

PSYC 100, Section 003  
Basic Concepts in Psychology  
Fall 2014

**Instructor:** Ashley A. Membere  
**Location:** Enterprise Hall 80  
**Time:** Monday, 7:20 – 10:00 PM  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10 – 11 AM, David King Hall 3077  
**Email:** [amembere@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:amembere@masonlive.gmu.edu)

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**Required Textbook**

Meyers, D. G. (2013) Psychology, 10th edition. Worth Publishers. ISBN: 1464108552. ISBN 13: 9781464108556.

**Course Objective**

This course has been designed to provide students with a general overview of the field of psychology by reviewing its fundamental concepts. Upon completion of this course, students should have a better understanding of human behavior with the knowledge and critical thinking they need to be explaining and predicting the human experience. Additionally, students should leave this course with a greater appreciation of psychology as an empirical and applied science.

**Grading:** Your grade in this class will consist of the following components:

Best 3 out of 4 exams (20% each)	60%
Best 11 out of 12 chapter quizzes (3%) each	33%
Research participation	7%

**Grade Distribution**

A+	98 - 100%	C+	77 - 79%
A	93 - 97%	C	73 - 76%
A-	90 - 92%	C-	70 - 72%
B+	87 - 89%	D	63 - 69%
B	83 - 88%	D-	60 - 62%
B-	80 - 82%	F	< 60%

**Exams**

All exams will be multiple-choice format and will cover material from the textbook and lecture. In-class exams will not be cumulative, however, the final exam will cover all material from the textbook and lecture throughout the semester. Your exam grade will be determined as an average of your best 3 *out of 4 and your lowest grade will be dropped*. If you are satisfied with your grades on the first

three exams, the final then becomes optional for you. If you miss an in-class exam, that grade will be dropped and the final then becomes mandatory.

### **Quizzes**

Quizzes will be taken on Blackboard and are due at 11:59 pm on the date printed on the course schedule.

### **Research Participation**

All students are required to complete seven (7) hours of participation in psychological research. For students who choose NOT to participate, attendance at alternative lectures also meets this requirement. Failure to participate will result in a 1% reduction in the course grade for EACH hour short of the required seven, reducing your final grade by up to 7%. Experiments and lectures are posted online at <http://gmu.sona-systems.com/>. Register for hours early, and plan to complete experiment participation requirements early in the semester. Do not miss an appointment you have scheduled, because there is a penalty for missed appointments.

### **Technology Usage**

All primary contact in this course will be via email and Blackboard. All students are expected to maintain and regularly access their GMU email accounts. Emails to the instructor should come from your GMU account in order to verify your identity.

### **Important Dates**

**September 2** – Last day to add classes/Last day to drop classes (No tuition penalty)

**September 16** – Last day to drop with 33% tuition penalty

**September 26** – Final drop deadline with 67% tuition penalty

**September 29 – October 24** – Selective withdrawal period

### **Disability Statement**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Accommodations must be arranged in advance – we are not permitted to adjust your grade or provide accommodations if you request them after the fact [e.g., after doing poorly on an exam].

### **Honor Code**

Students are expected to abide by the GMU Honor Code: “Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Exams and assignments are expected to be individual efforts unless noted otherwise by the instructor or teaching assistant. Violations of the GMU Honor Code can result in failure of an

assignment or exam, depending on the severity of violation. Violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Quiz
Aug. 25	Syllabus, Thinking Critically, Biology	Myers, Ch. 1 & 2	Quiz 1 due 9/2 at 11:59 PM
Sept. 1	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>		
Sept. 8	Consciousness	Myers, Ch. 3	Quiz 2 due 9/12 at 11:59 PM
Sept. 15	Human Diversity	Myers, Ch. 4	Quiz 3 due 9/19 at 11:59 PM
Sept. 22	<b>EXAM 1</b>	Ch. 1 - 4	
Sept. 29	Sensation/Perception	Myers, Ch. 6	Quiz 4 due 9/26 at 11:59 PM
Oct. 6	Learning, Memory	Myers, Ch. 7 & 8	Quiz 5 due 10/3 at 11:59 PM
Oct. 13	<b>NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY, MEET 10/14</b>		
Oct. 14	Thinking, Intelligence	Myers, Ch. 9 & 10	Quiz 6 and 7 due 10/19 at 11:59 PM
Oct. 20	<b>EXAM 2</b>	Ch. 6 - 10	
Oct. 27	Development	Myers, Ch. 5	Quiz 8 due 10/31 at 11:59 PM
Nov. 3	Motivation/Work, Emotions	Myers, Ch. 11 & 12	Quiz 9 due 11/7 at 11:59 PM
Nov. 10	Personality	Myers, Ch. 13	Quiz 10 due 11/14 at 11:59 PM
Nov. 17	Social Psychology	Myers, Ch. 14	Quiz 11 due 11/21 at 11:59 PM
Nov. 24	<b>EXAM 3</b>	Ch. 5, 11 - 14	
Dec. 1	Psychological Disorders, Therapy	Myers, Ch. 15 & 16	Quiz 12 due 12/5 at 11:59 PM
Dec. 15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	Ch. 1 - 16	