

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

SYLLABUS: PSYC 100-003

Fall, 1998

James F. Sanford

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Sep 1-3	Introduction; Psychology as a Science	Intro; Chapter 1
Sep 8-10	Neuroscience	Chapter 2
Sep 15-17	Developmental Psychology	Chapter 3, 4
Sep 22	Sensory Processes	Chapter 5
Sep 24-29	Perception	Chapter 6
Oct 1	FIRST EXAM	
Oct 6	Consciousness	Chapter 7
Oct 8	Learning	Chapter 8
Oct 13	COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY (enjoy!)	
Oct 15-20	Memory	Chapter 9
Oct 22-27	Thinking and Language	Chapter 10
Oct 29	Intelligence	Chapter 11
Nov 3	Motivation	Chapter 12
Nov 5	Emotion	Chapter 13
Nov 10	SECOND EXAM	
Nov 12-17	Personality Theory	Chapter 14
Nov 19-24	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
Nov 26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (enjoy!)	
Dec 1-3	Therapy, Stress and Mental Health	Chapter 16-17
Dec 8	Social Psychology	Chapter 18
Dec 10	THIRD EXAM	
Dec 17	FINAL EXAM	

Notes: (a) Dates for the first two exams are tentative and subject to change.

(b) Additional assignments may be made during the semester. These may include accessing and reporting on some aspect of the PSYC 100 web page (see below), responding to questions and issues on the Town Hall Forum (see below), etc. No additional readings will be assigned.

Teaching Assistant: The teaching assistant for this course is Philip Lee. You may contact him, or me, by e-mail for answers to your questions.

Description and Goals: PSYC 100 consists of a general survey of psychology. The emphasis is on coverage of psychological concepts for breadth rather than depth. By the end of the course, you should have a good basic understanding of the methods and content of psychology as well as a familiarity with some of the important theories that have driven psychological research. To successfully complete this course, you must be

ask on exams to answer factual questions about behavior and mental processes, use your knowledge to draw conclusions from new data, interpret psychological data, and apply psychological principles in new situations.

As a rule of thumb, you should plan to spend 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour of class time. Material will be much more easily understood if the assigned chapters are read and at least partially understood BEFORE the material is covered in class. I think, and I hope that you will also soon think, that human behavior and cognitive processes are among the most interesting concepts you will have encountered. I will try to ensure that the class is interesting, and I will try to help you understand the basics of psychology in class, and, if you avail yourself of the opportunities, during office hours, and by electronic communication. But the responsibility is yours. If a concept or issue is confusing to you, please ask Philip or me. Be sure to attend class regularly. Get to know a few other people in class to study with.

Textbook: Myers, D.G. (1998). Psychology (5th edition). New York: Worth.

In addition to the text, the packet in the bookstore includes a CD-ROM (Plus+) and a tutorial/study guide. A few questions on each exam will be taken from the tutorial/study guide, and the CD-ROM illustrates some important concepts in the course. Please use these ancillary materials.

Other Resources: Numerous resources are available to assist you in learning course material. Prof. John Allen is developing a PSYC 100 web page. This can be accessed at <http://members.aol.com/rinsonwite/a-3.htm>. Prof. Mary Lou Crouch is also developing a Town Hall Forum. This interactive web site will be used by some students in linked courses and may be made available to non-linked students before the end of the semester. Please note that you may be expected to access the PSYC 100 web page several times during the course.

Exams: There will be four multiple choice exams. The first three will be noncumulative, covering only material from that part of the course. The final will be cumulative, covering material from all units. Your exam grade will be the average of the BEST THREE of the four exams; that is, your lowest grade will be dropped. If you miss one exam, your grade will be the average of your other three. If you miss a second exam, a zero will be included in computation of your exam grade. If you take the first three exams and are satisfied with your average, you do not have to take the final. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!

On exam days, nobody will be allowed to leave the classroom until 11:05 (approximately one-half hour after the exam begins), except in case of emergency, and no exams will be distributed to students after the first person has left the room. These steps are being taken to help ensure that students who do not finish the exam early are not disturbed and to ensure that exams are not available to students who have not yet taken them. PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR ALL EXAMS!!

All exam answers must be on Scantron forms. Please note that only the new 8 ½ X 11 forms can be used. These are available in the bookstore, and you are required to have one as well as a #2 pencil at each exam.

Other assignments: Between five and ten times during the semester, unannounced in-class quizzes and assignments will be administered. To receive credit for these exercises, you must be present in class. No make-ups will be allowed. These exercises may include quizzes on class material that was just discussed, evaluation of theories/research, description of PSYC 100 web page information, etc.

Experimental Participation: You are required to accumulate five (5) hours of credit for participating in psychological research (or attending alternative lectures which are given during the course of the semester). THIS IS A COURSE REQUIREMENT, NOT EXTRA CREDIT. Failure to participate will result in a 3-point reduction in course grade for EACH hour short of the required five. Once you have completed five hours, up to two additional hours can be used for extra credit (3 points per hour). This is described in more detail on the last three pages of the syllabus. Participation opportunities are posted on a bulletin board just inside the northwest entry to David King Hall.

Course Grades: Course grades will be based on the total number of points you have earned, less points deducted for lack of experimental/alternative lecture participation. Between 155 and 160 total points (50 for each exam, 5-10 for quizzes/in-class assignments) will be assigned during the course.

Attendance, Demeanor, etc. Please try to attend each class meeting. As mentioned above, I will try to make each class interesting. However, class is not the time to talk with friends and neighbors or to otherwise disrupt the attention of other students. Other students and I would prefer that you not attend class rather than spend class time disturbing others. Also, if you come in late, or if you expect to have to leave early, please sit in the back of the classroom.

Special Help: If you have a disability, documented by the DisAbility Support Service Office, which requires special conditions in class or on exams, please see me during the first week of class.

Office Hours, etc.:

Office hours: 9:30-10:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays; 6:30-7:15 Wednesdays
(or by appointment)

Office telephone: 993-1351

e-mail address: jsanford@gmu.edu

Office location: 2046 David King Hall

Honor Code: All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. The Honor Committee is a student-run organization, and students as well as faculty are responsible for ensuring adherence to the Honor Code. No notes, books or other reading materials, or interpersonal communication,

will be allowed during exams. You may, of course, form study groups prior to exams, and I allow taping of lectures and classroom discussion. If you are not familiar with provisions of the honor code, please review them prior to the first exam.

Note: Please use e-mail judiciously. Philip and I will gladly respond to your e-mails, but please keep in mind that there are more than 100 students in the class. Responses may not be immediate.

IV. STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Psychology 100 students are to be familiar with the research participation requirement, as described by their instructor and the addendum to the course syllabus. Students from other courses in which instructors are offering extra credit for research participation are to know the provisions for extra credit as stated by their instructor.
2. Students are responsible for checking the Subject Sign-Up Board in David King Hall for research participation opportunities. It is important to check the board regularly, beginning early in the semester, because most studies are conducted for only part of the semester. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to wait until the end of the semester as opportunities may not be available at that time. This includes the lecture alternative as there may be limited space available at the times most convenient to the student.
3. Students are required to attend the experiments or lectures for which they sign-up. Students who fail to attend experiments or lectures for which they have signed-up will receive a 1-credit penalty. For example, a Psychology 100 student who fails to show-up for an experiment or lecture will then be required to complete 6, not 5 hours of research. Students are responsible for keeping their own record of the title, contact person, date, time, and place of the experiment. This information may not be posted the day of the experiment. Please note: If a student is unable to make the appointment, (s)he must notify the researcher or contact person at least 24 hours in advance to avoid the penalty. Contact information is located on the sign-up board.
4. Research participation for students arriving late for their appointment is at the discretion of the researcher. However, it is not uncommon for students arriving only a few minutes late for a session to be turned away because the study has begun. Under these circumstances, the researcher may ask the student to sign up for another session of their study. Students who arrive at a study too late to participate will neither be penalized as a no-show nor receive credit for participating.
5. Students are responsible for completing a Research Participation Reaction Form for each study they are in, returning Part A to their course instructor, and returning Part B to the brown box adjacent to the Subject Sign-Up Board in David King Hall within 24 hours of the study session attended. If the researcher does not provide this form, they should contact the URC for a copy.
6. Students who do not wish to participate in experiments can earn research credit by attending lecture alternatives that cover various research-related topics. Students may combine research participation and lecture alternatives to meet the 5 hour research requirement.
7. Participation in a given research experiment or lecture alternative is completely voluntary. If after arriving for a research-related activity or after beginning the activity, a student decides that (s)he does not wish to continue, (s)he may withdraw without penalty. The student is

entitled to a minimum of 1 credit hour or the number of student participation hours prior to discontinuation.

8. Research participation credit will be awarded only for participation by the student himself/herself. Volunteering and participation of family members without direct involvement of the student is not appropriate for course credit.
9. Students under the age of 18 at the time the Psychology 100 course is taken should plan on meeting their research participation requirement by attending the alternative lectures scheduled for this purpose. The research participation program in the Psychology Department is designed for those 18 or older.
10. Students with disabilities should discuss their situation with their instructor and/or with the URC to assess their options regarding the best way to meet the research participation requirement.
11. Toward the end of the semester, students will be provided with a listing of their research credits. A credit dispute form will be available at the Sign-Up Board to report any disagreements between the URC's and students records of research participation. This form should be completed promptly so that adjustments can be made in time to be reflected in final grades.
12. Students will be treated with all due consideration and courtesy by the URC and by the researchers. Any complaints or concerns that arise in the course of participating in research should be directed to the URC who will either attempt to resolve the issue or pass on the information to Dr. Richard Klimoski for his consideration. As the situation warrants, Dr. Klimoski may forward a complaint to a steering committee for consideration.
13. Students who have any questions or concerns are invited to speak to Deborah Sinek, the URC, at #993-1349 ext.1 or to Dr. Rich Klimoski at #993-1356.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY 100 RESEARCH AND LECTURE PARTICIPATION

- Q: Where do I sign-up for studies/lectures?
A: The "Research Participation Sign-Up" cork board in DK Hall on the 2nd floor.
- Q: What if I am under 18 and can not participate as a subject in different research studies?
A: You will have to earn your credits by attending the alternative lecture sessions.
- Q: What if I am over 18 but I don't want to participate in research studies?
A: Research and lecture participation are the same as far as course credit is concerned.
- Q: When will the lecture opportunities be posted?
A: Lectures usually start becoming available after the first month of classes.
- Q: Who should I contact if I am unable to attend a session I have signed-up for?
A: The contact person whose name and number is posted for that particular study/lecture.
- Q: What's the big hurry in signing-up for research/lecture participation?
A: Research/lecture sessions fill-up quickly at the end of the semester and you run the risk of not being able to complete your research participation requirement should you wait until the last minute.
- Q: How does my instructor know that I have participated in a study/lecture?
A: Researchers holding study/lecture sessions turn in attendance sheets to the URC. The URC relays credit information to the instructors.
- Q: What are "Research Reaction" forms?
A: These are feedback forms that you should receive upon completing a research/lecture session. Turn in the top portion (Part A) to your course instructor and turn in the bottom portion (Part B) to the brown box adjacent to the Sign-up Board in DK Hall.
- Q: What if I need to cancel a research/lecture appointment within 24 hours of the session due to extenuating circumstances (death in family, illness, or natural catastrophe are the ONLY excuses)?
A: Call the contact person listed on the sign-up sheet for that particular study/lecture. If you are unable to get in touch with the contact person, leave a message on the URC's voice mail (993-1349 x1) regarding the situation.
- Q: What if my schedule is tight (i.e. working students, etc.) – are study/lecture opportunities going to be made available at times convenient for me?
A: Researchers are highly encouraged to offer evening and weekend sessions to accommodate working students, etc. However, it is your responsibility to start working on your study/lecture participation credits early so that you will be able to take advantage of evening/weekend sessions as they come up during the semester.