

PSYC 100, Section 003

Basic Concepts in Psychology

Fall 2016

Nicholas Hertz

TR 1:30 - 2:45 PM

Enterprise Hall 80

Office hours: David King Hall 1014C

Mon/Wed 12 - 1 and by appointment

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Course goals: This course will introduce you to the history, methods, and various sub-disciplines of psychological science.

Required text: Myers, D., & DeWall, C. N. (2015). Psychology (11th Ed.). Macmillan.
**Note: Feel free to buy one of the earlier editions of the book. I will be teaching from the 11th edition, but the lecture will cover anything that is not present in the earlier editions.*

Reading should be completed by the dates indicated on the schedule. Reading the material in advance will help you to get the most out of lectures and discussions.

Grading: The final grad will consist of the following weighted components:

Best 3 of 4 exams (31% each)	93%
Research participation	7%

Final Grades will be assigned as follow:

A+	95-100%	C+	77-79%
A	90-94%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D	60-69%
B-	80-82%	F	< 60%

Exams: All exams will be in multiple-choice format and will cover material from the text and related lectures. Students are required to bring their own scantron forms to each in-class exam. The final exam will be cumulative. Students who have taken all in-class exams with satisfactory grades are not required to take the final exam.

Research Participation: For 7% of the grade, all students are required to serve for seven hours as participants in psychological research. For students who are not eligible or choose not to participate in research, attendance at alternative lectures also meets this requirement. Be sure to assign your research hours to the correct course and section (Psyc100-002) in order to receive credit. Unassigned or incorrectly assigned hours will not be credited toward your final grade. Available research studies can be found at <http://gmu.sona-systems.com>

Succeeding in this course: As a survey course, we will be covering a great deal of material on a wide range of topics, all with associated concepts and vocabulary. While learning the terminology will be important, simply memorizing definitions won't be enough to earn a good grade. Instead, you will be asked to integrate and apply information, which requires a deeper level of understanding.

Lectures in this course are intended to review and expand on information in the text, as well as provide an opportunity for discussion and questions. Due to time constraints, not every important concept covered in the text will be discussed in class. For that reason, it is important that you carefully read and study the text, as well as attend lectures.

Absences: Dropping the lowest exam grade is intended to provide relief for anyone who needs to miss graded work due to illness, personal or employment obligations, or any other reason. If you find that you must miss more work than can be dropped, I encourage you to consult the catalog or contact your advisor or academic dean's office for information on withdrawing from a course, including late and selective withdrawal policies and procedures. Due to the size of this class, make-up exams and quiz extensions are not possible.

Technology expectations: All students are expected to maintain and regularly access their Mason e-mail accounts. If you are having your Mason mail forwarded to another account, please ensure that your Mason account doesn't exceed the assigned limit, causing mail to bounce back to the sender.

All grades, assignments, and other class materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Attendance and decorum: Class attendance is not recorded, but it is important for students who want to do well in PSYC100 to be in class, prepared, and attentive. In addition to other important information, any extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and will often consist of in-class participation. Preparation for class includes completing the readings by the assigned due dates. Lectures and discussions will be more interesting and more meaningful for students who have done the reading in advance. In order to be attentive, you should not engage in any multi-tasking activities during class – that means no texting, e-mailing, web surfing, doing homework for other classes, etc. Engaging in such activities is distracting for those around you, and for the instructor. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so as quietly as possible and be considerate of your classmates by sitting near an exit.

Disability accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me early in the semester. If you have not already done so, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please keep in mind that it might not be possible to grant last-minute requests for accommodations, so it is important to make all arrangements well before the date when the accommodation is needed.

Honor code: All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the University Honor Code. As required by the Honor Code, all suspected violations will be reported.

CANCELLATION POLICY: In case class needs to be cancelled due to an unexpected event, students will be informed via email as soon as possible. If necessary, make-up sessions will be arranged.

Important dates:

- Last day to add a class – September 6
- Last day to drop a class (33% Tuition Penalty) – September 20
- Final Drop Deadline (67% Tuition Penalty) – September 30

Schedule:Week of

Aug 30	Introductions and Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
Sep 6	Chapter 2: The Biology of the Mind
Sep 13	Chapter 3: Consciousness and 4: Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity
Sep 20	Chapter 5: Developing Through the Lifespan
Sep 27	EXAM 1 / Chapter 6: Sensation and Perception
Oct 4	No Class
Oct 11	Chapter 7: Learning
Oct 18	Chapter 8: Memory
Oct 25	Chapter 9: Thinking and Language
Nov 1	Chapter 10: Intelligence
Nov 8	EXAM 2 / Chapter 11: What Drives Us? Hunger, Sex, Friendship, & Achievement
Nov 15	Chapter 12: Emotions, Stress, and Health
Nov 22	Chapter 13: Social Psychology / THANKSGIVING
Nov 29	Chapter 14: Personality
Dec 6	Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders / EXAM 3
Dec 13	Final Exam