

Basic Concepts in Psychology
George Mason University
Spring 1995

Course: Psychology 100, Section 004
Instructor: Grover C. Foehlinger, Jr., Ph.D.
Class Location: Lecture Hall I
Class Schedule: Tuesday, 7:20-10:00 p.m.
Office: David J. King Hall, Room 3041
Office Hours: Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m., & by appointment
Telephone: 993-1349 (GMU); (703)560-6515 (O); (301)330-1655 (H)
E-mail Address: gfoehlin@gmu.edu
Teaching Assistant: Jalmeen Makkar
TA's Office: North Chesapeake Module, Room 7
TA's Telephone: 993-1364

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 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.
3. to examine historical and contemporary research in psychology.
4. to consider social, cultural, and ethical issues related to psychology.
5. to increase awareness of psychological factors which influence our behavior.
6. to relate principles of psychology to the liberal arts and sciences so as to foster a broad understanding of human behavior.

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Reading
01/24	Overview of policies & requirements; introduction	
01/31	Psychological science; neuroscience and behavior	Ch. 1-2
02/07	The developing child	Ch. 3
02/14	Adolescence & adulthood; quiz #1	Ch. 4
02/21	Sensation; perception	Ch. 5-6
02/28	States of consciousness; quiz #2	Ch. 7
03/07	Learning; memory	Ch. 8-9
03/14	Spring recess; no class	
03/21	Thinking & language; intelligence; quiz #3	Ch. 10-11
03/28	Motivation; emotion	Ch.12-13
04/04	Personality; quiz #4	Ch. 14
04/11	Psychological disorders; therapy	Ch. 15-16
04/18	Stress & health; social psychology; quiz #5	Ch. 17-18
04/25	Diversity & community	Ch. 19
05/02	Review; conclusions; course evaluation; extra-credit projects due	
05/09	Final exam, 7:30-10:15 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 and highest score doubled); 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 February 24.

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, 1994-95*). 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.

Summary of Psychology 100 Research Participation Requirement

To encourage experiential learning about research at an early point in the Psychology curriculum, research participation (or a comparable research-related alternative) will be required of all students in Introductory Psychology (Psychology 100). The following summarizes your responsibilities in this process. In addition, you are invited to obtain a copy of the GUIDELINES FOR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH PARTICIPATION from the Psychology Department Main Office which provides a detailed account of the rules procedures for Psychology student research participation, including the responsibilities of researchers, instructors, and students in this process.

Overview of Psychology 100 Requirement and Student Responsibilities

1. All students in Psychology 100 courses will be required to participate in a minimum of five hours of psychology research being conducted at GMU (or the comparable alternative non-participatory lecture alternative) during the semester they are enrolled in Psych 100.
2. Students are responsible for checking the Subject Sign-up Board near the Psychology Department Main Office in David King Hall for research participation opportunities (and non-participatory lecture alternatives). 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 last few weeks of the semester because there may not be enough opportunities at the very end of the term.
3. Students are required to show up for experiments or lectures that they have signed up for. Students are responsible for keeping their own record of the title, contact person, date, time and place of experiments. (This information may not be posted the day of the experiment.) Students who do not show up for experiments for which they signed up will receive a 1-credit penalty. Researchers will submit a No-Show Penalty form to the Undergraduate Research Coordinator and this will be recorded along with credit for completed participation. For example, if you fail to show up for one experiment, you will then be required to complete 6, not 5, hours of research (or equivalent non-participatory lectures). If a student signs up for an experiment and, for some reason, is unable to make the time appointed or decides against participation, (s)he must provide, to the researcher or designated contact person, a minimum of 24 hours notice to avoid the penalty. (Phone numbers for the researcher or designated contact person will be included on the experiment sign-up sheets.)
4. Students are responsible for submitting the Research Participation Forms (and Research Participation Feedback Forms) to the box adjacent to the Subject Sign-up Board near the Psychology Department Main Office in David King Hall. These forms must be submitted within two weeks of participation (to avoid overburdening the research coordinator). Late forms will not be credited. Forms must be accurately, legibly (e.g., printed) and completely filled out; otherwise, no credit will be given. On the basis of these forms, the Undergraduate Research Coordinator will keep a record of each student's research participation activities. Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep track of and turn in these forms. Students are also strongly advised to keep photocopies of their credit forms. We cannot be responsible for lost or missing forms without backup proof. [Researchers are under no obligation to replace lost forms.]
5. Students who have any questions or concerns are invited to speak to the Undergraduate Research Coordinator (whose name and office hours are posted on the Subject Sign-up Board) or to Dr. June Tangney.