

Spring 2006 PSYC 100-001 Syllabus

Course Description

Course title	Basic Concepts in Psychology
Course number	Psyc 100 (Section 001)
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, January 24, 2006 through Tuesday, May 16, 2006
Location	Enterprise Hall, Room 80
Meeting day(s)	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Meeting time(s)	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.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.
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. <u>This is a course requirement, just as much as the exams.</u> Failure to participate will result in a 1% reduction in the course grade for <u>EACH</u> 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 Experiments 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.

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. – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment.
Telephone	(703) 993-1748
Teaching Assistant	Camelia Mircea: cmircea@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

January 24	Introduction	
January 26	History and Applications	Chapter 1
January 31	Scientific Method and Ethics	
February 2	Statistics	Appendixes A-B (p. 524)
February 7	Biological Bases of Behavior	Chapter 2
February 9	Biological Bases (continued)	
February 14	Exam 1	
February 16	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 3
February 21	Sensation and Perception (cont.)	
February 23	Learning	Chapter 4
February 28	Learning (cont.)	
March 2	Memory	Chapter 5
March 7	Memory (cont.)	
March 9	Exam 2	
March 14	No Class, Spring Break	
March 16	No Class, Spring Break	
March 21	Intelligence	Chapter 6
March 23	Emotion and Motivation	Chapter 7
March 28	Emotion and Motivation	
March 30	Personality	Chapter 8
April 4	Personality (cont.)	
April 6	Life Span Development	Chapter 9

April 11	Life Span Development (cont.)	
April 13	Stress, Health, and Coping	Chapter 10
April 18	Stress, Health, and Coping (cont.)	
April 20	Psychological Disorders & Treatment	Chapters 11, 12
April 25	Disorders & Treatment (cont.)	
April 27	Exam 3	
May 2	Social Psychology	Chapter 13
May 4	Social Psychology (cont.)	
Tuesday May 16	Exam 4: Final Cumulative Examination 7:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	

Add and Drop Deadlines

Last Day to Add	February 7, 2006
Last Day to Drop	February 27, 2006
