## Fall 2006 PSYC 100-002 Syllabus

**Course Description**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Basic Concepts in Psychology</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course number</td>
<td>Psyc 100 (Section 002)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course discipline</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course description</td>
<td><em>Prerequisite to all 200-, 300- and 400-level courses in psychology.</em> Introduction to psychology as a scientific discipline. Includes an examination of concepts and methods in learning, motivation, development, personality, and measurement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course date</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 29, 2006 through Tuesday, December 12, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Enterprise Hall, Room 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting day(s)</td>
<td>Tuesdays and Thursdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting time(s)</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite(s)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recitation</td>
<td>This class includes a recitation section, which permits more individualized learning in smaller groups. Topics in recitation will be the same as those covered in the large classroom, but concepts may be amplified and further explained, with films shown or group experiential exercises conducted to facilitate more in-depth learning.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The twelve sections are listed below, with their days, times, locations, and instructors (you must register for one):

- 301 Tuesday 8:30-9:20 a.m. Enterprise Hall 279
  Instructor: Lauren Christensen (lchrist3@gmu.edu)
- 302 Tuesday 8:30-9:20 a.m. Robinson Hall A107
  Instructor: Stephanie Wong (swong3@gmu.edu)
- 303 Tuesday 8:30-9:20 a.m. Robinson Hall A206
  Instructor: Lindsey Hutchison (lhutchis@gmu.edu)
- 304 Tuesday 9:30-10:20 a.m. Enterprise Hall 279
  Instructor: Lauren Christensen (lchrist3@gmu.edu)
- 305 Tuesday 9:30-10:20 a.m. Robinson Hall A107
  Instructor: Stephanie Wong (swong3@gmu.edu)
- 306 Tuesday 9:30-10:20 a.m. Robinson Hall A206
  Instructor: Lindsey Hutchison (lhutchis@gmu.edu)
- 307 Thursday 8:30-9:20 a.m. Enterprise Hall 279
  Instructor: Rebecca Hartman (rhartma1@gmu.edu)
Course Goals & Objectives

This course surveys many fundamental areas within the field of psychology. A principal focus is on how psychology uses scientific methods to measure, understand, and explain individual and group behaviors. Behavior is conceptualized as an interaction between the person and the environment, and it may be influenced by biological predispositions and environmental experiences. To successfully complete this course, you must be able to answer factual questions about behavior and apply psychological principles to new situations.

Course Requirements & Grading

Attendance

You are responsible for all information from each class meeting, including information that may not appear in the textbook. If you miss a class, you should borrow notes from a classmate. Attendance at recitation sections is mandatory, and failure to attend a class will affect your course grade. Test review sessions will be held on Saturdays preceding exams at times and locations to be announced; attendance is optional.

Required Experiment Participation

Each student is required to accumulate five hours of credit for participation as a subject in psychology experiments. For 5% of the grade, all students are required to serve for five hours as participants in psychological research. For students who choose not to participate, attendance at alternative lectures also meets this requirement. This is a course requirement, just as much as the exams. Failure to participate will result in a 1% reduction in the course grade for EACH hour short of the required five, reducing your final grade by up to 5%. Experiments are posted online at http://experimetrix2.com/GMU/. Register for Experimetrix early, and plan to complete experiment participation requirements early in the semester. Do not miss an appointment you have scheduled, because there is a penalty for missed appointments.
**Extra Credit**

You may earn extra credit by participating beyond the required five hours in psychology experiments, up to a limit of ten hours. Extra participation will result in a 1% increase in the course grade for EACH hour beyond the required five, raising your final grade by up to 5%. For instance, if you participate for six hours your final grade is raised by 1%, 7 hours by 2%, 8 hours by 3%, 9 hours by 4%, and 10 hours by 5%.

**Grading**

Grades are based on the average of your best three exams (85% of your final grade) and your attendance and participation in the recitation section (15% of your final grade).

There will be four multiple choice exams (including the final examination). The first three are not cumulative, but the final IS cumulative. Your grade will be the average of your BEST THREE of the four exams; that is, your lowest grade will be dropped. If you miss an exam for any reason, that will be the exam dropped; THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS. If you are satisfied with your grade after the first three exams, you may omit the final. Exam answers must be on Scantron answer sheets (Form 882-E) with 50 test items on each side, which you must purchase in advance at the bookstore.

Attendance is mandatory for all recitation sections, and 15% of your final grade is based on your attendance and participation in recitation.

**University Honor Code**

Each student is responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, requirements, and academic policies of the university. This is to remind students that the university honor code will be followed in this course.

**Textbooks**

**Required reading**


MyPsychLab: An electronic package providing you with the e-book and access to the website is strongly and very highly recommended. It includes practice exams that are very similar to those given in class.

Your choice:

- Paperbound Text by itself: ISBN 02205415059 (required)
Reading assignments should be completed before each class. You will be an active and more effective learner if you have done your reading before each lecture.

**Technology**

This course will include lectures and classroom demonstrations, video presentations, and powerpoint presentations.

**Instructor Information**

Name: John D. Wasserman, Ph.D.  
Email: jwasserm@gmu.edu  
Office location: David King Hall, Room 2052  
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Telephone: (703) 993-1748  
Teaching Assistant: Your recitation instructor is the best resource available for additional assistance or help. If you need additional help, contact Adi Pilafova at apilafov@gmu.edu.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. If you need to schedule testing time at the DRC, make sure you bring me the appropriate forms **no later** than the class preceding the test.

**Class Dates, Topics, and Reading Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>History and Applications</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Scientific Method and Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>Biological Bases of Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Biological Bases (continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Learning (cont.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>No Class - Columbus Day Recess</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
October 12  Memory (cont.)
October 17  **Exam 2**
October 19  Intelligence  Chapter 6
October 24  Emotion and Motivation  Chapter 7
October 26  Emotion and Motivation
October 31  Personality  Chapter 8
November 2  Personality (cont.)
November 7  Life Span Development  Chapter 9
November 9  Life Span Development (cont.)
November 14  Stress, Health, and Coping  Chapter 10
November 16  Stress, Health, and Coping (cont.)
November 21  Psychological Disorders & Treatment  Chapters 11, 12
November 23  Thanksgiving Recess
November 28  Disorders & Treatment (cont.)
November 30  **Exam 3**
December 5  Social Psychology  Chapter 13
December 7  Social Psychology (cont.)
December 12  **Exam 4**: Final Cumulative Examination 10:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. in Enterprise 80

**Add and Drop Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Day to Add</th>
<th>September 12th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop</td>
<td>September 29th</td>
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