

**George Mason University
Fairfax Campus
Syllabus
Summer 2013**

**Basic Concepts in Psychology – Psychology 100 – Section C01
Instructor: Richard Amernick, M.A, C.A.S.**

CLASS LOCATION: Planetary Hall - Room 122

PHONE: 703-914-6900 (FCPS Work Number)

EMAIL: ramernic@gmu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Aquia Building Room 337 (M/T/W/R – 11 am)
703-993-5212 (no voicemail)

DATES: July 1, 2013 to August 1, 2013

DAYS: Monday through Thursday

TIME: 12:00 pm to 2:15 pm

REQUIRED TEXT: Meyers, D.G. (2013). Psychology, 10th Edition. New York, NY: Worth Publishers

- 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, brain and behavior, human development, sensation, perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, thinking and language, motivation, emotion, personality and psychological disorders.
- II. **CLASS PROCEDURES:** This class is a mixture of lecture and 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. Please arrange any late arrivals or early departures with the instructor before class by emailing the instructor. 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 50 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.

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 5% of your grade, all students are required to serve for five 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 five, reducing your final grade by up to 5%. 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.

Based on Percentage

A+ (4.0) = 100 - 97	A (3.77) = 96 – 93	A - (3.33) 92 - 90
B+ (3.0) = 89 - 87	B (2.77) = 86 – 83	B - (2.33) 82 – 80
C+ (2.0) = 79 - 77	C (1.77) = 76 – 73	C - (1.33) 72- 70
D (1.0) = 69 – 60	F = below 59	

Total Points For Exams = 150 points

Total Points For Assignments = 50 points

Research: 10 points

Total Points for Class = 210 points

Last Day to Drop Class (no penalty): July 8, 2013

Last Day to Drop Class (50% penalty): July 15, 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.**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

7/1	Introduction of Course and History of Psychology	Chapter 1
7/2	Research Methods	Chapter 1
7/3	The Biology of the Mind	Chapter 2
7/8	Consciousness and the Two Track Mind	Chapter 3
7/9	Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity	Chapter 4

7/10	Developing Through the Lifespan Review for Exam 1	Chapter 5
7/11	EXAM # 1 (Covers Introduction and Research, Biology of the Mind, Consciousness, Human Diversity and Development)	
7/15	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 6
7/16	Learning	Chapter 7
7/17	Memory	Chapter 8
7/18	Thinking, Language and Intelligence	Chapter 9 and 10
7/22	Motivation and Work Review for Exam 2	Chapter 11
7/23	EXAM # 2 (Covers Development, Sensation, Perception, Learning, Memory, Thinking, Language, Intelligence, Motivation and Work)	
7/24	Emotions, Stress, and Health	Chapter 12
7/25	Personality	Chapter 13
7/29	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15
7/30	Therapies	Chapter 16
7/31	Review for Final Exam	
8/1	FINAL EXAM (Covers Emotions, Stress and Health, Personality, Psychological Disorders, Therapies)	