

**PSY 101 – INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
WINTER 2025**

**Section 50: TR 11:30 am -- 12:45 pm
176 Lake Michigan Hall**

INSTRUCTOR: Joel Quamme, Ph. D.
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PHONE: 331-2153
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OFFICE HOURS: MW 1:00pm-2:30pm or by appointment

SLA Facilitator: Ava Williamson (willava@mail.gvsu.edu)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

GVSU SAVE PSY 101 1st DAY DIGITAL ACCESS TO REVEL for Lilienfeld, S. O., Lynn, S. J., Namy, L. L. (2022). *Psychology: From Inquiry to Understanding*. (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780135441213

We are using an electronic version of the above textbook on the Pearson REVEL platform. Access to REVEL is required, and all students enrolled in this class are automatically given access through the GVSU Save program the first day of class. GVSU Save will automatically charge your account for these materials.

You have the choice to opt-out of GVSU Save and purchase REVEL access elsewhere. If you wish to opt out, you must do so by Friday 1/17 to avoid having your account charged.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the science of Psychology. This course will emphasize the major theories of behavior and mental processes, the contemporary methods used by psychologists, and the major findings of psychological research. This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the breadth of topics studied by psychologists (such as neuroscience, perception, learning, memory, personality, social behavior, and psychological disorders, among others), as well as foster critical thinking about psychological phenomena, and awareness of how empirically-validated psychological principles apply to daily life.

This course fulfills the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement:
<https://www.gvsu.edu/gened/foundations-social-and-behavioral-sciences-277.htm>

Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) sessions:

All students enrolled in this course must also attend their SLA section once per week. The SLA sections are lead by the SLA facilitator for this class, who is listed above. For the first 5 weeks, attendance is mandatory for all students. Beginning Week 6 (following the first exam), attendance becomes optional if your exam average is B or higher (83%). More than three unexcused absences from an SLA section, whenever it is mandatory, may result in a failing grade for this class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific process in Psychology.
2. Identify major psychological theories and use psychological terminology correctly.
3. Critically evaluate the findings of psychological research.
4. Recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life.

GRADING

Grades in this class will be computed from performance on 4 *exams*, a number of *quizzes and assignments* available online, completion of 4 *enrichment activity credits*, and participation in in-class activities. These components of the course will count toward your grade in the following proportions:

	Points	Percent
Top 3 Exams	360 (120 Each)	57.1%
Lowest Exam	60	9.5%
Online assignments and quizzes	132	21.0%
4 Enrichment Activities	48 (12 each)	7.6%
In-class activities	30	4.8%
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TOTAL POSSIBLE	630	100.0%

Grading scale. The percentage of total credit you earn will be converted to a letter grade according to the following scheme; any adjustments to this scale below will be announced in class:

A	100-93	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-59

CLASS MEETINGS

What will we do in class? Class meetings will consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, and other activities designed to help you think through the theories, evidence, and application of psychological concepts. Each week, there will be a reading assignment to be completed ahead of time (See Online assignments, below). On Tuesday and Thursday in class, we will revisit and amplify key concepts from the readings, as well as cover additional material that is related, but not in the text. On some days, there will be activities in class that contribute to your grade.

What happens if you miss class or have to leave early? If you do need to miss class, be sure to get notes from somebody. Missing class a few times is unlikely to cause problems, but your grade will likely suffer if you do not attend class regularly. First, you will miss out on points from in-class activities we do while you are absent; I may excuse your absence if it was unavoidable, but in-class activities otherwise cannot be made up. You will also miss much critical information from lectures or discussions that do not appear in readings but will be tested on exams. I will make lecture slides and study guides available on Blackboard, but (as you will discover) these slides will not include all of the details covered in class!

ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

What online assignments will there be? Each week, there will REVEL assignments and Blackboard quizzes to complete. These are both accessed within Blackboard. All together, they will count toward 21% your grade. Online assignments are typically due MONDAY of the week they are assigned, unless stated otherwise on the schedule (see below). I will post them no later than the Monday of the previous week, so you'll have at least a week to do them.

What are "REVEL assignments"? Revel assignments consist of 2-5 sections from the textbook to read, with a short quiz to complete following each section and a few brief interactive activities to complete. Sometimes there will also be an experiment simulation to complete. REVEL assignments can be found by going to the GVSU Save link on Blackboard. Each week there will be somewhere between 2 and 10 points that can be earned on Revel. Completing REVEL reading assignments and quizzes will with reasonable effort will be worth one point per section. Experiment simulations are worth 5 points each based on the quiz score at the end.

What are "Blackboard Quizzes?" A short quiz each week also be posted on blackboard consisting of 10 questions covering material from REVEL readings, in-class lectures, and any other from that week. They will be worth 5 points and I will post them at the same time as REVEL assignments (typically Monday), and with the same due date (typically Monday night). The quizzes are not designed to be difficult or stressful (there is no time limit, its all open-book and open-notes) but to give you some practice answering questions about the material we've covered, and retrieving information that you've learned. Testing yourself actually improves learning!

What if you forget to do an assignment or quiz by the deadline? If you miss a deadline for a Revel assignment or a blackboard quiz, complete it anyway. Points will be reduced for late completions, but earning some points is better than no points! I will allow you to miss a few quizzes and assignments without penalty, or if you do all of them, I'll drop your lowest few scores. The exact number you can miss will be decided a little later in the semester (it depends on how many end up being assigned). I'll give you more details about quizzes and assignments in class.

EXAMS

How many exams are there? There will be 4 exams in this course. The first 3 exams will be non-cumulative, and each will cover about 1/3 of the total course material. The final exam will be cumulative across all course material.

What format are the exams? Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

How much are the exams worth? Exams altogether count for 2/3 or 67% of your grade. However, I will weigh your top three exam scores more highly than your lowest score. Your lowest exam (which ever one it is) will be worth only half the points of the other three.

What material do exams cover? Exams will cover the content of all course activities both in class (such as lectures, videos, demonstrations), and outside of class (text readings and assignments). Everything covered in the course is fair game for the final exam. Although there is a lot of overlap between the readings and in-class content, some of the material you need to know for the test will only come from the readings, and some will come only from lecture. I will post study objectives on Blackboard to help you summarize and organize the material we've covered as you study and review on your own.

What happens if you miss an exam? *Do not* miss an exam if you can help it! I will excuse a missed exam and allow you to make it up if your absence is due to a university-sanctioned event, a personal illness, family emergency, or major religious holiday, provided that you do the following:

- 1) Give me advance notice of at least one week (if your absence is foreseeable), or a timely explanation on your return (if the absence is unforeseeable)

and

- 2) Provide me with documentation that your absence was avoidable, such as a note from an appropriate faculty member, university administrator, physician, or clergy member.

If you know in advance you must miss an exam, check with me first to find out if your absence will be excused. If you miss an exam due to an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance, notify me by phone or e-mail as soon as possible afterward. An unexcused absence from an exam will constitute a score of 0 and cannot be made up.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

What is an “enrichment activity?” These are activities outside of class in which you will experience elements of psychological research first-hand. See the section at the end of the syllabus for more detailed information on your options for completing this requirement.

How much are enrichment activities worth? 7.6% of your grade will be based on completing enrichment activities. Each enrichment activity is worth some number of credits (typically between ½ and 1 credit), and you must earn at total of four credits to achieve full credit for this part of the grade (each full credit is worth 12 points). See the “Enrichment Activities” section at the end of the syllabus for more detailed information.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

If for any reason the university cancels class on an exam day (e.g., severe weather), the exam will be moved to the next class meeting.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices with audible signals or alarms OFF during class time.

ACCOMODATION FOR DISABILITY

Any student in this class who has need of accommodation because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) at 331-2490, or <https://www.gvsu.edu/accessibility/>. 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.

GVSU COURSE POLICIES

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

CLASS SCHEDULE

We will try to stick to this schedule, but it may need to be modified later in the course:

Week	ASSIGNMENTS & QUIZZES: Due MONDAY unless otherwise indicated	CLASS TOPICS: What we will cover in class on TUESDAY and THURSDAY
1	REVEL Ch. 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 (Due M, 1/13)	1/7 (T) - Introduction to Psychological Science 1/9 (R) - Roots of Psychology
2	Syllabus Quiz Blackboard Quiz 1 Revel Ch. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5	1/14 (T) - Methods in Psychology I 1/16 (R) - Methods in Psychology II
3	Blackboard Quiz 2 Revel Ch. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3	1/21 (T) - Biological Bases I 1/23 (R) - Biological Bases II
4	Blackboard Quiz 3 Revel Ch. 3.4, 10.1, 10.2 Revel Hemispheres experiment	1/28 (T) - Biological Bases III 1/30 (R) - Arousal & Emotion
5	Blackboard Quiz 4 (Due M) Revel Ch. 4.1, 4.2 (Due F)	2/4 (T) - EXAM 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 10) 2/6 (R) - Sensation & Perception I
6	Blackboard Quiz 5 Revel Ch. 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6	2/11 (T) - Sensation & Perception II 2/13 (R) - Sensation & Perception III
7	Blackboard Quiz 6 Revel: Mueller-Lyer Illusion Revel: Ch. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3	2/18 (T) - Learning & Conditioning I 2/20 (R) - Learning & Conditioning II
8	Blackboard Quiz 7 Revel: Ch. 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 Revel: Serial Position Exp. (Due F)	2/25 (T) - Cognition: Memory I 2/27 (R) - Cognition: Memory II
9	NO CLASS -- SPRING BREAK!	
10	Blackboard Quiz 8 (Due M) Revel Ch. 7.5, 8.1 Blackboard Quiz 9 (Due W)	3/11 (T) - Cognition: Thinking & Reasoning 3/13 (R) -- EXAM 2 (Ch. 4, 6, 7, 8)
11	Revel Ch. 13.1, 13.5, 13.6	3/18 (T) -- Personality & Psych. Measurement I 3/20 (R) -- Personality & Psych. Measurement II

12	Blackboard Quiz 10 Revel: IPIP-NEO Inventory Ch. 9.1, 9.2 9.3, 9.4	3/25 (T) -- Development I 3/27 (R) -- Development II
13	Blackboard Quiz 11 Revel: Ch. 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5	4/1 (T) -- Social Psychology I 4/3 (R) -- Social Psychology II
14	Blackboard Quiz 12 Revel: IAT Experiment Revel: Ch. 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5	4/8 (T) - Psychological Disorders I 4/10 (R) - Psychological Disorders II
15	Blackboard Quiz 13	4/15 (T) - EXAM 3 (Ch. 9, 12, 13, 14) 4/17 (R) - Synthesis and Review for Final
Finals WEEK	4/22 (T) - FINAL EXAM (Cumulative) 10:00am-11:50am	

SOME OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1/10 (Friday)** 5:00pm deadline to drop classes for 100% tuition refund.
- 1/17 (Friday)** 5:00pm deadline to opt-out of GVSU Save
- 1/31 (Friday)** 5:00pm deadline to drop classes for 75% tuition refund.
- 3/21 (Friday)** 5:00pm deadline to withdraw from a class with a “W” grade.
- 4/18 (Friday)** 5:00pm deadline to complete any **enrichment activities**

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.