

-003  
6/10

Psychology 100: Basic Concepts in Psychology  
Spring 1996

Professor:  
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Office Hours:  
Tuesdays 3:00 pm -4:00 pm  
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and by appointment

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### Texts

- *Psychology, 4th Edition* (1995), by David G. Myers. Worth Inc., N.Y. (Required)
- *Discovering Psychology* (1995), by Richard Straub. Worth Inc., N.Y. (Recommended)

### Course Goals

The major goal of the course is to provide the student with an introductory level survey-style overview of the current state of the field of psychology. The course is intended to be a fast-paced, intensive learning experience, designed to familiarize the student with a wide range of theoretical and applied issues in psychology.

### Grading Policy

*Examinations.* Four examinations will be administered during the course of the semester. The first three exams will be non-cumulative, the final exam will be cumulative (i.e., covering material from the entire course). Examinations will cover both lecture material and assigned readings from your text. You will not be tested on unassigned chapters from the text, or material found in the study guide. In calculating your course grade, the lowest exam score from among the first three tests will be dropped (the final exam can not be dropped). The remaining three scores will be averaged to determine your course grade. You will need four Scantron forms (one for each exam), which are available at the campus bookstore for a nominal cost. Purchase Form #882ES or equivalent.

*Exam Make-up Policy.* In large lecture courses there are typically a small number of individuals who miss exams due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances. Due to the logistical difficulties associated with administering make-up exams, none will be offered in this course. Instead, if you miss an exam, a score of zero will be recorded, and that score will subsequently be dropped when calculating your course grade. If you will need to miss more than one exam due to extracurricular commitments (travel, work, athletics, etc.) then you should consider transferring to a different section of this course.

*Minor Assignments.* Throughout the course of the semester a number of "minor assignments" will be offered. These assignments typically take the form of in-class experiential exercises or short written essays. Students who complete minor assignments will receive bonus points which will be added to their course grade at the end of the semester (roughly .5% per assignment, although the specific value of each assignment will only be determined at the end of the semester, and will be based on the total number of minor assignments administered). Since minor assignments are experientially based, and linked to particular class sessions, make-up credits are not available to those who are not present at the time the assignment is given. However, missing minor assignments will not impair your ability to achieve a high grade in the course. This is because minor assignment points are only used to improve a student's grade (by providing a small bonus); failure to complete a minor assignment is never used as a penalty against a student in computing his or her final grade.

*Research Requirement.* One final determinant of your course grade will be based on your participation (or lack thereof) in departmentally-sponsored psychological research. Each student is required to participate in 5 hours of psychological research during the course of the semester. Failure to participate in this research will result in a 2% reduction of your course grade for each hour missed. Sign-up sheets for experiments are posted outside the Psychology Department office in David King Hall. Additional details regarding this requirement are provided on the attached sheet.

*Honor Code.* Students are expected to fully abide by the GMU honor code. Infractions will be dealt with as specified by the code.

### Class Schedule

T	1/23	Read: Introduction & Appendix A
R	1/25	Read: Chapter 1 (Critical Thinking in Psychology)
T	1/30	Read: Chapter 2 (Neuroscience)
R	2/1	
T	2/6	Read: Chapter 3 (Child Development)
R	2/8	
T	2/13	<b>Exam 1</b>
R	2/15	Read: Chapter 5 (Sensation)
T	2/20	Read: Chapter 6 (Perception)
R	2/22	
T	2/27	Read: Chapter 7 (States of Consciousness)
R	2/29	
T	3/5	Read: Chapter 8 (Learning)
R	3/7	
T	3/12	<i>Spring Break</i>
R	3/14	<i>Spring Break</i>
T	3/19	<b>Exam 2</b>
R	3/21	Read: Chapter 9 (Memory)
T	3/26	
R	3/28	Read: Chapter 10 (Thinking & Language)
T	4/2	Read: Chapter 11 (Intelligence)
R	4/4	
T	4/9	Read: Chapter 14 (Personality)
R	4/11	
T	4/16	<b>Exam 3</b>
R	4/18	Read: Chapter 15 (Psychological Disorders)
T	4/23	
R	4/25	Reading: Chapter 16 (Therapy)
T	4/30	
R	5/2	Reading: Chapter 18 (Social Psychology)
T	5/7	Reading Day; No Class Meeting
R	5/9	<b>Final Exam</b> 1:30 pm

## 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 the 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 Requirements 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 non-participatory lecture alternatives) 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 back-up 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.