

**Fall 2020 Course Syllabus**  
**PSY 101(03): Introductory Psychology (Hybrid)**  
11:30 am- 12:45 pm, Haas Center for Performing Arts 1750  
**Department of Psychology**

**Instructor:** Walter Sá, Ph.D.  
**Office:** 2210 Au Sable Hall (ASH)  
**Office Phone:** 616-331-3705  
**E-mail:** saw@gvsu.edu  
**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:30 (& by appointment)

### **Hybrid Class**

Both traditional **face-to-face (f2f)** and **online** components are intended to be utilized in this class. A more detailed description of this intended structure has been outlined in previous emailed communications (& won't be repeated here). A reminder that you are strongly urged to **engage the online component of this course in a quiet place with your full and undivided attention** (e.g., don't "multitask" as you will unlikely be engaged at the required depth).

There exists the very real possibility that this class may have to abruptly transition to a complete online modality at some point in time. Thus you should be prepared for this contingency. Also note, that despite what group you find yourself in (**A or B**), you should be prepared to be available during any regularly scheduled class session time (f2f or online).

### **Course Description**

This will be an introductory course to the science of psychology. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The course will provide a general survey of a wide variety of psychological topics including the history and roots of psychology, research methods used in psychology, biological processes, sensation and perception, behavioral learning perspectives, memory processes, language, reasoning and judgment, intelligence, emotions, personality, and social psychology.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific process in Psychology.
2. Identify major psychological theories and use psychological terminology correctly.
3. Critically evaluate the findings of psychological research.
4. Recognize examples of how psychological concepts are applied to daily life.

**GVSU Course Policies**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

**Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement**

This course fulfills the Social and Behavioral Sciences Foundation requirement: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gened/foundations-social-and-behavioral-sciences-277.htm>

**Textbook (Mandatory):**

**Introducing Psychology: Brain, Person, Group. Version 5.1 (2020). By Stephen M Kosslyn & Robin S. Rosenberg. Flatworld.**

**It is important that you keep up with the assigned readings throughout the entire duration of the course.** It will not be necessary to bring your textbook to class.

**Course Evaluation**

- I. Assignments** ~ 134 points\* (~67% of final grade)
  - II. Assessments** ~ 50 points\* (~ 25% of final grade)
  - III. Enrichment Activities** 16 points (8% of final grade)
- 
- ~200 points\***

\* Note this is an “aspirational” estimate. The goal here is to have a total sum of 200 points thus providing a nice round number that can be mentally converted into their percentage points equivalence with ease (i.e., 2 points = 1 final grade percentage point). The exact number of points and proportion of points allocated to assignments vs assessments, however, will likely differ slightly from that indicated above.

**Course Grade Schedule:**

Point-based scores will be converted to a percentage score at the completion of the course, and letter grades will be recorded under the following grade schedule:

<b>A</b>	<b>93-100%</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>88-89%</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>78-79%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>68-69%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>91-92%</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>82-87%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>72-77 %</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>60-67%</b>
		<b>B-</b>	<b>80-81%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70-71%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>&lt; 60&amp;</b>

For purposes of letter grade submission, numerical scores are rounded up from the **second decimal place value** to the nearest whole number (i.e., xx.45 and greater). For example, 81.45, (a **B-**) would be rounded up to an 82 (a straight **B**.)

An 81.44, however would remain a B- (the grade threshold does need to be placed somewhere.)

## **Assignments:**

There will be two types of assignments made available via blackboard. **Lecture Assignments (LA)** will be based on lecture/discussion content already presented prior to the assignment's due date and **Reading Assignments (RA)** will be based on assigned reading content that has primarily not yet been presented in our lecture/discussion component prior to the assignment's due date. Most of the assignments you will receive will be of the **LA** variety. You will need to upload your completed assignment back into blackboard by a provided due date. **Due dates for these assignments will be strictly adhered to for grading purposes—this should actually be viewed by you as an element of what you are being graded on.** It is an excellent idea to start an assignment early and hand it in well ahead of time in order to avoid any unanticipated problems that arise later and present challenges or obstructions to a timely completion. You should think of these assignments as not only being concerned with the content of interest, but also as **an assessment of your ability to plan, organize and manage your time in order to ensure scheduling constraints are satisfied.**

### **Lecture Assignments (LA):**

You will typically be given a weekly **LA** assignment that will require you to have thoughtfully engaged with content presented in lecture/discussion (either f2f, online or both). Typically these will consist of a series of questions requiring short answer responses, but may also include fill-in the blank items and even multiple-choice items. Each **LA** will specify the exact number of points it will be worth.

### **Reading Assignments (RA):**

These assignments will require that you thoughtfully read some assigned material and answer a set of provided questions. The assigned material may be textbook page ranges and/or an eReserve reading placed on blackboard. The quality and completeness of your responses to the questions will factor into the grading. **Avoid skimming the assigned readings for “the answers” as this strategy will likely result in superficial responses that will affect your score.** It is vital to take note that the nature of these assignments will ask that all of your responses are made using your own wording—e.g., do not make use of any quotations from the assigned reading(s). You will not be using citations or incorporating a reference section into these assignments. Do not incorporate the work of anyone else (including fellow students) into your responses. Doing so will be considered plagiarism (as described in the catalog and in the Student Code.) Assignments incorporating plagiarized material may result in a failing grade for the course. These assignments will vary in their weight and each **RA** will specify the exact number of points it will be worth.

## Assessments

There will be some quizzes made available online throughout the term. The format of these quizzes will likely predominately consist of multiple-choice items but may also include some fill-in-the-blank and short answer items. The total weight of the quizzes will be about 25 points (half of the 50 point allotment for assessments). The remaining points (~25) will be allocated to a **final culminating experience assignment/activity (FCEA)**. For the most part, the FCEA will look like a final exam that will be made available online. The FCEA will present some questions that will tap your comprehension of material covered throughout the course. Of particular importance will be the research methodology concepts initially covered in topic 2 that will continually resurface throughout the entire course. The FCEA will be held during the final exam week within the window of time allocated to this class by GVSU.

## Enrichment Activities

You will need to complete a total of four enrichment activity credits to attain full credit for this portion of your grade. **Each full enrichment activity credit will be worth 4 points in our grading scheme** (a half credit would be worth 2 points). Pages 8 - 12 of the syllabus outlines the options available for you in attaining these enrichment activity points. There is an upcoming due date to take part in an optional online prescreening survey that will award you a half credit (i.e., 2 points in our scheme) and also potentially increase the number of enrichment activity options available to you. Please make sure you read pages 8 -12.

Aside from how credits are weighed in terms of points for this class, any questions you have about the Enrichment Activities should be directed to Casimir Tokarski, who can be reached in the Psychology Department Office (2224 Au Sable Hall, 616.331.3262) or by sending an email to [psychlab@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychlab@gvsu.edu).

## Our responsibilities:

Both the professor and student have responsibilities in the teaching / learning process.

My responsibilities as an instructor include...

- being well organized
- being courteous and helpful with students
- providing an updated and informative course
- returning graded materials as promptly as possible
- being fair and unbiased with grading (e.g., equal treatment for all students)

Your responsibilities as a student include...

- attending classes and being punctual--especially for assessments!
- paying attention, taking notes, and asking questions about material you do not understand
- seeking help with material if you're having difficulty (e.g., meeting with me)
- doing the assigned readings and studying the course material

### **Class Distractions (f2f):**

Please be courteous to your fellow students (& instructor) by not creating distractions during the class period.

- **silence your phones** (phones should also be placed away from view altogether)
- refrain from “chatting” with other students during the class period
- If you use a lap-top computer, please ensure that you are utilizing it for the sole purpose of taking notes (don’t be watching videos, playing games etc.)

### **A note about student dissatisfaction with grades:**

An unfortunate reality of any course is that not all students will obtain the final grade they desire. As an instructor of the course, my responsibility is to insure that evaluation procedures were fair. To a very large extent, this can be determined by how the class is performing overall. If your performance as a member of this class is substantially below the general class performance, then you cannot simply claim that the evaluation procedures were unfair. Some careful thought has to be given to what else might possibly be wrong, and how it might be changed.

To minimize any damage to your student records, **it is important that you consult with me very early once difficulty arises** (e.g., discuss this with me during an office hour.) Remain vigilant about your progress in the course. When students approach me late in the term claiming that they NEED a specified grade, what can I (the instructor) do for them? the answer will be disappointing. As long as the grading procedures were fair, YOU as a student are in control and responsible for your own grade. As an instructor, I must be fair and unbiased with the grading procedures, which includes sticking to the same procedures that applied to the entire class. Deviations on my part from the outlined procedures for any single student amounts to cheating those students who were evaluated under the original scheme.

**Topics covered:**

The following is a list of the topics that will be covered in this course. Although no dates are indicated below, we will progress through the topics in the order listed. Topics are not of equal length (i.e., the duration of time we devote to them.) **Please note that Topic # ≠ Chapter #.** Throughout the course I will often refer to the topic number as indicated below, so please don't confuse topic number with chapter number.

Topic #	Topic Title	Assigned Readings†
1	Introduction to the Science of Psychology	Chapter 1 pp. 19 -41 (stop @ section 1.3)
2	Research Methodology	Chapter 1 (pp. 41 -65) & Appendix A (at back of book)
3	Biological Psychology	Chapter 2 pp. 73 - 102 (stop @ at top of page "The Neuroendocrine...")
4	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 3
5	Learning	Chapter 4
6	Memory	Chapter 5
7	Language, Thought & Intelligence	Chapter 6
8	Personality & Social Psychology	Chapter 8 & Chapter 13
9	Development & Emotion	Chapter 9 pp. 468 - 487 Chapter 7 pp. 362 - 377
(10)	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 11

**†IMPORTANT:** The above readings should **NOT** be viewed as the official assigned readings that you are responsible for and is presented here only as a useful guide for you. Some of the above may be scaled back, removed and/or **additional readings may be added**. These modifications will always be announced.

## **Important dates:**

Last day 100% refund	Sept 4 (5 pm)
Labor Day Recess	Sept 6 - 7
Prescreening survey deadline (see p. 8-10)	Sept 18
Last day 75% refund	Sept 25 (5 pm)
Fall Break	Oct 25 - 27
Drop deadline with a grade of "W"	Oct 30 (5pm)
Election Day	Nov 3
Thanksgiving Recess	Nov 25 - 29
Enrichment Activity Deadline (see p. 8-10)	Dec 8
<b>Final Culminating Experience Assignment/Activity</b>	<b>Tuesday Dec 15 10 am - 11:50 am</b>

### ***Important:***

**Your continuation in this course indicates your acceptance of all the above scheduling and procedure details along with the acceptance that some modifications may have to be made in the event of extenuating circumstances.**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Enrichment Activities:  
Learning about Psychological Research**

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Enrichment Activities portion of the course, students will become acquainted with the nature and variety of research in psychology. Two kinds of enrichment activities are available:

- *Option 1* involves being a participant in research studies conducted by Psychology Department faculty and students.
- *Option 2* involves completing activities that will give you first-hand experience with research techniques used in Psychological research.

Students must earn *four* enrichment activity credits for this requirement. Enrichment activities are worth a varying number of credits depending upon how much time it takes to complete the study/research technique activity.

**Enrichment activities use an account in the SONA Systems Scheduling System Software.** You will receive an email at the beginning of the semester containing your User ID and an initial password. Once you have your account, you can log in at any time and sign up to participate in any available studies/activities for which you qualify. If you do not receive an account email by the end of the first day of classes, please contact Casimir Tokarski at [psychlab@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychlab@gvsu.edu) or by phone at 616.331.3262.

To access SONA Systems, along with downloadable registration instructions, follow this link: <https://www.gvsu.edu/psychology/be-a-participant-in-research-296.htm>. A video tutorial is available at the following link that will walk you through the study sign-up process: <https://gvsu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?pid=14a9aaf9-814f-4a4c-830e-a9ce013e8887&id=c84e8a38-1238-4486-b590-a9cb01307e70&advance=true>

SONA Systems maintains a strict policy protecting your privacy and confidentiality. This policy is available for review in the Psychology Office.

**Option 1: Participation in Psychology Studies**

**Objective**

By participating in psychology research studies, you will experience directly some of the procedures used in psychological research while also making a valuable contribution to the generation of knowledge within the discipline. All studies have been reviewed and approved by the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is an administrative body established to protect the rights and welfare of human research participants.

**Step 1: Find a study and sign up**



When you log in using your new SONA Systems account, you will see a list of studies. If there are available timeslots there will be a link on the right that will take you to a sign-up page. Before you sign up to participate in a study, review any listed restrictions (for example, “left-handed people only”). If you do not meet the posted eligibility requirements, you will not receive credit for the study.

### **Step 2: Participate in the study**

Some studies on SONA Systems may be completed online, while other studies will require you to participate in person at a physical location (usually the Psychology Laboratories in Au Sable Hall). If the study requires you to attend a session at a particular location, please arrive before the scheduled time, as studies start punctually. If you sign up for a study session but cannot attend, please cancel your session on-line. Online studies must be completed by the study deadline to get credit.

At the beginning of a study session, you will first be given a description of what you will have to do, and you will be asked for your consent before the study begins. If you then choose not to participate, you may leave without penalty. You can check to see that you have received credit by selecting [My Schedule/Credits](#), where credits are typically posted within 24 hours after you participate in a study.

### **Under 18?**

Special rules apply to students who are under 18. A general non-study specific Parent/Guardian Permission form must be completed and placed on file in the Psychology office before you are able to participate in any of the studies. In most instances, having the general non-study specific document on file will allow you to participate in studies. However, it is important to read carefully the eligibility requirements for a study. If you need a study specific Parent/Guardian consent form signed in order to participate, it will say so in the eligibility section of the study description. If you are under the age of 18 when you create your SONA Systems account, you will receive an informative email from Casimir Tokarski, the Psychology Department Laboratory Assistant detailing the steps you will need to take in order to document parental consent. Once your parental consent form is on file, you will see a list of studies for which you are eligible.

### **Participation opportunity during the first 3 weeks of the semester: Prescreening Survey**

An on-line prescreening questionnaire is available for the first three weeks of the semester when you log in to SONA Systems. **This is only available to students who are 18 years of age or older.** It is not necessary to do this survey, but by completing it, you may receive invitations to additional studies later in the semester based on your responses. Thus, completing the pre-screening survey may increase the number of studies you will be eligible to choose throughout the semester. Completing the survey counts as one-half credit toward Enrichment Activities. The survey will appear the first time that you log into the *Study Scheduling System*, and you can access it from your [My Profile](#) page. If you opt to complete the survey, plan to complete it in a single, half-hour sitting. The last date to participate in the prescreening survey is **September 18, 2020.**

## **Option 2 Research Techniques Activities**

### **Objective**

By completing research techniques activities, you will carry out some of the procedures researchers use in their psychological research. For example, you may be asked to watch an exchange between two people and carry out behavioral coding of their interaction. In doing these activities you will gain an understanding of the strengths and limits of various research methods used in psychological science. Research Techniques Activities are listed in SONA Systems along with the research studies. There are no age restrictions on these activities. You may complete each activity only once.

### **Need Help?**

If you have questions regarding any aspect of the Enrichment Activities, please contact Casimir Tokarski, who can be reached in the Psychology Department Office (2224 Au Sable Hall, 616.331.3262) or by sending an email to [psychlab@gvsu.edu](mailto:psychlab@gvsu.edu).

### **Enrichment Activity Deadline**

The last day to complete both Enrichment Activities types is **Tuesday December 8, 2020.**