

INTRO PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2017

Contact Information:

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Course Description:

This course is designed to give an overview of psychology as a field. It examines people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors and many aspects of the human experience (memory, learning, psychological disorders, development, etc.). The field has many areas so this course will cover a wide range of information. Therefore, it is important to complete the reading and assignments on schedule so your grade is not penalized and you can successfully complete the course.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to compare and contrast the main areas of the field of psychology (e.g. clinical, developmental, etc.).
2. Students will be able to identify and demonstrate understanding foundational concepts and principles and be able to apply them to novel/daily situations.
3. Students will be able to identify and demonstrate concepts of psychological research and apply these concepts to new situations.

Required Course Material:

REVEL: You are required to purchase the **REVEL** version of **Ciccarelli, and White, *Psychology*, 5e** for this course. I will assign reading, writing, and other homework activities in REVEL - **they are worth 15% of your grade + discussion/shared writing (15%) also comes from here.**

While access to REVEL is required, the **printed version** of this text is optional - see purchasing options below. There are two ways to purchase REVEL access.

Choose the option that works best for you:

Option #1: Purchase a REVEL access code from the campus bookstore.

Option #2: Online Instant Access: If you decide not to purchase REVEL from the bookstore, you can purchase REVEL access online. You will see this as an option after clicking on the course invite link listed below.

When you register (via access code or online instant access), you also have the option of adding the print upgrade for \$19.95 extra (no shipping cost).

Follow these steps to get started or watch a short video

(www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/registration) on how to register for REVEL:

1. Enter your Course Invite Link in your web browser. Please use a recommended browser like Google Chrome, FireFox, or Safari.

COURSE INVITE LINK: Access through Blackboard. It will link automatically to the right course.

2. If you already have a Username and Password for another Pearson technology (i.e. MyMathLab), go ahead and sign in. If you do not have one, you'll need to create one using a valid email that you check regularly, like your school email address. Once you've signed in or created your Pearson Account, you'll immediately be directed to your REVEL account. Here you'll see your course appear.

3. To access REVEL throughout the semester log onto <http://console.pearson.com>. Make sure to bookmark this URL and NOT the course invite link. Remember to always use the same username and password to logon.

If you encounter any issues, support materials are available at www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/support/index.html, including a call in number: 855-875-1801.

Access to a computer or mobile electronic device (tablet or smartphone) with internet access is required to complete your REVEL assignments. Please let me know if you need information on computers available for use on campus.

Grading and Assessments:

| | |
|------------|--|
| 5 percent | Intro Video and Open Note Quiz on Syllabus |
| 60 percent | Module Exams (10 per exam) |
| 15 percent | REVEL reading, quiz assignments, and chapter tests |
| 15 percent | Discussion - Shared Writing Assignments |
| 5 percent | Research participation or alternate activities |

1. Syllabus and Course Logistics Quiz: 5%. Your first assignment in the course will be to answer a series of questions about the syllabus and logistics of the course. This is due within the FIRST FIVE DAYS of the course (recommended within the FIRST TWO DAYS), and is designed to ensure that all students have fully read over the material necessary to proceed in the course. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO USE ALL COURSE MATERIALS WHILE TAKING THIS QUIZ. The purpose is not to test your memorization of the information, but rather to ensure that you have read everything over. YOU ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO TAKE THIS QUIZ, SO DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

2. Chapter Quizzes/Assignments: 15%. For each chapter, there are various graded assignments that must be completed and submitted in Revel or in Blackboard. Chapter Quizzes are worth 5 points each/question. For each you are given 3 attempts per quiz, -1 per attempt. Section Quizzes have 3 points per item. You are given 3 attempts, you lose 1 point per attempt. **Late assignments are not accepted.**

3. Discussion Posts/Shared Writing: 15%. You will be responsible for posting 1 original comment, and replying to 2 comments posted by your classmates, where outlined by Pearson REVEL (you post 1 original comment and 2 replies in each module – a total of 3 original posts and 6 replies). Original posts are worth 4 points, and replies to others' posts are worth 2 points each. Postings must be original, thoughtful, and respectful. Original posts will be graded based on amount of thought demonstrated and relevance to the subject matter. Original posts that are both thoughtful and relevant will receive full credit, whereas original posts that are lacking in both of these will be scored a 0. Replies to other posts must extend the thoughts expressed in the original post – they cannot be simple restatements, or statements of agreement or disagreement (such replies will result in 0 points for that post). At the same time, there is no need to be overly lengthy. Most original posts

will be between 500 and 1500 characters. Most replies will be between 250 and 750 characters (these are not requirements, just guidelines – some perfectly acceptable posts may be longer or shorter). The instructor will provide examples of original posts and replies in the Discussion forum on Blackboard, to give more guidance.

Late Discussion Posts are not accepted because other students will no longer respond post due date.

4. Module Exams: 60%. There will be one exam per module of the course – 6 exams total. Each exam will count for 10% of the final grade in the class. Students should not use any materials (textbook, notes, flashcards, etc.) during the exam. To ensure that students adhere to this, exams will be timed– once an exam is opened, it must be completed within 1 hour (if you need accommodations for extra time, please see the section below regarding disabilities). Also, exam questions will be randomly selected for each student, so no student will take the same exam. Questions are taken from a pool of over 1,000 questions and matched for difficulty and content. There is an optional cumulative final exam at the end of the semester. If you take the final, it will replace your lowest exam score of the semester (unless it is lower than your lowest score, in which case, the final will not count against you). There are two primary reasons you might choose to take this exam. First, if you miss an exam during the semester, this will be your option for making it up. In such cases, your score on the final will replace the ‘0’ you received for the missed exam. Second, if you had an exam on which you did poorly, you can take this exam to replace that score.

5. Research Requirement: 5%. The psychology department believes that participation in psychological research can enhance your learning about the field. Thus, for 5% of the grade in this course, all students are required to serve for 7 hours as participants in psychological research. For students who prefer not to participate, you can also complete 7 hours worth of alternative options. There are two possible alternative options: alternative lectures that you sign up for in place of experiments, and an online alternative that you can do through the course website. You may fulfill the 7-hour requirement through any combination of the options – handouts with detailed information are posted on Blackboard (see Research Requirement tab). See handouts for more details.

Exams: Exams are based on class lectures, discussions, and REVEL assignments. See class schedule below for details on which chapters will be covered on each exam.

REVEL assignments (reading and quizzes): Log into REVEL frequently and check the assignment calendar to ensure you are keeping up with the assignments. You are required to complete all REVEL assignments before the due date. **Late submissions will not be accepted, so plan accordingly.**

Student Support Services

GMU offers services to support students’ academic and emotional development. Learning Services offers workshops in academic skills and a tutor referral program. (<http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices>) The Counseling Center, located in SUB 1 Room 3129 (703-993-2380) offers stress management training, as well as individual and group counseling for students who would like help with social, emotional, or educational concerns (<http://caps.gmu.edu>)

Academic Accommodations

If you are a student with disability and/or and you qualify for academic accommodations, please contact me the first week of classes and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at [709-993-2474](tel:709-993-2474). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Important Dates

- 9/5 last day to add/drop with no tuition penalty
- 9/19 last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty
- 9/29 last day to drop with 67% tuition penalty

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the GMU website for Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

Grading Scale: Grades are earned by completing the assignments as outlined by the syllabus.

A+ (98%+); A (93-97%); A- (90-92%);

B+ (87-89%); B (83-86%); B- (80-82%);

C+ (77-79%); C (70-76%); D (60-69%); F (59% & below).

Grades that are .49 and below are rounded down. Grades that are .5 and up are rounded up.

+++ Important Note to Psychology Majors +++

You must earn at least a 75% in this course for it to count towards your degree.

Technology Usage

All primary contact in the course will be via email and Blackboard; thus, you are required to check your Mason email account regularly and to keep your mailbox maintained so that messages will not be rejected for being over quota. You may forward GMU emails to other accounts, but emails to the instructor should come from your GMU account, to allow verification of your identity. You may need to download various free programs (e.g., Adobe Shockwave) to view some of the resources. Also, having a high-speed internet connection may be important to utilizing some of the online resources.

Honor Code

George Mason University has an honor code that states the following: “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: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”

I encourage you to learn the material taught in this course in any and all ways that best allow you to master the material. However, your performance on graded assignments and exams, and in the research requirement portion of the course, **MUST BE YOUR OWN, INDEPENDENT WORK**. You are not to use any unauthorized aids while completing any work related to the course. Any violations such as these will be reported to the Honor Code Committee, and the instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Class Schedule:

*This syllabus may be adapted to improve the course. Students will be notified of any changes.
Please also see your REVEL calendar for due dates.

| Module | Topic | Recommended Due Date | Final Due Date |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| ---- | INTRO QUIZ | 8/30 | 9/1 9/5 for late additions to class ONLY* |
| 1 | Intro (Psych in Action) | 9/1 | 9/8 |
| | Science of Psychology | 9/8 | 9/15* |
| | MODULE EXAM | | *To accommodate late additions to class |
| 2 | Biological Perspective | 9/15 | |
| | Sensation & Perception | 9/22 | |
| | MODULE EXAM | | 9/29 |
| 3 | Memory | 9/29 | |
| | Consciousness | 10/6 | |
| | Cognition: Thinking, Intelligence, Language | 10/13 | |
| | MODULE EXAM | | 10/20 |
| 4 | Learning | 10/20 | |
| | Motivation & Emotion | 10/27 | |
| | MODULE EXAM | | 11/3 |
| 5 | Development | 11/3 | |
| | Social Psychology | 11/10 | |
| | Personality | 11/17 | |
| | MODULE EXAM | | 11/17 |
| 6 | Stress & Health | 11/28 | |
| | Psychological Disorders | 12/2 | |
| | Psychological Therapies | 12/6 | |
| | MODULE EXAM | | 12/8 |
| | Optional Final Exam | 12/8 | 12/13 |