



PSY 101- Introduction to Psychology  
Mercer County Community College  
Spring 2015

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**Required Textbook:**

Myers, David (2014). *Exploring Psychology In Modules, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Worth Publishers

**Welcome to Psychology 101!**

This class will provide you with the basic principles of psychology. For many of you, this may be the only course you take in psychology in order to satisfy your general education requirements or as a general elective. However, some of you will decide to pursue further coursework in psychology by electing psychology as a major.

In this class you will learn what psychology really is, which includes a wide-range of issues relating to all areas of our lives. This course will introduce you to each of the sub-areas of psychology that you can pursue later on in more depth if you wish, such as developmental, cognitive, social, personality, and abnormal psychology. This will allow you the opportunity to decide what specific topics within psychology most excite you.

Whatever your motivation was for signing up for this course, I sincerely hope this will be a wonderful experience for you, as you are introduced to the fascinating, controversial, and always intriguing, field of psychology

**Academic Integrity**

The work a student produces must be their own and should result solely from their own efforts. Plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Students who violate this policy will receive **an "F" for the course**. Please refer to the Mercer County Community College Academic Integrity Handbook, or request one from the professor.

**Accessibility Statement**

Mercer County Community College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented differing ability or think that you may have a differing ability that is protected under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact Arlene Stinson in LB 216 [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu) for information regarding support services.

- If you do not have a documented differing ability, remember that other student resources are available to all students on campus including academic support through our Learning Center located in LB 214.
- It will be the student's responsibility to arrange an accommodation. If you are a student with a disability or special need, please advise me within **the first 2 weeks** of the course so appropriate accommodations can be made.

**Attendance and Conduct**

As college students you choose to be here. You have elected to register for this course and **YOU** will determine your overall experience in this class. Although I do not expect students to attend every class due to demands of life, attendance is very important and required. If you miss class, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to get the information you

have missed. Do not expect or request the notes to be supplied by me if you did not attend lecture. Attendance and lecture notes are crucial to success in this class.

Without question, students who attend class perform better than those who do not...make sure you get to class. If you are often absent, it should lead you to ask the question, "**Why did I register for this course?**" You will not hurt my feelings if this class is not for you, but please don't just disappear- **drop** the class as soon as you realize you don't want to be here. If you choose to not return without officially dropping the course, you will receive an "**F**" on your transcript.

### **Texting Policy:**

As a student in this class you are expected to maintain college-level etiquette, which includes respectful conduct inside and outside the classroom. Texting or use of phone during this class will not be tolerated by any student, there are NO exceptions. Should any student violate this policy the following penalties will be enforced:

1. The first time you are seen texting in class **20 points** will be taken from your final grade.
2. If you are seen texting a second time **50 points** will be taken from your final grade.
3. If you are seen texting a third time **you will be dropped** from the course. If the drop period has passed, you will receive an F for the class.

### **Attendance Bonus**

Students who attend every class will receive a **4 point bonus**. If you miss only one class, you will receive a **2 point bonus**. Lateness is not acceptable from college students; therefore two lates will be equal to one absence. If you arrive to class after I have taken role, it is **YOUR** responsibility to advise me that you arrived late otherwise you will be marked as absent. All absences without a doctor's note will be considered unexcused. It is at my discretion to add additional points for active participation.

### **Online Quizzes via LAUNCH PAD (70 points)**

Each student will be required to register and use LAUNCH PAD which accompanies the course text book. LAUNCH PAD is an all-digital learning platform for students in higher education. This program is designed for students to connect with the course material through engaging, interactive content for more effective learning. You will be assigned various activities throughout the semester and each assignment has a due date. Each Topic must be submitted no later than 11:55pm on the due date, otherwise no credit will be assigned. Once the deadline has passed, you will not be able to earn points for that assignment. You are responsible for logging into our online class section and completing the provided assignments. Please use the following link to register for LAUNCH PAD:

<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/exploring9einmodulesdsm5/557102>

	<b>LAUNCH PAD Assignments</b>		<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Modules 1-2	The History and Scope of Psychology and Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask and Answer Questions	<b>2/1</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	Modules 3-4	The Biology of Behavior: Neural and Hormonal Systems and the Brain	<b>2/15</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Module 6	Consciousness: Dual processing, Sleep and Dreams	<b>2/23</b>
<b>Topic 4</b>	Modules 18-20	Learning	<b>3/8</b>
<b>Topic 5</b>	Modules 21-23	Memory	<b>3/29</b>
<b>Topic 6</b>	Modules 10-13	Development	<b>4/5</b>
<b>Topic 7</b>	Modules 34-35	Personality	<b>4/19</b>
<b>Topic 8</b>	Modules 39-41	Psychological Disorders	<b>4/26</b>
<b>Topic 9</b>	Modules 36-38	Social Psychology	<b>5/3</b>
<b>Topic 10</b>	Modules 15-16	Sensation and Perception	<b>5/10</b>

### **Exams (210 points)**

Your final grade will be based, in part, on **THREE** 50 question multiple-choice/true-false exams, each question worth 1.4 points which will total 210 possible points. All exams will be administered in class on designated testing days provided in the course schedule (See below). It is the student's responsibility to take the exam on time. Make-up exams are not an option in this course.

- Should you miss an exam, you will have the option of taking **EXAM 4**, a cumulative final exam, which will replace your lowest exam grade. Exam 4 will be available during the final exam period on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in our classroom.

### **Chapter Quizzes (30 points)**

There will be three (3) in-class quizzes this semester, dates for these quizzes are provided in the course calendar (see pg. 7). Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, each worth 1 point, and will cover material presented in class.

### **Journal Review (20 points)**

This assignment requires the review of **ONE** scholarly journal article, there are two pre-selected articles below for your use or you may select your own. A comprehensive list of online databases is available for Mercer students. Please become familiar with the Social Science databases, PsycArticles, JSTOR, and Proquest are very useful for psychology students. These databases can be found at [http://www.mccc.edu/student\\_library\\_online.shtml](http://www.mccc.edu/student_library_online.shtml). Google Scholar is also a very good database in which you may find scholarly articles, other than the MCCC library. If you select your own article you must provide me with a copy of the article when the paper is submitted. It is strongly recommended that you submit the article to me in advance for approval.

<b>The article review is worth 20 points</b>	
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What were the researchers interested in?</li><li>▪ What research question(s) were they trying to answer?</li></ul>
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Who participated in their research? Describe the characteristics of the participants. Where did they get their participants from?</li></ul>
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ How was the research conducted (describe what the researchers did)?</li><li>▪ Does the research fit one of the basic research methods we discussed in Module 2 - naturalistic observation, survey/questionnaire, case study of single individual, experiment, correlational research? Which?</li><li>▪ If it was an experiment, what variables were manipulated? What variables were measured, recorded or observed?</li></ul>
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What did the researchers find? What were the results?</li><li>▪ What conclusions do the researchers make?</li></ul>
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Correct APA citation of the article</li></ul>

### **Pre-selected articles to choose from (Select One):**

- Ashcraft, M. (2002). Math Anxiety: Personal, Educational, and Cognitive Consequences. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. 11(5) 181-185.
- Black, K.A., Marola, J., Littman, A.I., Chrisler, J. Neace, W. (2009). Gender and Form of Cereal Box Characters: Different Medium, Same Disparity. *Sex Roles* 60 (11-12) 882-889.

In your review, no direct quotes are permitted. Please paraphrase it – put it into your own words. You will lose 1 point for every direct quote in your review. Your review cannot exceed ONE page in length. At the end of the review make sure to include the full APA citation for the article.

### Extra Credit Opportunities

#### Journal review paper (10 points)

You may submit one additional journal review paper for extra credit. This assignment will apply the same instructions for the required paper.

<b>The extra credit article review is worth 10 points</b>	
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What were the researchers interested in?</li><li>What research question(s) were they trying to answer?</li></ul>
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Who participated in their research? Describe the characteristics of the participants. Where did they get their participants from?</li></ul>
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How was the research conducted (describe what the researchers did)?</li><li>Does the research fit one of the basic research methods we discussed in chapter 1 - naturalistic observation, survey/questionnaire, case study of single individual, experiment, correlational research? Which?</li><li>If it was an experiment, what variables were manipulated? What variables were measured, recorded or observed?</li></ul>
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What did the researchers find? What were the results?</li><li>What conclusions do the researchers make?</li></ul>
2 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Correct APA citation of the article</li></ul>

#### Flash cards

To encourage good study habits, I will give 4 extra credit points per exam to students who make flash cards of the chapter material. It may not sound like much, but that adds up to **12 extra credits points** which will be added to your overall final points. Take advantage of this opportunity!

#### Course Grading

Your final grade for this class will be calculated on a point system. Your grade will be based on the total number of points accumulated of the entire semester. The required assignments are worth a total of 300 possible points for the course. Use the chart below to keep track of your cumulative points for all assignments for the semester.

<b>Required Assignments</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Earned Points</b>
Total Online Activities via LAUNCH PAD	70	
Journal review paper	20	
Quiz 1	10	
Quiz 2	10	
Quiz 3	10	
Exam 1	60	
Exam 2	60	
Exam 3	60	
<b>Extra Credit Assignments</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Earned Points</b>
<b>Exam 4 (OPTIONAL Final Exam)</b>	60	
Total Flashcards	4-12	
Journal Article Review	10	
Attendance Bonus	2 or 4	
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>Total Earned Points:</b>

Final grades can be computed as follows:

Points	Letter Grade	Percentage
279 +	A	93%
270	A-	90%
261	B+	87%
249	B	83%
240	B-	80%
231	C+	77%
210	C	70%
180	D	60%
Below 180	F	

### Helpful Tips for Success

Student success is not given at the end of the semester as a letter grade, begins on the first day of the semester and earned through persistence. Will you be successful in this class?

Each semester many students register for this class and fail...why? They did not come to class understanding what it takes to be a successful college student. High school is over...you will not pass this class just by showing up, it will take effort. YOU must care about your success in this class from the very beginning.

### Advice from my Fall 2014 PSY 101 Students

- Follow the syllabus, it will help you!
- Avoid procrastination...Don't save everything for the last minute!
- Pay attention in class...it helps a lot!
- Organize your calendar and keep track of everything that is due to succeed in this class!
- Do the ALL of the LAUNCH PAD assignments- it makes a difference!
- Ask questions if you are not sure and be proactive about your own grade!
- Make flashcards!
- Learn to manage your time
- Do ALL of the extra credit. It does not hurt you if you and is easy to complete!
- Take school seriously

### How can I succeed in this class?

1. Read the syllabus!!
2. Read the syllabus!!
3. Take responsibility for your performance. YOU will determine your success in this class, not me.

4. Come to class with a good attitude...(or stay home)
5. Come to class on time, prepared and ready to participate.
6. Ask questions and get involved.
7. Complete all assignments on time
8. Take advantage of the extra credit opportunities.
9. Attend office hours if you are having trouble
10. Be proactive...don't wait until the end of semester to get involved!

The following are behaviors and attitudes not associated with successful college students. I encourage questions of all kinds, both inside and outside of the class, but the following are exceptions. None of your Professors enjoy questions such as these, please don't be that student ☺

The Top Ten Questions You Shouldn't Ask Professor Jennings!	Top Ten Answers You will Receive if you do:
1. I wasn't here last class...Did I miss anything important?	No, we waited for to show and when you didn't we all left.
2. When are your office hours?	Read the Syllabus
3. Where is your office?	Read the Syllabus
4. What chapters are on the exam(s)?	Read the Syllabus
5. When is that paper due?	Read the Syllabus
6. Do you have a stapler I can borrow?	No.
7. Are the exam questions HARD...are you trying to trick us?	No. Come see me in office hours to review the test questions.
8. I forgot to take the test...can I have a make-up?	No, take the optional final at the end of the semester.
9. Do I have to buy the book?	No, but you are setting yourself up for failure if you do not have all the course materials.
10. Do we really need to cite our sources?	No, you are special. Everyone else must cite, except for you. Of course you need to cite your sources!

I sincerely hope that you find this subject to be interesting and enjoy this psychology course. It is my goal for each of you to successfully learn in this class, as well as, think critically about issues related to Psychology. Please feel free to contact me at any time during the semester in class, during office hours, by phone or email with any questions.

## Course Schedule

<b>January 20<sup>th</sup></b>	----	Welcome, Course Overview & Introduction
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Module 1	The History and Scope of Psychology
<b>January 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 2	Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask and Answer Questions
<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 2	Research Strategies: How Psychologists Ask and Answer Questions
<b>February 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Module 3	The Biology of Behavior: Neural and Hormonal Systems <b>JOURNAL PAPER DUE TODAY!</b>
<b>February 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 3	The Biology of Behavior: Neural and Hormonal Systems
<b>February 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 4	The Biology of Behavior: The Brain <b>(QUIZ #1)</b>
<b>February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 4	The Biology of Behavior: The Brain
<b>February 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Modules 1-4</b>
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 6	Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind: Dual processing, Sleep and Dreams
<b>February 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 18	Learning: Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning
<b>February 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 18	Learning: Basic Learning Concepts and Classical Conditioning
<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Module 19	Learning: Operant Conditioning
<b>March 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 20	Learning: Biology, Cognition, and Learning
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 21	Memory: Studying and Building Memories <b>(QUIZ #2)</b>
<b>March 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 22	Memory: Storage and Retrieval
<b>March 16-22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>NO CLASSES!</b>	 <b>SPRING BREAK!</b> 
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 23	Memory: Forgetting, Memory Construction, Memory Improvement
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 9	Developing Through the Life Span: Developmental Issues, Prenatal Development, and the Newborn
<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Module 10	Developing Through the Life Span: Infancy and Childhood
<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Module 10	Developing Through the Life Span: Infancy and Childhood
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Modules 6, 18-19, 21-23, and 9-10</b>
<b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 34	Personality: Classic Perspectives on Personality
<b>April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 35	Personality: Contemporary Perspectives on Personality
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 39	Psychological disorders: Basic Concepts and Mood Disorders
<b>April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Module 40	Psychological Disorders: Schizophrenia
<b>April 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Module 41	Psychological Disorders: Other Disorders <b>(QUIZ #3)</b>
<b>April 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 36	Social Psychology: Social Thinking and Social Influence
<b>April 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 38	Social Psychology: Pro-Social Relations <b>EXTRA CREDIT JOURNAL PAPER DUE</b>
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Module 15 and 16	Sensation and Perception: Basic Concepts of Sensation and Perception and Vision and Perceptual Organization and Interpretation
<b>May 7<sup>th</sup></b> (Final class meeting!)	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Modules 30-34, 37-38, 14 and 16</b>
<b>May 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Optional Final Exam</b>	<b>ALL course material (See above)</b>

## Helpful Information for Mercer Students!

**First Semester Students** A coach has been assigned to assist you with navigating your first semester in college. Coaches help with understanding how Mercer works, finding appropriate help with course work, and establishing academic goals. Visit [www.mccc.edu/coaching](http://www.mccc.edu/coaching) to find your coach or Contact: Arlene Stinson, LB217, 570-3451, [SOAR@mccc.edu](mailto:SOAR@mccc.edu)

**Academic Advising after your first semester** Faculty advisors provide help with completing your major after your first semester. Meet your faculty advisors! Contact the division of your major to find out who is your faculty advisor.

Liberal Arts Division:	Debbie Stotland,	LA162, 570-3378,	<a href="mailto:Stotland@mccc.edu">Stotland@mccc.edu</a>
Business Division:	Doris Geck,	BS134, 570-3482,	<a href="mailto:Geckd@mccc.edu">Geckd@mccc.edu</a>
Math, Science, Health:	Barbara Pieslak,	MS126, 570-3383,	<a href="mailto:pieslakb@mccc.edu">pieslakb@mccc.edu</a>
Undecided major:	Michael Glass,	SC201, 570-3530,	<a href="mailto:glassm@mccc.edu">glassm@mccc.edu</a>

**Use your “MyMercer” Portal!** Your “MyMercer” portal contains your MercerMail, financial information, class schedule, grades, and other information. Check your “MyMercer” portal every day! Visit [www.mccc.edu/mymercer](http://www.mccc.edu/mymercer) to access your portal.

### **Tutoring support**

Academic support services are free and available for all students. Drop in or contact the following to make arrangements:

- Arlene Stinson (WWC), LB 217, 570.3422, [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu)
- Joann Mia (JKC), KC311, 570-3128, [miaj@mccc.edu](mailto:miaj@mccc.edu)

### **Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities**

The Office of Special Services (OSS) provides continued support to students with documented disabilities. Support staff is available to help students with differing abilities make a smooth transition to college as well as to succeed throughout their college experience. Contact: Arlene Stinson, LB 217, 570-3525, [stinsona@mccc.edu](mailto:stinsona@mccc.edu)

### **Career and Transfer Center:**

Planning to go to work or to transfer to a 4-year college after completing your Mercer degree? Contact the Career and Transfer Center for support and advice.

Laurene Jones (WWC transfer services), SC201, 570-3307, [jonesl@mccc.edu](mailto:jonesl@mccc.edu)  
Michael Glass (WWC career services), SC201 570-3530, [glassm@mccc.edu](mailto:glassm@mccc.edu)  
Kimberley Bowser (TC transfer and career), KC216, 570-3110, [bowserk@mccc.edu](mailto:bowserk@mccc.edu)

### **Counseling Services**

Are you experiencing personal challenges, feeling overwhelmed? Are you having stress and anxiety? Counseling services are available free of charge. Contact: Dorothy Gasparro, SC239, 570-3354, [gasparrd@mccc.edu](mailto:gasparrd@mccc.edu)

### **Veteran’s Services**

If you are military, veteran, or family member, we offer free support for you.

Contact: Drew Daddio, SC220, 570-3240, [vets@mccc.edu](mailto:vets@mccc.edu)

**Important Spring 2015 dates** For complete list, visit [www.mccc.edu/news\\_calendar\\_academic](http://www.mccc.edu/news_calendar_academic)

- 1/19/15 – Last day for 100% refund
- 1/26/15 – Last day for 50% refund
- 2/2/15 – Last day to apply for May 2015 graduation (apply at AD128)
- 2/24/15 – 10-week semester starts
- 4/3/15 – Last day to withdraw from 15-week class
- 4/15/15 – Start FASFA for Fall 2015