

PSYC 100, Section 002

Basic Concepts in Psychology

Spring 2020

Tuesday 7:20 - 10 PM

Lecture Hall 1

Office hours: 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 grade 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 online. This will be discussed in class.

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://gmusona-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.

Important dates:

- Last day to add a class – January 26
- Last day to drop a class (33% Tuition Penalty) – February 2
- Final Drop Deadline (67% Tuition Penalty) – February 19
- Selective withdrawal period – February 22 to March 25

Enrollment: Every student is responsible for verifying correct enrollment. Graded work will not be returned to students who are not officially enrolled.

Schedule:

JAN 21	Introductions, and review of syllabus and class expectations
JAN 28	Chapter 1: Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
Feb 4	Chapter 2: The Biology of the Mind
FEB 11	Chapter 3: Consciousness and 4: Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity
FEB 18	Chapter 5: Developing Through the Lifespan
FEB 25	EXAM 1 / Chapter 6: Sensation and Perception
MAR 4	Chapter 7: Learning
MAR 11	SPRING BREAK
MAR 18	Chapter 8: Memory
MAR 25	Chapter 9: Thinking and Language
APR 1	Chapter 10: Intelligence
APR 8	EXAM 2 / Chapter 11: What Drives Us? Hunger, Sex, Friendship, & Achievement
APR 15	Chapter 12: Emotions, Stress, and Health
APR 22	Chapter 13: Social Psychology
APR 29	Chapter 14: Personality
MAY 6	EXAM 3 / Chapter 15: Psychological Disorders
TBD	Final Exam 7:30 - 10:15 PM