- Advise students on resources available from GVSU.

But Gia is NOT a teaching assistant, and IS NOT responsible for:

- Re-lecturing on material covered during the lecture class sessions.
- Teaching lecture class sessions in the professor's absence.
- Answering questions about grades or course requirements. Instead, consult the syllabus and BB for this, or ask your professor.
- Grading assignment and exams.
- Providing late work/make-up accommodations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SLA PROGRAM AND FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR EDUCATION!