

Grand Valley State University

Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2025 (Sections 95 and 60)

Teaching Team

Professor

Todd Williams
Office: 2313 Au Sable Hall
todd_williams@gvsu.edu

SLA Facilitators

Dylan McGrath (Section 95) Chloe Martin (Section 60)
mcgrathd@mail.gvsu.edu martichl@mail.gvsu.edu

Office Hours (Zoom) Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. For a meeting outside of office hours, please email me with your availability. Include your course number and section in your email title.

Lecture:

Todd Williams
Section 60 (T/R) 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Mackinac Hall - D2227

Structured Learning Assistance:

Chloe Martin (Section 60)
Tuesday 5:00 - 5:50 – Lake Superior Hall 227
Friday 1:00 - 1:50 – Lake Superior Hall 227

Todd Williams
Section 60: (T/R) 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.
Au Sable Hall 2302

Dylan McGrath (Section 95)
Tuesday 6:00 - 6:50 - Lake Superior Hall 226
Friday 4:00 - 4:50 – Au Sable Hall 1142

Course Description. A 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. Fulfillment of the laboratory credit typically entails serving as a research participant but can also be fulfilled through an alternate research related assignment.

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.

Evaluation:

	Description	Weight
Assignments	Effective Learning Information Literacy Miscellaneous	7.5%
Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Assessment 3	In-Class Multiple Choice	21.66%
Top Hat	Reading / Quiz Questions	7.5%
Lecture	Attendance	7.5%
Structured Learning Assistance	Attendance	7.5%
Enrichment Activities	Research Participation	5%

This is a tentative grade distribution. Class average will be centered at 75%

Rating	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Grades
Excellent	A	4.0	90-100%
Excellent	A-	3.7	85-89%
Good	B+	3.3	80-84%
Good	B	3.0	75-79%
Good	B-	2.7	70-74%
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	65-69%
Satisfactory	C	2.0	60-65%
Satisfactory	C-	1.7	55-59%
Poor	D+	1.3	50-54%
Minimal Pass	D	1.0	45-49%
Failure	F	0	0-44%

Absence/Missed Exam/Assignment: Please email within 48 hours with a reasonable explanation to receive an excused absence. Multiple absences may require documentation from a health professional. The weight of the missed exams may be transferred to the final examination.

Academic Integrity: Grand Valley State University is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behavior \(See section 4\)](#) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offense.

Accessibility: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, Please visit Student Accessibility Resources <https://www.gvsu.edu/accessibility/>

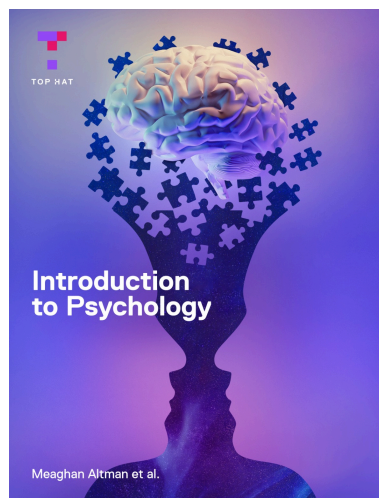
Please introduce yourself in person or by email and keep me informed of how I can best support your learning needs. If you would like physical assistance evacuating this classroom in an emergency, please help me develop a plan to assist you.

Student Academic Success Center: Students who require help in developing strategies for better time management, writing, study or examination skills should contact the Advising Resource Centre (200 STU; <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/>) for free tutoring sessions.

Psych Friends: Peer mentors offer support in key areas like study strategies, exam prep, understanding major requirements, career/grad school planning, and student well-being. Schedule your online or in-person meeting at [gvsu.edu/navigate](https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate).

Introduction to Psychology Textbook (Altman et al., 2023) and **Tophat Learning Platform**.

1. Please use the GVSU SAVE link (in Blackboard) for access to your text
2. Please also install the TopHat app on your phone via Google Play or the Apple Store



Lecture slides, readings, homework assignments, videos, popular media and research articles, will be posted in Top Hat. Blackboard will only be used for emergency announcements and grades.

Technology Requirement: Access to high-speed internet is required to access the text and complete homework assignments

Tentative Schedule (Periodically updated)

August 26/28	
Topic	Reading(s)
Tuesday: Introduction and Syllabus	Syllabus
Thursday: What is Psychology?	Bjork et al., 2013
September 2/4	
Bjork et al., 2013 reading Due by Class September 2nd	
Tuesday: Information Literacy	
Thursday: Effective Learning	Top Hat: Module 1
September 9/10	
Chapter 1 reading Due Sept 8	
Tuesday: What is Psychology?	
Thursday: Methods in Psychology	Top Hat: Module 2
September 16/18	
Methods in Psychology reading due Sept 15	
Tuesday: Methods in Psychology	
Thursday: Methods in Psychology	
September 23/23	
Development reading due Sept 22	
Tuesday: Methods in Psychology	
Thursday: Development	Top Hat: Module 4
Self-Test (Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 4) Due Sept 29	
September 30/October 2	
Tuesday: Development	
Thursday: Assessment 1	
October 7/9	
Tuesday: Sensation/Perception	Top Hat: Module 5
Thursday: Consciousness	Top Hat: Module 6

October 14/16	
Tuesday: Learning Thursday: Learning	Top Hat: Module 7
Fall Break – October 19-21	
October 23	
Tuesday: No Class Thursday: Memory	Top Hat: Module 8
October 28/30	
Tuesday: Memory Thursday: Personality	Top Hat: Module 12
November 4/6	
Tuesday: Personality Thursday: Assessment 2	
November 11/13	
Tuesday: Social Psychology Thursday: Social Psychology	Top Hat: Module 13
November 18/20	
Tuesday: Psychological Disorders Thursday: Psychological Disorders	Top Hat: Module 14
November 25	
Thanksgiving Day Recess November 26 - 30	
Tuesday: Psychological Treatments	Top Hat: Module 15
December 2/4	
Last day to complete enrichment activities Friday, December 5th @ 5:00pm.	
Tuesday: Psychological Treatments Thursday: Health and Stress	Top Hat: Module 16
Assessment 3 (Held in Regular Classroom)	

Section 60: Tuesday, December 9, 12:00 – 1:50 p.m. Section 95: Tuesday, December 9, 4:00 – 5:50 p.m.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in PSY 101

Artificial intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) can be valuable study aids when used thoughtfully and ethically. As with calculators in math, AI should supplement—not replace—your own thinking. The purpose of this course is to help you build foundational knowledge and critical thinking skills in psychology. AI use that bypasses those goals will undermine your learning.

Permitted AI Uses:

- Self-testing and practice: You may use AI to generate practice questions, quiz yourself on course concepts, or ask for alternative explanations of theories and examples.
- Clarify content: You may use AI to help explain challenging topics in different words or give additional examples related to class material.
- Organize study materials: You may use AI to summarize topics covered in class, notes, brainstorm study plans, or check APA-style formatting.

Prohibited AI Uses:

- Submitting any AI-generated text or answers for graded assignments, quizzes, or exams unless explicitly permitted by me.
- Using AI to complete in-class or take-home assessments (Top Hat questions, exams, etc.).
- Relying on AI as your sole source of information; AI tools can produce inaccurate or biased content and cannot replace the textbook, lectures, or scholarly sources.

Responsible Use Guidelines:

- Verify all information. Always cross-check AI responses with the course textbook, lecture notes, or peer-reviewed sources.
- Think critically. AI is a tool; your understanding and judgment are what matter most.
- Protect your privacy. Do not enter personal or sensitive information into AI tools.

- Be transparent. If you used AI while preparing an assignment (e.g., for brainstorming, getting feedback, or organizing ideas), include a brief note such as:
"I used ChatGPT to generate practice questions on memory and verified the information with class materials."
 Formal APA citation of AI use is not required in PSY 101 unless I specifically request it.

AI's Limitations:

- AI sometimes "hallucinates," producing factually incorrect statements.
- It may reflect biases present in its training data.
- It cannot read or access your textbook or course materials directly.

Academic Integrity:

All submitted work must reflect your own understanding. Misusing AI (for example, submitting AI-generated content for graded work without permission) will be treated as academic dishonesty under GVSU's Code of Student Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Quick Reference: When is AI Allowed?

Task or Assignment	AI Use Allowed?	Notes
Studying, self-testing	Yes	Verify with course materials
Top Hat quizzes & in-class work	No	Must be completed individually
Exams	No	Must be your own work
Enrichment reflections	Brainstorm only	Disclose if AI was used

Summary:

Responsible use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is permitted for studying and self-testing but not for graded work unless explicitly allowed. See the full policy in this syllabus for details on permitted uses, disclosure expectations, and academic integrity guidelines.

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 end of day on Wednesday, September 3rd, please check your spam folder. Should the email still not appear, please contact the Lab Manager, 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, December 5th @ 5:00pm.**

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the Enrichment Activities, please contact the Lab Manager, 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.