

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

SYLLABUS: PSYC 100-003

Spring, 1998

James F. Sanford

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Jan 20-22	Introduction; Psychology as a Science	Intro; Chapter 1
Jan 27-29	Neuroscience	Chapter 2
Feb 3-5	Development	Chapter 3, 4
Feb 10	Sensory Processes	Chapter 5
Feb 12-17	Perception	Chapter 6
Feb 19	FIRST EXAM	
Feb 24	Consciousness	Chapter 7
Feb 26	Learning	Chapter 8
Mar 3-5	Memory	Chapter 9
(Mar 10-12)	TAKE A BREAK)	
Mar 17-19	Thinking and Language	Chapter 10
Mar 24	Intelligence	Chapter 11
Mar 26	Motivation	Chapter 12
Mar 31	Emotion	Chapter 13
Apr 2	SECOND EXAM	
Apr 7-9	Personality Theory	Chapter 14
Apr 14-16	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
Apr 21-23	Therapy, Stress and Mental Health	Chapter 16-17
Apr 28	Social Psychology	Chapter 18
Apr 30	THIRD EXAM	
May 7	FINAL EXAM	

PSYC 100 is a general survey of psychology course. The emphasis is on 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 able 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 chapter(s) are digested BEFORE the material is covered in class. I think, and I hope that you will also think by the end of the semester, that human behavior and cognitive processes are among the most interesting things 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 you don't understand something, please ask me. Be sure to attend class regularly. Get to class a few minutes before the class starts, and 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 computerized tutorial/study guide and a basic simulation program. A few questions on each exam will be taken from the tutorial/study guide, and the simulation packet explains some important concepts in the course. Please use these ancillary materials.

Exams and Grades: There will be four multiple choice exams. The first three will be noncumulative and will cover only material from that part of the course. The final will be cumulative, covering material from all chapters. Your 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 class average. If you take the first three exams and are satisfied with your average, you do not have to take the final. NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!

All exam answers must be on Scantron forms. These are available in the bookstore, and you are required to have one as well as a #2 pencil at each exam.

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 2% reduction in the course grade for EACH hour short of the required five. Participation opportunities are posted on a bulletin board just inside the entry to David King Hall.

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 (or by appointment)
Office telephone: 993-1351
e-mail address: jsanford@gmu.edu (Please see note below.)
Office location: 2046 David King Hall

Teaching Assistant: The teaching assistant for this course is Julie Gordon. You may contact her, as well as me, by e-mail (jgordon@gmu.edu) for answers to your questions.

Honor Code: All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. 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 it prior to the first exam.

Note: Please use e-mail only if Julie or I are not available to respond to your requests and questions in person. With over 200 students enrolled, even one e-mail per week from each of you would be an unmanageable number.