

Department of Business and Public Service  
CRN 678: **Introduction to Psychology** (PSYC 1101-A)  
Syllabus for Fall Semester 2013  
Online

**First Class session on campus required, August 15, 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Russell 106.**  
**Final exam on campus, December 6, 3:35 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., Russell 324.**

Instructor: Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton  
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Office Location: Russell 315  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Textbook: Required: Exploring Psychology, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition in Modules, Myers, 2014.  
[ISBN 9781 4641 11730]

**To access GeorgiaVIEW Desire to Learn, go to the Gordon Home Page, then My Gordon, then GeorgiaVIEW Desire to Learn, and login with your Gordon User ID and PIN.**

**Catalog Course Description:** Credit: 3 semester hours – A broad survey of the major topics in psychology, including research methodology, biological and social factors influencing behavior, development, learning, memory, personality, and abnormal psychology.

**Course Objectives:** Psychology is the science of behavior and of mental processes. This course is designed as an introduction to the basic principles and concepts of psychology. During the course, we will explore the many facets of psychology – the history, biological underpinnings, theoretical perspectives, research and application. I invite you to think about what you learn during the course and look for ways to apply the information. For example, do you know why a cat comes running when it hears a can being opened? Or why it can be hard to pass up buying a lottery ticket? Or why you can remember every lyric to a song you learned at age 5 but can't remember someone's name whom you just met 10 minutes earlier? I encourage you to read the quotes and cartoons in your book that exemplify psychological constructs – see if you “get” them!

### **Course Requirements**

**1. Attendance:** Students are expected to log into the class a minimum of twice a week. Failure to log in twice in a week will result in an absence for the week. An absence for two weeks at any time during the semester will result in the reduction of one letter grade off your final grade. If you are absent for three weeks at any time during the semester, you will receive an “F” for the course.

**2. Textbook Reading Assignments:** Students are expected to read each chapter Module as assigned on the class schedule. The assigned reading should be completed prior to doing the on-line activities.

**3. On-line Learning Activities:** Each chapter has a number of learning activities on-line. These activities are designed to enhance your understanding of the material in the book.

**4. Asynchronous Discussions:** During the semester, we will have approximately 6 online discussions. A question will be posed, and students are expected to provide a thoughtful response based on their course readings. In addition, students should respond to at least 2 of their classmates' responses. **Classroom etiquette will dictate that all students should be respectful of all other students during these discussions!**

**5. Tests:** There will be 4 tests, each worth 100 points. Tests are multiple-choice in format. Tests are timed so you have 70 to 80 minutes for a test (depending on the number of questions). Once you enter the test, there will be a timer that shows you how much time you have left. There will be no make-up tests.

**6. Final Exam:** The final exam is comprehensive and is multiple choice in format. It will be on campus.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and will be dealt with according to the official college policy in the Gordon State College Academic Catalog. As a Gordon State College student and as a student in this class, you are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Gordon State College Student Code of Conduct included in the Academic Catalog. It is also available online on the Gordon website.

Evidence of cheating on examinations or plagiarism of written assignments will, at minimum, result in a grade of zero for the test or assignment. Any work turned in must be your original work and any information taken from outside sources must be referenced.

**Student Web Pages:** Faculty is not liable for the content of students' web pages; however faculty is responsible for review of student content periodically. Upon faculty request, students must immediately remove content deemed "offensive" according to computer and Network Usage Policy, Individual Responsibility Section 4.1.3. Students who refuse to comply after being notified of the policy violation will be reported to the Vice President of Student Affairs Office and could be subject to College Judiciary action. <http://www.gordonstate.edu/departments/computerservices/computerusage.asp>

**ADA Services:** To qualify for ADA Services, you must get approval and documentation from Student Affairs-Counseling. The office is located in the Student Center, second floor, and the phone number is 678-359-5585.

### **Grading Policy:**

**Tests:** There will be 4 tests on GeorgiaView Desire to Learn; each is worth 100 points. Tests will be multiple choice. Each test will be available for a couple of days prior to the deadline for that test. You may take the tests as early as you would like BUT there are specific deadlines. You MAY NOT take a test after the deadline. **NO** make-up tests will be given regardless of excuse, including technology problems. These 4 tests, averaged, will count 75% of your final grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam, which must be taken on campus, will count 25% of your final grade.

*If you have missed a test, and have an appropriate documented excuse (e.g. death of family member, medical emergency of self or family member) then the final exam grade can substitute for the missed grade (so the final will count for a much higher percentage of the final grade). This option can only be used for 1 missed exam.*

**Grading Scale:** Students' 5 exam scores will be averaged to arrive at a final grade.\* The grading scale is: 90-100 = A; 80-89.99 = B; 70-79.99 = C; 65-69.99 = D; less than 65 = F.

**\*Please note that I do not round grades up.**

**Method of Evaluation:** All tests, including the final exam, will be multiple choice. They will be timed, and must be completed within the allotted time. You will be given the specific composition of each test prior to the time that it is given. As written above, if you miss a test, the final exam grade will substitute for the missed grade.

Do not expect, and **do not ask for**, extra credit during the semester!

**Incomplete Grades:** An incomplete grade or “I” is given at my discretion under extreme circumstances that are documented. Examples of extreme circumstances are medical emergencies or a death in the immediate family.

**Suggestions for Class Success:**

1. Since this is an online course, it is imperative that you are a self-motivator and excellent time manager.
2. Begin reading and studying immediately—don’t procrastinate!
3. Read the text before attempting the online activities, and again after completing the activities if you are unclear on concepts.
4. Keep up with the suggested reading outline. Do not try to cram all the reading into the week of the exam.
5. Complete all assignments.
6. Complete any optional assignments presented throughout the semester.
7. When preparing for exams, make detailed outlines of the modules. Answer questions at the end of each module.
8. Use of the text study guide will help considerably.
9. Ask questions when you do not understand material.
10. Initiate and participate in class discussions.
11. Get help early in the semester if you need it. (I typically do not respond to e-mails during the last week of the semester.)
12. Study, study, study! A good rule of thumb is that at least 2 hours of study time per week should be devoted to every 1 hour in class. So that means that at the very minimum, students should study at least 12 hours per week, just for this class. And that’s just to make a C. Many students will find that they need to study considerably more than the minimum.
13. And obviously, since this is an online course, access to a dependable computer and internet connection is essential.

**Official Communications:** If I should need to contact you during the semester I will use the e-mail in GeorgiaVIEW Desire to Learn, not personal e-mail addresses. (In fact, I will probably not respond to personal e-mail addresses). I do not anticipate needing to contact you often; however, it would be in your best interest to get in the habit of checking your e-mail regularly.

Also be aware, that due to the confidential nature of grades, for your protection I will not be responding to e-mails about your grades. Any discussions about your grade need to be in person.

**Personal Note:** This class entails a partnership between you and me. My responsibility is to guide you in your learning, support your efforts, and evaluate your degree of course mastery. I will attempt to expose you to new ideas, and to be available to you outside of class to offer any assistance I can.

Your responsibility is to take ownership of your learning. You should actively participate in class, read your material in advance of class, and ask questions. Being in college is a wonderful opportunity for you, so you should avail yourself of the resources available to help you, and actively work to master course material.

## **Tentative Class Schedule\***

**August 15: Class Orientation Meeting, required, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m., Russell 106.**

### Modules for Exam 1 (Modules 1-5) [August 15—September 8]

#### **August**

- 19:** Module 1 – The History and Scope of Psychology
- 26:** Module 2 – Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask and Answer Questions  
Module 3 – Neural and Hormonal Systems

#### **September**

- 2:** Module 4 – The Brain  
Module 5 – Genetics, Evolutionary Psychology, and Behavior

**September 6: Exam 1 opens September 6 (closes September 8, 11:59 p.m.)**

### Modules for Exam 2 (Modules 18-23, 26-27) [September 9—October 6]

#### **September**

- 9:** Module 18 – Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning  
Module 19 – Operant Conditioning
- 16:** Module 20 – Biology, Cognition, and Learning
- 23:** Module 21 – Studying and Building Memories  
Module 22 – Storage and Retrieval  
Module 23 – Forgetting, Memory Construction, and Memory Improvement
- 30:** Module 26 – Intelligence and Its Assessment  
Module 27 – Genetic and Environmental Influences on Intelligence

**October 4: Exam 2 opens October 4 (closes October 6, 11:59 p.m.)**

**\*October 7: Last day to withdraw with W.**

**Modules for Exam 3** (Modules 9—11; 14; 28—29; 34)  
[October 7—November 10]

**October**

- 7:** Module 9 – Development Issues, Prenatal Development, and the Newborn  
Module 10 – Infancy and Childhood
- 14:** Module 11 – Adolescence  
Module 14 – Human Sexuality
- 21:** Module 28 – Basic Motivation Concepts, the Need to Belong, and Achievement Motivation \
- 28:** Module 29 – Hunger

**November**

- 4:** Module 34 – Classic Perspectives on Personality

**November 8: Exam 3 opens November 8 (closes November 10, 11:59 p.m.)**

**Modules for Exam 4** (Modules 39—43; 36—38)  
[November 11—December 1]

**November**

- 11:** Module 39 – Basic Concepts of Psychological Disorders, and Mood Disorders  
Module 40 – Schizophrenia  
Module 41 – Other Disorders
- 18:** Module 42 – The Psychological Therapies  
Module 43– The Biomedical Therapies
- 25:** Module 36—Social Thinking and Social Influence  
Module 37—Antisocial Relations  
Module 38—Prosocial Relations

**November 29: Exam 4 opens November 29 (closes December 1, 11:59 p.m.)**

**Final Exam: ON CAMPUS, December 6, 3:35pm–5:45pm, Russell 324.**

*\*This tentative class schedule is intended to be a general guide and may be modified depending on the needs of the class.*