

# Introductory Psychology

PSYC 100; Section 004

Fall, 1999

**Instructor:** Dr. Darren Ritzer

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**Office:** King Hall 2051

**Office Hours:** Wed 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

exam days: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Text:** Weiten, W. (2000) Psychology Themes & Variations (Briefer Version). (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) Brooks/Cole

**Course Objectives:** This course is a broad overview of psychology, which will cover the most significant methods, theories and research findings of the field. The emphasis in this course is on breadth rather than depth. This course will serve primarily as an introduction to topics that will be explored in greater detail in more advanced psychology courses.

**Grading:** Final grades will be based on a 200 point scale. Ninety percent (90%) of the course grade will be the accumulation of points earned on the top three scores out of four scheduled exams. The remaining ten percent (10 %) of the course grade will be earned through required departmental research/lecture participation.

## 180 points: 3 exams worth 60 points each

There will be three exams and a final exam. The exams will include material covered in class as well as material from the textbook. The format will be true/false, multiple-choice, and fill-in-the-blank. Each exam, including the final exam, will be worth 60 points. The first three exams will be non-cumulative. The final exam will be cumulative.

The lowest exam grade will be dropped. Students who are satisfied with their grade after the first three exams may opt to skip the final exam. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY REASON!** Therefore, if a student misses an exam, the missed exam grade will be the one that is dropped.

## 20 points: 5 hours worth 4 points each

Students will be required to participate in 5 hours worth of psychology research or lecture. Each hour of participation will be worth 4 points. Thus, a student who participates in 5 hours will earn the full 20 points possible toward the final grade in the course.

## **Exam Requirements:**

- Students are required to bring a Scantron form and #2 pencil for each exam. Students without these materials will not be able to take the exam.
- All books, notes, backpacks, etc. must be stored out of the way once the exam has begun. Students should be protective of their answers on the Scantron form while taking the exam.
- During the exam, silence is expected. Please take care of all communication issues before the exam begins. The only acceptable form of talking is asking questions of the exam proctors.
- Students should make every effort possible to be on time to the exams. After entering the room on an exam night, students will not be allowed to exit again until 20 minutes after the start of the exam. After that time, no student may enter the room to start the exam. In other words, a student who arrives to class after any other student has exited the room will not be allowed to take the exam.

### **Departmental Research/Lecture Participation:**

Students are required to participate in 5 hours of research/lecture. Students may choose to fulfill the 5 required hours by serving as subjects in departmental research or by attending lectures on a variety of psychology-related topics. Any combination of these two options that totals 5 hours of participation is acceptable. Sign-up sheets for both options are posted on a bulletin board in King Hall.

Students must sign up for a research/lecture session in order to get credit for attendance. If a student signs up for a particular session and fails to attend that session (or arrives late for that session), the student will have a 4 point deduction on his/her final grade rather than a 4 point credit. It is students' responsibility to take down relevant information regarding location, date, time, and contact person. Cancellations for attendance can be made only to the designated contact person for that session and must be made at least 24 hours in advance to avoid penalty.

Students should maintain their own records of sessions attended. It is important to check the board regularly, beginning early in the semester, because limited space is available for each session. Students are strongly encouraged not to wait until the end of the semester, as opportunities may not be available as the semester draws to a close.

Note: Students must be at least 18 years of age (the legal age of informed consent) in order to participate in research. Students who are 17 years of age or younger must fulfill the participation requirement by attending lectures.

### **Extra Credit Opportunity:**

Students may earn extra credit towards their final course grade by participating in a maximum of 3 additional research/lecture hours, beyond the 5 hours required for the course. Each hour will be worth 4 points added to the final point total for the course. Thus, a student can earn a maximum of 12 extra credit points by participating in 3 additional hours. (Students should be aware that these are not percentage points.) A student will not receive credit for any research/lecture hours completed beyond the 5 required hours and the 3 optional extra credit hours. In other words, participation beyond 8 hours will not be worth any points.

**Expectations:** This course covers a broad range of information in a short amount of time. Class attendance and consistent preparation are crucial to success. The material that is covered during class time will be similar, but not identical, to the material covered in the textbook. It is to the student's benefit to study the assigned readings before class in order to better understand presented material and to avoid falling behind in the readings. Cramming the night before the exam is not a useful strategy. Students who have questions regarding exam material are encouraged to take advantage of the extra office hours offered on the night of each exam.

Because of the large size of this class, students are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect to fellow students. Class time should be a time of active attention and participation in class activities. Inappropriate disruptions (i.e., talking, cell phones, beepers) will not be tolerated. Anyone who is late to class should make every effort to enter the room in a quiet and non-obtrusive fashion.

**Honor System:** The Honor Code of George Mason University will be strictly enforced in this course. It is a student's responsibility to be familiar with the Honor Code, to abide by it at all times, and to assist the instructor in enforcing it. Any suspected violation will be reported to the Honor Court.

**Special Needs:** If any students have special needs or concerns, please see instructor.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Note: If class is cancelled due to snow or other emergency, the material for that day will be moved to the next regular class meeting.

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter(s)</u></b>
9/1	Introduction & Overview	1
9/8	Research Methods	2
9/15	Biological Basis of Behavior	3
<b>9/22</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b> (Chaps. 1 - 3)	
9/29	Development	11
10/6	Sensation & Perception	4
10/13	<i>No Wed Night Classes – Columbus Day Holiday</i>	
10/20	Learning & Memory	6,7
10/27	States of Consciousness	5
<b>11/3</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b> (Chaps. 4 – 7 and 11)	
11/10	Social	16
11/17	Abnormal	14
11/24	Personality	12
12/1	Stress & Health/ Applied Psychology	13
<b>12/8</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b> (Chaps. 12 – 14 and 16)	

**FINAL EXAM: Wed, December 15, 7:30 pm – 10:15 pm** (Chaps 1-7, 11-14, and 16)