

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

**General Psychology  
Course Syllabus, Summer 2015**

*Section PSYC-001-10*

- Instructor:** W. Gerrod Parrott *e-mail:* parrottg@georgetown.edu  
*office:* White-Gravenor 306-I
- Classes:** Mondays–Thursdays 1:00P.M.–3:00P.M., Room 202 White-Gravenor.  
Classes will consist of lecture with periods allotted for discussion. Most classes will involve demonstrations, illustrations, or videos as well.
- Office Hours:** After every class, 3:00–4:00 P.M., in White-Gravenor 306-I  
These hours provide an opportunity for questions and discussion in a more informal atmosphere.
- Texts:** Two books, both available in the University Bookstore (and elsewhere).
- *Exploring Psychology in Modules*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., by David G. Myers.  
**NOTE:** There are many versions of this text and you must avoid getting the wrong one! First, get the 9<sup>th</sup> edition—it’s much more up-to-date. Second, get EXPLORING Psychology, not plain Psychology—it’s briefer. Third, get Exploring Psychology IN MODULES—it’s divided into 43 mini-chapters rather than 15 mega-chapters.  
(Worth Publishers, 2014: paperback, ISBN: 978-1-4641-1173-0)  
(Note: the loose-leaf version is perfectly fine, ISBN: 978-1-4641-0927-0)
  - *The Norton Psychology Reader*, edited by Gary Marcus. (paperback, Norton, 2006).
- Description:** This introductory course surveys the field of academic psychology and acquaints students with its major approaches and topics. This course counts toward the Social Science component of the College’s General Education requirement, is prerequisite for all other courses offered by the Psychology Department, and is required for a major in Psychology.
- Learning Goals:** The learning goals of the undergraduate psychology program at Georgetown University may be found at: <http://psychology.georgetown.edu/undergraduate/learninggoals/>. This course is intended particularly to address the objectives listed under Goal 1: Foundational Knowledge. The course also addresses aspects of Goal 3: Application of Psychology (particularly objectives a and b) and Goal 4: Values in Psychology (particularly objectives a, b, and c).
- Web Site:** This class features a web site that uses Blackboard software to allow a variety of course activities to take place on-line. These include class announcements, assignments, discussion forums, syllabus and course description. To log on for the first time, go to the menu at <http://campus.georgetown.edu/>.

**Requirements:** Course grades are based on two quizzes, two midterm exams, and a final exam. Exams will contain both factual questions and conceptual, integrative questions that address theoretical and philosophical issues. All exams will place approximately equal emphasis on lectures and readings.

*Quizzes:* Two classes will begin with a brief quiz that will require only 15 minutes of class time. The purpose of these quizzes is to motivate students to keep up-to-date with the course readings and lectures and to provide a sense of what sort of questions will appear on the examinations. The average of the quizzes will count 10% toward the final course grade.

*Midterms:* Two midterm examinations will each cover roughly 40% of the course material. Each exam will be counted 28% toward the final course grade. The purpose of the midterms is to provide a comprehensive assessment of course mastery. No lecture will be given on midterm dates, which are listed on the calendar of class topics.

*Final Exam:* The final examination will take place during the final class period: Thursday, July 3. It will resemble the midterms in format. It will cover material from the fourth unit as if it were a midterm but also will ask questions covering the entire course. It will count 34% toward the course grade.

**Grading:**

<i>Scale:</i>	94+ A	90 - 93 A-	86 - 89 B+	82 - 85 B	78 - 81 B-	
	74 - 77 C+	70 - 73 C	66 - 69 C-	63 - 65 D+	60 - 62 D	0 - 59 F

<i>Course Grade:</i>	10% Average of two quizzes	28% First midterm
	28% Second midterm	34% Final exam

## **Course Policies:**

- Makeup Exams:* If a student cannot take one of the quizzes or exams when it is scheduled, no makeup will be given under any circumstances unless arrangements are made with the student's dean.
- Grade Appeals:* If a student believes that an answer on an exam deserves more credit than was awarded, the student may appeal to the instructor for reconsideration. All such appeals *must* be in writing, and reconsideration will be based on the quality of the appeal as well as the quality of the answer concerned. Reconsideration can be downward as well as upward when partial credit has been awarded.
- Attendance:* It is expected that all students will attend all classes (but attendance is not recorded and does not factor into grading unless it results in missing a quiz or exam).
- Readings:* It is recommended that assigned readings be done *before* the lecture for which they are assigned.
- Honor System:* Academic honesty on examinations is of the utmost importance. Examinations are to be taken without consulting books or notes, and without looking at other students' exams. Prior to examinations, of course, students are encouraged to cooperate and to assist each other as much as they like. Because the grading scale is fixed and not curved, such helpfulness can never hurt a student's grade and probably will increase his or her own understanding of the material.
- Students with Disabilities Policy:* Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (Leavey Center, Suite 335; 202-687-8354; [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu); [dss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm](http://dss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm)) before the start of classes to allow their office time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your Instructors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

## Calendar of Class Topics and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings (M=Myers; R=Reader)
<b>Unit 1: The Biological and Individual Levels of Analysis</b>		
June 1	Introduction; Brains and Minds	M: Time Management xxxiv-xl modules 1 & 4 R: A. Damasio (pp. 58–69)
June 2	Neurons and Synapses	M: module 3
June 3	Biology of Emotion; Learning	M: modules 30; 18, 19
June 4	<b>Quiz #1</b> Research Strategies in Psychology; Visual Sensation & Perception	M: modules 2 & 15 R: K. Stanovich (pp. 27–36) R: D. Hoffman (pp. 81–90)
June 8	Form and Depth Perception	M: module 16
June 9	Size Perception; Stages of Memory	M: modules 21 & 22
June 10	Remembering & Forgetting	M: module 23 R: D. Schacter (pp. 165–176)
June 11	<b>Midterm Examination #1</b>	

Date	Topic	Readings (M=Myers; R=Reader)
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**Unit 2: From the Individual to the Social/Cultural Level of Analysis**

June 15	Mental Representation and Thinking	M: modules 24 & 9
June 16	Cognitive Development and Language	M: modules 10 & 25 R: A. Gopnik (pp. 146–153) S. Pinker (pp. 97–107)
June 17	Social Development	M: module 11 R: J. Kagan (pp. 283–290)
June 18	<b>Quiz #2</b> Personality	M: modules 35 & 28 R: M. Gladwell (pp. 304–316)
June 22	Emotion at the Individual and Social/Cultural Levels of Analysis	M: module 31, 32, & 33 R: P. Ekman (pp. 245–254) R: P. Richerson (pp. 335–341)
June 23	Social Thinking and Social Influence	M: module 36 (only pp. 490–502) R: R. Cialdini (pp. 265–272) R: R. Nisbett (pp. 330–334)
June 24	The Psychodynamic Perspective	M: module 34
June 25	<b>Midterm Examination #2</b>	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings (M=Myers; R=Reader)</b>
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**Unit 3: Psychological Disorders & Therapy**

June 29	Psychological Disorders: Mood, Anxiety Developmental, and Personality Disorders	M: module 39 & 41 R: K. Jamison (pp. 349–357) R: T. Grandin (pp. 358–363)
June 30	Schizophrenia and the Biological Therapies	M: module 40 & 43 R: S. Nasar (pp. 343–348) R: P. Kramer (pp. 366–379)
July 1	Psychological Therapies	M: module 42 R: A. Beck (pp. 380–385)
<b>July 2</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	

*The above schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*