

Fall 2006 PSYC 100-003 Syllabus

Course Description

Course title	Basic Concepts in Psychology
Course number	Psyc 100 (Section 003)
Course discipline	Psychology
Course description	<i>Prerequisite to all 200-, 300- and 400-level courses in psychology.</i> Introduction to psychology as a scientific discipline. Includes an examination of concepts and methods in learning, motivation, development, personality, and measurement.
Course date	Tuesday, August 29, 2006 through Tuesday, December 12, 2006
Location	Enterprise Hall, Room 80
Meeting day(s)	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Meeting time(s)	3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Prerequisite(s)	None

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. 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 <u>required</u> 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 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.

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 Kosslyn, S.M., & Rosenberg, R.S. (2005). *Fundamentals of psychology: The brain, the person, the world* (2nd ed.). Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

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

Your choice:

- Paperbound Text *plus* MyPsychLab (package): ISBN 0205463096 (recommended)
- 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	Adi Pilafova: 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

August 29	Introduction	
August 31	History and Applications	Chapter 1
September 5	Scientific Method and Ethics	
September 7	Statistics	Appendixes A-B (p. 524)
September 12	Biological Bases of Behavior	Chapter 2
September 14	Biological Bases (continued)	
September 19	Exam 1	
September 21	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
September 26	Sensation and Perception (cont.)	
September 28	Learning	Chapter 4
October 3	Learning (cont.)	
October 5	Memory	Chapter 5
October 10	No Class - Columbus Day Recess	
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 1:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. in Enterprise 80	

Add and Drop Deadlines

Last Day to Add September 12th

Last Day to Drop September 29th
