

# PSYC 1101-B - General Psychology

Fall 2017

MWF: 1:55pm – 2:45 pm, Building Name, Room #

**Instructor:** Sidni A. Vaughn, M.S.

**Office:** Bldg., Room #

**Email:** svaughn8@gatech.edu

**Office Hours:** M & Tu: 12:00pm-1:00pm

W: 11:00am-12:00pm

Th: 12:00pm-1:30pm

\*or by appointment

**TA:** NAME

**Required Textbook:** *Introduction to Psychology*

**Author(s):** Meaghan Altman et al.

**Textbook ISBN:** 978-1-77330-095-5

**Publisher:** Top Hat

**1 Semester Subscription ISBN:** 978-0-9866151-0-8

## Course Overview

**Description:** This is a course in scientific psychology, presenting a broad overview of the major topics in the field. In this course, we will learn about the biological basis of behavior as well as social factors that influence it. We will discuss how people sense and perceive the world. We will review the fundamental processes of human development, learning, memory, thinking, language, and consciousness. Lastly, we will wrap up the course with a look at human personality and how psychological problems can develop and be treated.

**Goals:** By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- demonstrate awareness of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical trends, and empirical findings in the field of psychology
- discuss research methodology, and be able to identify and differentiate among techniques used by psychologists to draw scientific inferences
- describe the basic processes underlying a variety of psychological phenomena (e.g., human development, emotion, memory, sensation, perception, learning, consciousness)
- describe how both biological and environmental influences constitute psychological phenomena
- identify the variety of factors that contribute to a person's attitudes and personality
- recognize a variety of psychological disorders and identify corresponding treatment options
- better recognize and appreciate the psychological dynamics present in everyday life
- consider yourself a better consumer and communicator of scientific information

**Assessments (400 points):** I will administer 5 exams, each worth 100 points, throughout the semester. However, the assessment portion of your final grade will come from only 4 exams (i.e., I will drop your lowest exam score). Exams 1-4 are NOT cumulative and will occur during the semester. The fifth, CUMULATIVE exam will be given during the final exam time slot. This means:

- If you are happy with your scores on exams 1-4 then you do not have to take the final.
- If you choose to take all 5 exams, I will drop your lowest score of the 5.
- If you miss an exam during the semester for ANY reason other than a GT approved absence (appropriate documentation required), you will not be granted a make-up exam and will have to use that exam as your dropped grade (i.e., I will drop the '0'). This means you will have to take the cumulative final exam in order to gain all your points for the assessment portion of your grade.
  - Note: Requests for a make-up exam made PRIOR to the exam period will be granted if possible.

Given the structure of grading for the exams (i.e., dropping your lowest score), you do not need to notify me if you are just choosing to voluntarily skip an exam. I understand that things happen (e.g., illness, missed alarms, a week full of other deadlines or exams) and you are in choice with which exams you take. Again, please be aware that absolutely NO makeup exams will be given without prior arrangements and/or a GT-approved absence and the necessary documentation. Excuses will not be considered, only the timeliness of the request.

Each of the exams will consist of multiple choice and/or fill-in-the-blank questions, and possibly short answer questions. Exam questions will come from readings, in-class activities, and online course work (including lectures, videos, discussions, demonstrations, etc.). Exams will always be passed out at the beginning of class. However, any student who shows up after the first person has turned in their exam will NOT be allowed to take the exam. Because there is no way for you to gauge how long it will take someone to complete any given exam, you are strongly encouraged to be on time. Please bring your Buzzcard or some other form of picture identification (e.g., driver's license) with you to each exam as you will be asked to present it when turning in your exam.

**Top Hat Homework Questions (100 points):** Embedded within our Top Hat textbook are in-text homework questions. Each chapter has a various number (some more than others) of questions relevant to the text. Homeworks are due by 11:59pm on Sundays. To account for student variability (i.e., preference on reading before or after class) the deadlines for each chapter fall on a Sunday after the chapter has been completely covered in class. Refer to the table at the end (pg. 8) of the syllabus to see which homework assignments are due on which days. These questions are meant to encourage active rather than passive engagement with the material and are used as a means to check your understanding (and perhaps prompt re-reading a section that you did not understand). Your responses to each question will be graded for correctness (0.75pt) and participation (0.25). That is, each question is worth 1-point total. For questions with no correct answer, you will receive the 1 point for just participating. Your total score for each chapter will be considered as a percentage (out of 100%) of the total available points for that chapter (e.g., 61/61 is 100% for Chapter 1). At the end of the semester, your average score on these homework assignments will be converted to be worth as much as one exam grade (100 points). That is, if

your average is 80% you will receive 80 points towards your final grade in the course. You are encouraged to use your book and notes as resources for these questions, but should work independently on these questions. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.

**In-Class Quizzes (50 points):** Throughout the semester, there will be a series of unannounced in-class quizzes. Quizzes can be administered at any point throughout the lecture (beginning of class, middle, or end) and will be embedded into that day’s lecture presentation. Students may take the quiz via the Top Hat app (via cell-phone) or paper/pencil. If you choose to use paper/pencil for your in-class quizzes, it is YOUR responsibility to write your name CLEARLY at the top of the page and make sure that I get your quiz. Quizzes will cover previously learned material. This should encourage you to come to class on time, participate, and turn in your in-class work. I cannot predict how many quizzes there will be, but one quiz will be dropped from your score for an unexcused absence. For those who do not miss a class, your lowest quiz score will be dropped. These quizzes are open book, open notes, and collaborative. They are graded simply as achieving at least 50% of the questions correct. Quizzes cannot be made up without a GT approved absence. It is YOUR responsibility to be on-time for class and leave when dismissed. If you come late and a quiz was administered at the beginning of class, you will not be counted for being in-class that day.

**Psychology in the Media Papers (60 points):** Throughout the semester, you will write two papers in which you will compare how a psychological topic of your choosing is reported in the mass media with scientific literature itself. Each paper will be worth 30 points (60 points total). You will submit these papers on T-square as a PDF document. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric for these assignments will be posted under the Resources tab on T-square and discussed in class.

Assignment	Points
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
Top Hat Homework	100
In-class Quizzes	50
Psyc. in Media Papers	60
+ Research Participation (see pg. 4)	
TOTAL	610

Points	Grade
549-610	A
488-548	B
427-487	C
366-426	D
< 365	F

\*\* There will be NO class-based curving. With this grading system, a low A is still an A (i.e., 549 points and 610 points will look the same on your transcript) but a high B (e.g., 89%) will NOT be rounded up to an A. You are responsible for earning the points corresponding with your desired grade. Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking for ways to earn one extra point to boost your letter grade. These types of emails always happen, and as a result I have already built in a conditional, extra credit opportunity to your syllabus (see page 9) to account for this. You are responsible for your fate in this course! \*\*

## + Research Participation!

### Research Exposure Program School of Psychology, Georgia Institute of Technology

We in the School of Psychology believe that exposure to research is essential to gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of human behavior. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. There are three ways to experience research activity to fulfill the research exposure requirement for PSY 1101. You need to participate in 4 hours of research credit.

You have until Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to complete your research credit.

1. experience research as a volunteer participant in studies conducted in the School of Psychology at GT. You can learn about, and sign-up for, the experiments on the experiment web site: [gatech-psych.sona-systems.com](http://gatech-psych.sona-systems.com)
2. complete a series of article critiques (see Option 2 below)
3. or some combination of both.

Unsuccessful completion of all research credits can result in up to a letter grade reduction toward the final grade in the course. You will not technically earn points for participating in research hours. By doing 4 hours of research, you get to keep the points you have earned throughout the semester. For every ONE hour you do not complete, you will lose 15 points from your total grade. If you do not complete all FOUR hours, 60 points will be deducted from your grade (dropping a full letter grade).

Only 3 hrs completed:	- 15 points from total course grade
Only 2 hrs completed:	- 30 points from total course grade
Only 1 hr completed:	- 45 points from total course grade
0 hrs completed:	- 60 points from total course grade

When students sign up for studies, it is important that they show up at the appointed time or cancel their appointments 24 hours in advance. Missed appointments are problematic because of the time and opportunities lost such as depriving other students from taking that spot and the lost time of the researchers. If there are two unexcused missed appointments during the semester, the student will no longer be able to sign up for studies. In this case, the remaining requirement must be fulfilled using Option 2. Arriving late to an appointment may constitute a missed appointment if the researcher is not able to accommodate the student in the remaining time.

**Option 2: Article Critiques:** You will conduct 4 article critiques (1 research credit per article) of 4 different empirical papers on a topic of your choice (2-3 pages per article critique). You have until Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to complete your article critiques. Use Georgia Tech's online library to find the articles and use the following link as a guide to what is an acceptable journal for a published article for this assignment:

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?area=3200>. This assignment should be written in APA style: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

The main points of the paper should include answers to the following questions:

1. What was the hypothesis of the study?
2. Identify the IVs, DVs, extraneous variables, and confounding variables.
3. What were the study results?
4. What are the general conclusions?

### **Communication**

Although the Top Hat textbook is interactive, official grades (e.g., exams), important announcements, lecture slides, and other miscellaneous information will be posted on the course T-square page (<https://www.tsquare.gatech.edu>).

Emails sent to the entire class will be sent to your GT email address (e.g., name@gatech.edu). Please be sure that you check your GT email account at least once per day or ensure that emails sent to your GT account are forwarding to the account that you prefer to check regularly.

When sending email correspondences to the instructor or TA, please put 'PSYC 1101' in the subject line to ensure that your email is given the proper attention. You are always welcome to speak to Sidni before or after class, as well as during office hours.

### **Grade Review**

We have a large class and I will not be using class time to hand back exams. If you are interested in looking over your scored exams, you should email your TA to set up a time to review your exam. You will have the opportunity to review your first four exams at any point throughout the semester until 12:00pm on Friday, 12/8 (prior to the week of our final exam). After this date, you will only be allowed to look over your final exam. I strongly encourage you to discuss questions or concerns about grading with me either before or after class or during my office hours. If you are unable to meet with me during office hours, please let me know and we can set up another mutually convenient time. Outside of office hours, the best way to reach me is via email.

Suspected grading errors should be brought to Sidni's attention immediately via email. Email is not secure so we will not share exam questions or discuss point totals this way, and it will only be used for requesting that a grade be checked. If necessary, we will set up a time to go over your exam together in person.

### **Technology Policy**

Laptops may NOT be used for note taking. Several studies find that students who use laptops to take notes usually browse the Internet, and miss a significant proportion of information from lecture and in-class discussion. This laptop ban is for your benefit. I posted a study on T-square (see resources) that found students who took notes by hand remembered significantly more class information than those who used laptops.

Cell phones should be kept on vibrate or silent. If you anticipate a phone call, let me know before class. There may be various times we use cell phones for class participation (in-class texting polls, etc). Top Hat has a cell phone app that you can download and utilize for this (if you'd like). Having a cell phone or using the Top Hat app is NOT REQUIRED. Paper/pencil responses to in-class activities will be accepted. I WELCOME new technology and look forward to incorporating it into our classroom environment, but not at the cost of your learning.

### Academic Integrity

All students are assumed to have read the Code of Student Conduct and consented to be bound by it. Violations of these rules of conduct are taken extremely seriously and will result in a failing grade for the course (at minimum). Specific violations include (but are not limited to):

- Use or provision of prohibited assistance during quizzes or exams
- Sharing of outside assignments such as research reports or papers
- Plagiarism- this includes both the use of the words and ideas without attribution (e.g., by presenting online materials as if they were your own work)

### Students with Disabilities

Georgia Tech complies with regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are in need of a classroom accommodation, please make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services to discuss the appropriate procedures. Their website is <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

### Student Athletes

Student athletes must provide an official schedule of their activities for the entire semester. Failure to do so will preclude opportunities for event-related make-ups. Make-ups will generally not be allowed for events that are not documented on the official schedule. Make-ups for events documented on the official schedule will generally occur *prior* to the regularly-scheduled exam

### Tentative Course Schedule\*

Day	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Important Event
<b>M</b>	<b>8/21</b>	<b>*NO CLASS – SOLAR ECLIPSE</b>	Syllabus	
W	8/23	Welcome/What is Psychology?	Ch 1	
F	8/25	What is Psychology?	Ch 1	
M	8/28	Research Methods	Ch 2	
W	8/30	Research Methods	Ch 2	
F	9/1	Research Methods	Ch 2	<b>Optional: Signed Syllabus turned in @ end of class</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>9/4</b>	<b>NO CLASS - LABOR DAY</b>		
W	9/6	Biology/Neuroscience	Ch 3	
F	9/8	Biology/Neuroscience	Ch 3	

<b>M</b>	<b>9/11</b>	<b>CLASSES CANCELLED – HURRICANE IRMA</b>		
W	9/13	Biology/Neuroscience	Ch 3	
<b>F</b>	<b>9/15</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>		<b>Optional: Article Check for Paper 1 – due @ 5:00PM on T-square</b>
M	9/18	Development	Ch 4	
W	9/20	Development	Ch 4 4.2-4.3	
F	9/22	Development	Ch 4 4.4-4.6	
M	9/25	Sensation & Perception – Basics	Ch 5 5.1-5.2	
W	9/27	Sensation & Perception - Vision	Ch 5 5.2	
F	9/29	Sensation & Perception – Vision, Hearing	Ch 5 5.2-5.3	<b>Paper 1 due @ 5:00pm on T-square</b>
M	10/2	S&P – Hearing, other senses, methods Consciousness - Attention	Ch 5.3-5.9 Ch 6 6.1-6.2	
W	10/4	Consciousness- Sleep & Altered States	Ch 6 6.3-6.4	
<b>F</b>	<b>10/6</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>		
<b>M</b>	<b>10/9</b>	<b>NO CLASS – FALL BREAK</b>		
W	10/11	Learning	Ch 7 7.1-7.5	
F	10/13	Learning	Ch 7 7.6-7.8	
M	10/16	Learning	Ch 7 7.9-7.12	
W	10/18	Memory	Ch 8 8.1-8.2	
F	10/20	Memory	Ch 8 8.3	
M	10/23	Memory	Ch 8 8.4	
W	10/25	Memory	Ch 8 8.5	
F	10/27	Language & Thought	Ch 9 9.1	

M	10/30	Language & Thought	Ch 9 9.2	
W	11/1	Language & Thought (Problem Solving & Decision Making)	Ch 9 9.3-9.5	
F	11/3	Intelligence	Ch 10 10.1-10.4	<b>Optional: Article Check for Paper 2 – due @ 5:00PM on T-square</b>
M	11/6	Intelligence	Ch 10 10.5-10.7	
<b>W</b>	<b>11/8</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>		
F	11/10	Motivation & Emotion	Ch 11 11.1-11.2	
M	11/13	Motivation & Emotion	Ch 11 11.3-11.4	
W	11/15	Motivation & Emotion	Ch 11 11.4-11.6	
F	11/17	Personality	Ch 12 12.1-12.4 & 12.12	<b>Paper 2 due @ 5:00 pm on T-square</b>
M	11/20	Personality	Ch 12 12.9- 12.10 & 12.13	
<b>W</b>	<b>11/22</b>	<b>NO CLASS – STUDENT RECESS</b>		
<b>F</b>	<b>11/24</b>	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>		
M	11/27	Psychological Disorders	Ch 14 14.1-14.2	
W	11/29	Psychological Disorders	Ch 14 14.3-14.4	
<b>F</b>	<b>12/1</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>		
M	12/4	Therapy/Wrap-up	Ch 15 15.2-15.4	
<b>W</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>Final Exam, 2:50pm-5:40pm</b>		

\* Any changes to this schedule will be announced at least one class period in advance.

**Top Hat Textbook Homework Question Due Dates:**

<b>11:59PM on Sunday</b>	<b>Questions Due on Top Hat</b>
9/3	Ch 1 (1.01-1.61)
9/10	Ch 2 (2.01-2.46)
9/17	Ch 3 (3.01-3.21)
9/24	Ch 4 (4.01-4.55)
<b>10/1</b>	<b>NONE</b>
10/8	Ch 5 (5.01-5.66)
10/15	Ch 6 (6.01-6.50)
10/22	Ch 7 (7.01-7.31) NOTE: 7.02 & 7.04 were removed
10/29	Ch 8 (8.01-8.55)
11/5	Ch 9 (9.01-9.55)
11/12	Ch 10 (10.01-10.70)
11/19	Ch 11 (11.01-11.30)
11/26	Ch 12 (12.01-12.08; 12.12-12.18; 12.22-12.32)
12/3	Ch 14 (14.01-14.32)

**OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY (worth 6.1 points):  
Conditional Syllabus Commitment**

By signing and returning this syllabus page to Sidni (no later than end of class on Friday, 9/1) I am stating that I have read and fully understand the policies, procedures, and deadlines associated with this course. I have addressed any questions or concerns about the contents of the syllabus with Sidni before signing.

I understand that I will be awarded 6.1 extra credit points (equivalent to 1% of my entire grade for this course) for signing and returning this page. There will be no penalization for not turning in this page. However, if I later approach Sidni during the semester with questions that are clearly addressed within the syllabus that I signed, my 6.1 extra credit points can be taken away.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name (as it appears on course roster)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date