CLASS LOCATION: Lecture Hall – Room 1
EMAIL: ramernic@gmu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: 60 minutes prior to class – Location – Aquia Building Room 337
PHONE CONTACT: 703-610-5700 (leave message with secretary)
DATES OF CLASSES: January 22, 2013 to May 15, 2013
DAY OF WEEK: Tuesdays
TIME: 7:20 pm to 10:00 pm
TEACHING ASSISTANT: Jordan Thibodeaux <jthibod2@masonlive.gmu.edu>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION/GOALS/OBJECTIVES: This class will provide an overview of the major areas in the field of Psychology. The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a variety of concepts and issues in general psychology, to help the student to apply that knowledge to everyday life, and to help the student to develop skills in analytical thinking and communication using the concepts of psychology. The topics covered this semester will include the history of psychology, research methods, brain and behavior, human development, sensation, perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, thinking and language, motivation, emotion, personality, psychological disorders and therapeutic interventions.

II. CLASS PROCEDURES: This class is mainly lecture with some small group discussion. The study of psychology offers many opportunities for the development of critical thinking skills and communication skills. It offers many ideas open to debate and question. It will be a part of our goal to discuss and debate, to discover ways of supporting our statements, to listen to and respect the ideas of others.

III. REQUIREMENTS:

ATTENDANCE: Active discussion and contributions from each member of the class will be encouraged and expected. Regular attendance is optimal to perform well in this course as some of the material on examinations will only be mentioned in class. Also, if you miss a class you will not be able to make up any group assignment given that day unless due to emergency. If you are absent from a class, it is your responsibility to obtain material covered in class and to make up any missed assignments whenever possible. It is also your responsibility to
WITHDRAW from class if you are unable to attend. Failure to WITHDRAW may result in you receiving an F for the class.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be three examinations, one after approximately one-third of the class is completed; one after two-thirds and a final examination that will include the last remaining chapters. Each exam will be worth 100 points towards your final grade. Each exam will have multiple choice questions. If you need more time to complete an examination, you should speak with the instructor prior to exams and arrangements will be made accordingly. Make up exams will only be permitted in unusual circumstances and must be arranged with the instructor before the exam is given. After each exam, students can leave and no instruction will take place that evening.

BRING A GREEN SCANTRON FORM FOR EACH EXAM!

IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: There will be approximately 5 short in-class assignments worth a total of 50 points towards your final grade. These in-class assignments will not be mentioned ahead of time. The purpose of these assignments is to help the student think about how psychological concepts might be applied to everyday life, to think about issues in psychology, to help us (teacher and student) to exchange ideas, and to give practice with critical thinking skills and important concepts.

RESEARCH: For 7% of your grade, all students are required to serve for seven hours as participants in psychological research. For students who choose NOT to participate, attendance at alternative lectures also meets this requirement. This is a course requirement, just as much as the exams. 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 Sona-systems 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. Make sure you assign your research participation points to the course, otherwise you will not get credit for them.

GRADING: The final grade you receive for this course will be calculated as follows based on a combination of all exams and writing assignments.

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>F</td>
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Total Points Available for Exams = 300 points
Total Points Available for Assignments = 50 points
Total Points Available for Research = 28 points (7 hours = 28 points; 6 hours = 24 points; 5 hours = 20 points, 4 hours = 16 points, 3 hours = 12 points, 2 hours = 8 points, 1 hour = 4 points)

Total Points Available for Class = 378 points

**Drop without Tuition Penalty Dates**: Nov 06, 2012 to Jan 29, 2013
**Drop with Tuition Penalty (and final drop deadline) Dates**: Jan 30, 2013 to Feb 22, 2013

**SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS:**

1. Read the assigned chapters prior to coming to class and be prepared for class discussion.
2. Take notes during class and review your notes prior to the next class session.
3. If you do miss a class, find out from a study buddy or partner what you missed from the previous week.
4. If you need help, ask for it. Meet with me individually, call my office or email me.

**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.

**HONOR CODE:**

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

1/22  Introduction of Course and History of Psychology  
       Thinking Critically With Psychological Science  
       Chapter 1

1/29  The Biology of the Mind  
       Chapter 2

2/5   Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind  
       Chapter 3

2/12  Nature, Nurture and Human Diversity  
       Chapter 4

2/19  Developing Through the Life Span  
       Chapter 5

2/26  Sensation and Perception  
       Chapter 6

**REVIEW FOR EXAM**

3/5   EXAM # 1 (Covers Introduction and Research, Biology of the Mind,  
          Consciousness, Nature/Nurture, Human Development, Sensation and Perception)

3/12  SPRING BREAK

3/19  Learning  
       Chapter 7

3/26  Memory  
       Chapter 8

4/2   Thinking/Language and Intelligence  
       Chapter 9, 10

4/9   Motivation and Work  
       Chapter 11

**REVIEW FOR EXAM**

4/16  EXAM # 2 (Covers Learning, Memory, Thinking/Language/Intelligence,  
          Motivation/Work)

4/23  Emotion, Stress and Health  
       Chapter 12

4/30  Personality  
       Chapter 13

5/7   Psychological Disorders/Therapies  
       Chapters 15, 16

5/14  **FINAL EXAM** (Covers Emotion, Stress/Health, Personality, Psychological  
          Disorders, Therapies) – start at 7:30 pm in regular classroom