



Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Ashley M. Bennett (she/her/hers) – Call me Dr. B!

Office: 2129 Au Sable Hall

Email: ashley.bennett@gvsu.edu (expect responses within 48-hours)

Student Drop-In Hours:

- Tuesdays @ 10:00am – 11:00am
- Wednesdays @ 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Table 1. Meeting Times and Locations

Section	Class Time	Location	SLA Workshop (see Appendix B)
110 (CRN: 34045)	MWF 10:00am - 10:50am	LMH-176	Facilitator: MaKenna Smith (smitmm5@mail.gvsu.edu) Meeting Times & Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 111: T 4:00pm - 4:50pm (MAK-A2165) • Section 112: F 3:00pm - 3:50pm (MAK-A2165) • Section 113: R 4:00pm - 4:50pm (MAK-A2165)
65 (CRN: 32518)	MWF 11:00am - 11:50am	LMH-114	Facilitator: Gabriela Orozco (orozcog@mail.gvsu.edu) Meeting Times & Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 66: F 9:00am - 9:50am (LSH-227) • Section 67: F 10:00am - 10:50am (LSH-229)

Note. LMH = Lake Michigan Hall, LSH = Lake Superior Hall, MAK = Mackinac Hall. Lost? Here is the [campus map](#).

Important Dates for Fall 2025

- **Classes Begin** → August 25
- **100% Tuition Refund Deadline** → August 29
- **Labor Day Break** → August 31 – September 1
- **75% Tuition Refund & Credit/No Credit Deadline** → September 19
- **Fall Break** → October 19 – October 21
- **Withdraw with a "W" Grade Deadline** → November 7
- **University Break** → November 26 – November 30
- **Classes End** → December 6
- **Final Exams** → December 6 – December 13
- **Grades Due** → December 16

Course Specifics

Required Text: Wayne Weiten's (2022) *Psychology: Themes and Variations* (11th Ed)

- ISBN: 978-0-357-37482-5

Course Description: General survey of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and experience, including overt actions and mental activity. Covers how psychologists think and act as scientists and how the study of its subject matter may be integrated at the biological, psychological, and social levels of analysis. Fulfills one of the Foundations - Social and Behavioral Sciences. Offered every academic year.

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

- Identify major psychological theories/concepts and use psychological terms 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

Expectations

Class Format: Our class sessions will combine lecture, discussion, and active learning strategies to help you engage with the material in multiple ways. The textbook and lectures are meant to complement one another. Class sessions will NOT be recorded.

Technology: Access to Blackboard (BB) Learning Management System is required. You should also have regular access to a computer or tablet. Check out the resources below:

- [GVSU Computer Lab Hours & Locations](#)
- [GVSU Borrow a Laptop \(and Chargers\)](#)

Engagement: This course is challenging and success depends on active engagement. You are responsible for the work (e.g., complete readings, show up prepared, and meet deadlines).

Students will be expected to: Read the syllabus and follow the schedule

- Complete readings and assignments on time
- Participate in class and stay engaged
- Ask questions when you need help

Table 2. Grading Breakdown

Course Component	Percent
Participation	10%
Deep Dives (3)	20%
Chapter Quizzes (15)	20%
Unit Exams (3)	40%
Enrichment Activities	10%

Table 3. Grading Scale

Grade	% Earned
A	≥ 93.00%
A-	90.00% – 92.94%
B+	87.00% – 89.94%
B	83.00% – 86.94%
B-	80.00% – 82.94%
C+	77.00% – 79.94%
C	73.00% – 76.94%
C-	70.00% – 72.94%
D+	67.00% – 69.94%
D	60.00% – 66.94%
F	≤ 59.94%

Grades

Your grade is based on the breakdown in Table 2. Each component is designed to help you demonstrate your understanding of the course material. Please review the table carefully so you know where to focus your time and energy. All grades will be posted on BB. Table 3 outlines how your letter grade will be assigned. See Appendix A for details on Enrichment Activities (EA), and see Appendix B for details on Student Learning Assistance (SLA).

Participation (10%)

Students are required to attend class. Participation is broken down into two chunks: (a) 5% of your grade will come from class attendance and (b) 5% of your grade will come from SLA attendance. Attendance will be taken by virtually submitting an activity (e.g., worksheet or group assignment) or completing a form.

Deep Dives (20%)

Deep Dives are your opportunity to engage directly with real psychological research. You'll read accessible excerpts from journal articles and answer a set of questions that connect the findings back to concepts from class. You will complete **three Deep Dives** over the semester and there will be in-class worktime dedicated to completing these assignments.

Chapter Quizzes (20%)

You will also complete reading quizzes designed to help you stay on track with textbook material for each chapter. These are multiple-choice and they're a good way to prepare for the exams.

- There will be 15 quizzes over the semester
- Each is due before class (BC) to check your understanding
- You may complete quizzes in groups (e.g., study groups)
- Quizzes are open-book and open-note
- You get one attempt for each quiz

Unit Exams (40%)

There will be three exams. Exam dates are provided in Table 4. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams are NOT cumulative. All exams will include multiple-choice questions only. Exams will be conducted in class via BB. Therefore, you must bring a charged laptop computer or tablet to class on exam days. [Click here](#) for helpful technology resources.

Table 4. Exam Schedule

	Content	Section 110	Section 65
Exam 1	CH1 – CH5	F 9/26 @ 10:00am - 10:50am	F 9/26 @ 11:00am - 11:50am
Exam 2	CH6 – CH10	W 10/29 @ 10:00am - 10:50am	W 10/29 @ 11:00am - 11:50am
Exam 3	CH11 – CH15	M 12/8 @ 10:00am - 11:50am	W 12/10 @ 10:00am - 11:50am

If you miss an exam unexpectedly (e.g., oversleeping), email as soon as possible to arrange a make-up exam. Up to a 20% penalty may be applied. There is no penalty in the case of emergencies, but you must provide documentation.

Enrichment Activities (10%)

As part of this course, you will engage in roughly 4 hours of Enrichment Activities (EA). Each activity will earn you 0.50 credits per 30 minutes of EA. Across the semester, you must earn 4.00 credits total. The number of credits will equate to your grade (see Table 5). Please read Appendix A for deadlines.

Table 5. EA Breakdown

Credits	Points
4.00	100
3.50	90
3.00	80
2.50	70
2.00	60
1.50	50
1.00	40
0.50	30
0.00	0

Late Policies

Late Assignments

You may submit a [Google Form](#) before the assignment deadline to receive an extension for up to 48 hours. You are allowed **five** Assignment Extensions across the semester. If you do not submit the form, you may submit late assignments with a 20% penalty. Also, **late assignments will not be accepted 48 hours past the original deadline**. No penalty is applied in case of emergencies, just email to set adjusted deadlines.

Class Absences

You are allowed up to three **“Can’t Do It” Days** (i.e., unexcused absences). To use one, complete the [Google Form](#) within 24 hours of the missed class. After the third “Can’t Do It” Day, any additional unexcused absences will result in a reduction to your participation grade.

AI Policy

You may use AI as a tool to support your learning—not to replace your critical thinking or original work. Below, acceptable uses of AI are outlined for this class. If you’re unsure whether something crosses a line, just ask.

Acceptable AI Use:

- Brainstorming ideas for assignments or study topics
- Asking AI to explain complex concepts in simpler language
- Checking grammar or clarity in your own writing
- Exploring examples of psychological concepts or theories

Unacceptable AI Uses:

- Submitting AI-generated text as your own work (i.e., copying full sentences)
- Using AI to complete quizzes or other assignments meant to assess your understanding
- Letting AI replace engagement with readings or lectures (e.g., summarize articles)

If you use AI in this course, keep a dedicated channel for PSY101. For Deep Dives specifically, you should include all of AI prompts and output in an appendix of the submitted assignment.

You are responsible for the work you turn in. If unacceptable use of AI is suspected, a one-on-one will be scheduled to inquire further. After one formal warning has been issued, misuse of AI will be treated as an academic integrity issue and handled accordingly.

All course materials are my intellectual property and protected under copyright. This includes various materials, such as lecture slides, assignment instructions, quiz and exam questions, and prompts. You may NOT upload, submit, or share any course materials to generative AI platforms (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) or any third-party tool without my explicit permission. Doing so may constitute a violation of academic integrity and copyright.

Study Groups & Extra Credit

You are encouraged to create Study Groups. If your group meets for one hour/week outside of class, you'll earn **+3% extra credit** on each exam.

Here's how it works:

- Form a group with 2–4 students from our class
- Name your study group (e.g., Freud & Furious, or Pavlov's Dawgs)
- Meet once per week for at least one hour (starting Week 2 and skip Thanksgiving week)
- Your group can meet in-person or on Zoom
- Each week, take a group selfie (if in-person) or Zoom room screenshot (if online)
- Track your meetings in a shared document that lists the date, names, and photos
- All members must submit the tracker before each exam (the document may be identical)
- Each group member is allowed one absence per unit

You may join a study group at the beginning of each unit. Let's say you did not join a study group for Unit 1 but you joined a group for Unit 2 and 3. Therefore, you would get the +3% extra credit on Exam 2 and 3 (but not Exam 1). Post on BB if you are looking for group members.

GVSU Resources

Pysch Friends

Need Support? Connect with Psych Friends! Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentors are trained, upper-level psychology and behavioral neuroscience students ready to help you succeed. They offer support in key areas like study strategies, exam prep, understanding major requirements, career/grad school planning, and student well-being. Follow on Instagram [@GVSU.PsychFriends](https://www.instagram.com/GVSU.PsychFriends) and schedule your online or in-person meeting at gvsu.edu/navigate.

Writing Center and Library Knowledge Market

[The Fred Meijer Center for Writing](#) is a peer service available to assist you with writing for any of your classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to help you with all

stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Also, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through Google Docs. The Center's services are free and you can drop in and work with a consultant or make an appointment. Peer support is available via the [Knowledge Market](#), which is a one-stop shop for research, writing, oral presentations, and digital projects.

GVSU Policies

Student Accessibility Resources

Grand Valley State University strives to provide an inclusive environment across campus that is accessible to all individuals with a diverse range of abilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate opportunities within all class activities and programs because your success is important to me. If you are encountering difficulties that are interrupting your learning experience please feel free to make those known to me as soon as possible, as early planning is essential.

If you feel that you need accommodations in this course, you must present a memo to me from Student Accessibility Resources, indicating the existence of a disability and the approved accommodations. If the class meets in person, you should schedule a meeting with me during office hours to discuss your accommodations. If your class is online or hybrid, please forward your memo to me in an email and schedule a virtual or phone appointment with me to discuss your accommodations. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you have not already done so, please contact the Student Accessibility Resources office (215 CON) by calling (616) 331-2490 or by email access@gvsu.edu. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the Accessibility Resources issued memo. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so that the university and I can develop a plan to assist you. All discussions remain confidential.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct (usually) happens unintentionally. Please take some time to review [GVSU's Policy on Academic Misconduct](#) here. Any violation of academic integrity, even on a small scale, can result in a failing assignment grade or overall grade in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). Read about OSCCR's [investigation process](#) here.

Other Policies

This course is subject to other [Course Policies](#) listed on the GVSU website.

Course Schedule

The schedule on Table 5 outlines our class dates, topics, homework assignments, and other deadlines. There will be NO homework assigned during exam weeks. Please note that the schedule is subject to change.

Table 6. Readings & Deadlines by Class Date

Class	Date	Topic	Homework
Week 1			
Monday	8/25	Syllabus Day	- CH1 Quiz (Due: 8/29 BC)
Wednesday	8/27	How to Read Research	
Friday	8/29	CH1: Introduction	
Week 2			
Monday	9/1	NO CLASS – Labor Day Break	- CH2 Quiz (Due: 9/3 BC)
Wednesday	9/3	CH2: Research Methods	
Friday	9/5	CH2: Research Methods	
Week 3			
Monday	9/8	CH3: Biological Psychology	- CH3 Quiz (Due: 9/8 BC)
Wednesday	9/10	CH3: Biological Psychology	
Friday	9/12	Deep Dive Work Day	
Week 4			
Monday	9/15	CH4: Sensation & Perception	- CH4 Quiz (Due: 9/15 BC) - CH5 Quiz (Due: 9/19 BC) - Deep Dive 1 (Due: 9/19 @ 11:59pm)
Wednesday	9/17	CH4: Sensation & Perception	
Friday	9/19	CH5: Consciousness	
Week 5			
Monday	9/22	CH5: Consciousness	
Wednesday	9/24	Review for Exam 1	
Friday	9/26	Exam 1	
Week 6			
Monday	9/29	CH6: Learning	- CH6 Quiz (Due: 9/29 BC) - CH7 Quiz (Due: 10/3 BC)
Wednesday	10/1	CH6: Learning	
Friday	10/3	CH7: Memory	
Week 7			
Monday	10/6	CH7: Memory	- CH8 Quiz (Due: 10/8 BC)
Wednesday	10/8	CH8: Cognition & Intelligence	
Friday	10/10	CH8: Cognition & Intelligence	
Week 8			
Monday	10/13	CH9: Motivation & Emotion	- CH9 Quiz (Due: 10/13 BC)
Wednesday	10/15	CH9: Motivation & Emotion	
Friday	10/17	Deep Dive Work Day	
Week 9			
Monday	10/20	NO CLASS – Fall Break	- CH10 Quiz (Due: 10/22 BC)

Wednesday	10/22	CH10: Human Development	- Deep Dive 2 (Due: 10/24 @ 11:59pm)
Friday	10/24	CH10: Human Development	
Week 10			
Monday	10/27	Review for Exam 2	
Wednesday	10/29	Exam 2	
Friday	10/31	CH11: Personality (ONLINE)	
Week 11			
Monday	11/3	CH11: Personality	- CH11 Quiz (Due: 11/3 BC) - CH12 Quiz (Due: 11/5 BC)
Wednesday	11/5	CH12: Social Psychology	
Friday	11/7	CH12: Social Psychology	
Week 12			
Monday	11/10	CH12: Social Psychology	- CH13 Quiz (Due: 11/12 BC)
Wednesday	11/12	CH13: Stress, Coping, & Health	
Friday	11/14	CH13: Stress, Coping, & Health	
Week 13			
Monday	11/17	CH13: Stress, Coping, & Health	- CH14 Quiz (Due: 11/19 BC)
Wednesday	11/19	CH14: Psychological Disorders	
Friday	11/21	CH14: Psychological Disorders	
Week 14			
Monday	11/24	Deep Dive Work Day (ONLINE)	
Wednesday	11/26	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
Friday	11/28	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15			
Monday	12/1	CH15: Treating Disorders	- CH15 Quiz (Due: 12/1 BC) - Deep Dive 3 (Due: 12/5 @ 11:59pm)
Wednesday	12/3	CH15: Treating Disorders	
Friday	12/5	Review for Final Exam	
Final Exam			
Monday	12/8	Section 110: Exam 3	10:00am – 11:50am
Wednesday	12/10	Section 65: Exam 3	10:00am – 11:50am

Note. BC = Before Class.

Appendix A: Enrichment Activities (EA)

In the EA portion of the course, students will be given the opportunity to experience psychological research first-hand. Two kinds of EAs are available:

- **Option 1:** Participating in research studies conducted by GVSU faculty and students
- **Option 2:** Completing activities on research techniques in psychological research

Students **must earn 4.00 EA credits** for this requirement. You earn credits by completing EAs where 1-hour is equivalent to 1.00 credit. Therefore, participating in a 30-minute EA (e.g., a brief online study) will earn 0.50 credits, while an hourlong EA would earn 1.00 credit. Both types of EAs are available in-person and online. You may complete the requirement using any combination of EA types, however, at least two full credits of EAs must be completed in-person.

EAs are scheduled and offered through the [SONA Study Scheduling System](#). You will receive an email from SONA at the beginning of the semester containing your User ID and temporary password. Check your spam folder. If you do not receive this email by Wednesday (9/3), email Hannah Todd (psychlab@gvsu.edu).

SONA maintains a strict policy protecting your privacy and confidentiality that is available for review in the Psychology Office. Click [here](#) for additional details on EA and to access the FAQ.

Prescreening Survey: Once in SONA, you will immediately earn 0.50 credits by completing the online prescreening questionnaire. This is a short survey used to determine eligibility for studies. You must be at least 18 years old to complete the prescreen. You are NOT required to complete the prescreen, but doing so increases the number of studies available to you in SONA. You can complete the prescreen at any time from the “My Profile” tab. Completing the prescreen in the first two weeks of class ensures that you will have access to the widest variety of EA activities.

EA Deadline: The last day to complete the EA requirement is **Friday (12/5) @ 5:00pm**.

Point of Contact: If you have questions about any aspect of EA, please contact the Psychology Department Lab Manager, Hannah Todd, using the contact information provided below.

- **Office:** 2224 Au Sable Hall
- **Phone:** 616-331-2427
- **Email:** psychlab@gvsu.edu

Appendix B: Structured Learning Assistance (SLA)

What is SLA? What are SLA workshops?

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, and reading skills, 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 be aware of the following expectations:

- 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

Do I have to attend the SLA workshop each week?

Students **must attend SLA for this semester** regardless of class performance. Attendance in SLA will also earn you extra credit on the final exam!

- **Only one SLA absence (or fewer):** You will earn **+3%** on the Exam 3
- **Only two SLA absences:** You will earn **+2%** on the Exam 3
- **Only three SLA absences:** You will earn **+1%** on the Exam 3
- **Only four SLA absences (or more):** You will not earn extra credit on Exam 3

You are also allowed up to three **“Can’t Do It” Days** (i.e., unexcused absences) for SLA. To use one, complete the same [Google Form](#) within 24 hours of the missed class. After the third “Can’t Do It” Day, any additional absences will result in a reduction to your participation grade.