

George Mason University
Dr. Frecknall

General Psychology
Spring 1996

Office Hours: Tuesday, 6:00pm-7:20pm
Office Location: King Hall, rm 1001
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301-946-2701 (leave a message with your phone number)

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the basic principles of psychology, including (but not limited to) history, physiology, learning, psychotherapy, personality, motivation, adjustment, psychopathology, and measurement. The nature and function of research techniques will also be discussed.

Objectives:

1. To enable students to become familiar with the major principles and theoretical orientations of psychology through lectures and readings.
2. To develop writing and analytical skills through the use of written papers, classroom demonstration groups, and classroom discussion. These discussions will also address student's personal perspectives on psychological issues.
3. To develop a deeper understanding of the development and functions of various applications of psychology via classroom demonstrations.
4. To develop a stronger sense of self secondary to attaining competence in the subject area and an increased opportunity for interaction with peers in the class.

Required Text:

Morris, Introduction to Psychology. New York: Random House, 1991.

Course Requirements and Grading:

15% regular attendance and active participation in class
85% Four unit exams

ACADEMICS

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to "Statement of Academic Integrity" as listed in the Student Handbook.

Examinations:

Four exams will be given during the course. The mid-term will be about Feb 28. Exams are multiple choice-- they are fair, but challenging. Expect to study hard if you want an "A" or a "B". There will be NO makeup exams without permission from me, and then only in the most extenuating of circumstances.

Help in and out of class:

If at any time during the course you feel confused, overwhelmed or unsure of your standing, please contact me. I am here to help you with course related problems you encounter, but can only do so if you ask.

Extra Credit: Any student wishing extra credit may do one of the following assignments:

1. Read a book or see a movie with general psychology related theme. Write a three page analysis paper-- NOT a content reconstruction-- about the book or movie. Some suggested titles are included below. See me if you would like to know of others. All titles must be approved by me.

2. Participate in GMU's Volunteer program with a psychology/human service related project. See me for details.

Outside Readings (optional)

1. Miller, Don Ethan. Bodymind: New York: Pinnacle Books, 1976
2. Perls, Frederick. In and Out of the Garbage Pail. New York: Bantam Books, 1972
3. Rogers, Carl. R. On Becoming a Person. New Your: Houghton Mifflin
4. Yalom, Irvin, D. Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy. Basic Books, 1985
5. Hesse, Herman. Siddhartha. New York: Ballantine, 1956.

Final Notes:

There is no such thing as a "bad" question. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to ask.