

Basic Concepts in Psychology
George Mason University
Fall 1996

Course: Psychology 100, Section 005
Instructor: Grover C. Foehlinger, Jr., Ph.D.
Class Location: Enterprise Hall, Room 80
Class Schedule: Tuesday, 4:30-7:10 p.m.
Office: David J. King Hall, Room 1004
Office Hours: Tuesday, 7:15-8:00 p.m., & by appointment
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Syllabus

Required Text: Myers, D. G. (1995). *Psychology*, 4th ed. New York: Worth Publishers, Inc.

Optional Study Guide: Straub, R. O. (1995). *Study Guide*. New York: Worth Publishers, Inc.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to psychology as a scientific discipline. The student is introduced to the study of growth and development, sensation and perception, learning and thinking, motivation and emotion, personality and psychopathology, and social behavior. Specific objectives of the course include the following:

1. to gain an understanding of specific theories of psychology and the scientific investigation of those theories.
2. to acquire knowledge of factual information about psychological processes associated with cognition, perception, affect, and behavior.
3. to examine historical and contemporary research in psychology.
4. to explore social, cultural, and ethical issues related to psychology.
5. to increase awareness of psychological factors which influence our behavior in everyday life.
6. to relate principles of psychology to the liberal arts and sciences so as to foster a broad understanding of human nature.

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Reading
08/27	Overview of policies & requirements; introduction	
09/03	Psychological science; neuroscience and behavior	Ch. 1-2
09/10	The developing child	Ch. 3
09/17	Adolescence & adulthood; quiz #1	Ch. 4
09/24	Sensation; perception	Ch. 5-6
10/01	States of consciousness; quiz #2	Ch. 7
10/08	Learning; memory	Ch. 8-9
10/15	Columbus Day recess; no class	
10/22	Thinking & language; intelligence; quiz #3	Ch. 10-11
10/29	Motivation; emotion	Ch.12-13
11/05	Personality; quiz #4	Ch. 14
11/12	Psychological disorders; therapy	Ch. 15-16
11/19	Stress & health; social psychology; quiz #5	Ch. 17-18
11/26	Diversity & community; statistical reasoning	Ch. 19, Appendix
12/03	Review; conclusions; course evaluation; extra-credit projects due	
12/10	Final exam, 4:30-7:15 p.m.	

Procedures and Policies

Requirements:

The student is expected to complete assigned readings, five quizzes, a cumulative final exam, and five computer-based homework assignments during the semester. Each student is also required to complete a research activity. Details of requirements will be provided during the first class.

Evaluation:

A final grade will be based on performance of the course requirements. Required assignments will be weighted accordingly: quizzes, 40% (10% for each of five quizzes, lowest score dropped); final exam, 30%; homework, 25% (5% for each of five written assignments); and research requirement, 5%. If a homework assignment is submitted late, one point of the five possible points will be deducted for each week following the due date. Details of evaluation will be provided during the first class.

Extra-credit projects:

A student may earn supplemental credit of up to 5% of the final grade by completing an extra-credit project. Acceptable projects include preparation of an annotated bibliography of five articles from scientific psychology journals (not magazines), a book review based on a literary or scientific work exploring the psychological themes in that book, or 10 hours of volunteer work in a mental-health, geriatric, or child-development program. Details will be provided during the first class.

Attendance:

Class attendance and participation are expected but not required. A grade of "F" will be recorded if the student withdraws from the course without approval of the Dean after September 10, 1996.

Completion of Requirements:

Examinations will be administered only at the scheduled times. No make-up exams will be offered except in cases of emergency, e.g., hospitalization, death in the family, etc., with approval of the instructor **prior** to the scheduled exam. Written documentation might be requested. A grade of "Incomplete" may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor if extenuating circumstances preclude the student's completion of all requirements. No other extensions will be granted.

Academic Ethics:

By enrolling in this course, the student agrees to abide by standards of academic ethics as prescribed by the Honor Code of the University (see the *George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog, 1996-97*). Any substantiated violation of this policy, e.g., cheating and plagiarism, will result in a grade of zero for that assignment, failure for the course, or other disciplinary action by the University.