

*Information in this syllabus is subject to change. This is Version 1.1, publication date 30 Aug 2009.  
Revisions, as well as some course information, are only available on Blackboard.*

Staff	Office Hours				
Dr. Larry Rudiger	John Dewey Hall, 205: By appointment (e-mail <a href="mailto:psych1@uvm.edu">psych1@uvm.edu</a> ), <i>after</i> visiting the PSYC 001 office.				
Amy Paysnick Jenn Zangl	John Dewey Hall, 208a. Changes to the office-hour schedule will be posted on Blackboard.				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	12:30-1:30	1:00-2:00	2:45-3:45	1:15-2:15	9:30-10:30

How to contact us	<p><a href="mailto:psych1@uvm.edu">psych1@uvm.edu</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use your UVM e-mail account.</li> <li>○ In most cases, you will get a reply within 1 business day as e-mail is checked frequently.</li> <li>○ Do not e-mail or telephone individual instructors.</li> </ul>
How we contact you	Most information will be posted on Blackboard. If we need to contact you individually, we will use your UVM e-mail address. Students are expected to manage their own e-mail accounts so that they can receive messages related to the course.
Textbook	<p>Joffe, J.M. &amp; J. Krulewitz (2007) <i>Investigating the mind, brain, and behavior: An introduction to psychology</i> (3rd Ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson. ISBN 0-536-32862-5. Available in hard-copy and electronic editions. New books are bundled, and contain the text in both formats.</p> <p>In addition, there will be required readings available from the UVM's electronic collection and accessible within Blackboard.</p> <p>You will also need an <b>iClicker</b> in-class response device. The textbook and iClickers are available at the UVM store.</p>
Web-based resources	<p><a href="https://bb.uvm.edu/">https://bb.uvm.edu/</a> Your Blackboard ID and password are the same as your e-mail account.</p>

Section	CRN	Time	Days	Location
B	90090	8:00 – 9:15	Monday & Wednesday	Billings Lecture Hall
A/Z1	90089/93393	8:30 – 9:45	Tuesday & Thursday	Billings Lecture Hall
D/Z3	90094/93395	10:00 – 11:15	Tuesday & Thursday	Billings Lecture Hall
C/Z2	90092/93394	4:00 – 5:15	Tuesday & Thursday	Rowell 103

## Psyc 001: The gist

The course has several elements in two broad categories.

1. There are four types of *learning opportunities*: (1.) pre-class online assignments (on textbook readings), some of which are done in small groups; (2.) class attendance; (3.) in-class participation; and (4.) direct experience with research projects. Each of the first three learning opportunities is worth 10% of your grade.
2. There are also two types of *assessment*: online quizzes (10% of grade), and in-class examinations (60% of grade), including a comprehensive final exam.

In addition, bonus points are available. Each element of the course is described in detail below.

## Course Objective

PSYC 001 introduces students to the ways psychologists try to understand behavior. We do this through intensive study of representative research, a focused survey of major trends in the field, and by highlighting fast-breaking psychology-related topics in the news. The emphasis is on *how* questions are framed and evidence is obtained to answer them, and how theories are developed, evaluated, and conveyed. By the end of the course, students should be able to read, think, and write like psychologists. These critical-thinking skills should serve you well if you continue to work in the field, and make you an educated consumer of psychological services.

**Process.** This course involves reading, writing, and *conference*. Our approach is summed up in this adapted quote from Francis Bacon (1561-1626): **Reading maketh a full person, writing an exact person, and conference a ready person.** (*Of Studies*.) Each of these aspects is explained below.

## Reading

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**Textbook: *Investigating the mind, brain, and behavior*.** The textbook has six sections. Each has an introductory survey chapter, followed by several additional chapters summarizing specific research studies in that area; these are the focus of attention during class. In addition, we will be reading original journal articles. They are listed on the schedule as *Bb 1*, and *Bb 2*. As indicated on the schedule, along with the chapter assigned for class discussion, you should carefully read and analyze each section's introductory chapter.

As will be explained more fully in class, in assignments, and on Blackboard, some of the required readings will **not** be discussed in class (and a few chapters are omitted). This is intentional. The goal is to broaden the course's scope and to provide you with an opportunity to develop and employ your skills of **reading to learn**, not simply reading to reinforce what you heard in class. Reading-to-learn techniques are part of the curriculum. They will be available in Blackboard and through other opportunities on campus.

**Course space in Blackboard.** In addition to the textbook, students are expected to monitor the course's space in Blackboard. It will feature information related to the course content. Some of this material is central to the class and subject to inclusion on exams. This material will be clearly marked.

## Writing

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Writing assignments are submitted online via Blackboard. They are intended to help you prepare for class, to develop skills in writing about research, and to build a foundation for later study (in psychology as well as other sciences). Assignments are due **10:00 pm on Sundays**, except where noted in Blackboard. As shown below, the first one is due on a Tuesday (at 10:00 pm). In general, you will submit work on readings for class on Wednesday or Thursday of the upcoming week as well as Monday or Tuesday of the following week. Here is a summary of the due dates. Note also that on most deadlines, there are two assignments due.

<b>Writing Assignment Deadlines (10:00 pm)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
	1: Tuesday, Sep 8	2 & 3	7: Oct 18	Bb 1 pt 2, 18 & 20
	2: Sep 13	4 & 5	8: Nov 1	21 & 22
	3: Sep 20	6 & 8	9: Nov 8	23 & 24
	4: Sep 27	9 & 11	10: Nov 15	26 & 28
	5: Oct 4	12 & 13	11: Dec 6	Bb 2
	6: Oct 11	Bb 1 pt 1, 16 & 17		

**Format and criteria.** Details are provided in Blackboard. Some of these assignments are completed by working on a team, although some are largely a matter of individual effort (usually the case when based on material covered during the class meeting after the first three exams, as well as during the first 3 weeks of class). Also, some assignments have multiple steps with multiple deadlines before the final one. Details of these schedules will be in Blackboard, and announcements will be posted to remind you.

**Grading.** Assignments may be checked for completeness and quality. You will get feedback on some of them. Full credit is awarded if they meet the criteria indicated.

**Points.** The maximum number of points awarded for each writing assignment varies from .25 (early in the semester) to 5 points (at the semester's end). The more you do, the more each is potentially worth. If at least 20 (of the possible 23) assignments receive full credit, you will get the full 50 points available: that is, you can submit late, or skip entirely, **three** of the assignments without penalty. However, you can earn up to 15 bonus points by submitting more than 20 assignments.

**Missed and late writing assignments.** These are preparation for class, so students cannot "make-up" missed assignments by doing them after the class for which they are due. In all cases, other than unforeseeable events, **writing assignments should be submitted by the deadline even when your absence from class is excused.** Excused absences do **not** excuse you from completing the writing assignment prior to the class. Late submissions receive credit only in exceptional circumstances.

## Academic misconduct and written work

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Use your own words, not the textbook-authors' words. Using other people's words without acknowledgement is *plagiarism*, as is copying all or parts of work written by other Psyc 001 students, past or present, and submitting it as your own work. Moreover, *paraphrasing* is also considered academic misconduct. Besides robbing you of the benefit of learning through your own writing, these are serious offenses. We expect you to be familiar with UVM's policy on Academic Integrity. This can be found at <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf> It includes the following definition:

All ideas, arguments, and phrases, submitted without attribution to other sources, must be the creative product of the student. Thus, all text passages taken from the works of other authors must be properly cited. The same applies to paraphrased text, opinions, data, examples, illustrations, and all other creative work. Violations of this standard constitute *plagiarism*.

[<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf>, page 1) Policy V. 3.4.3.2, Effective Date: June 28, 2007]

If there is any concern about a possible violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, the matter will be referred to the Center for Student Ethics and Standards. A likely result of a substantiated violation of the code is receiving a course grade of XF, which signifies that you failed the course because of misconduct.

### Practical advice to prevent unintentional plagiarism

1. **Do not share your work in any form with students outside your team until after the deadline.** You will receive the same penalty, regardless of who copied the work and who allowed it to be copied.
2. **When writing, close the textbook.** Refer to it only to check facts. If you have it open while you are writing, you will find it much harder to avoid paraphrasing it too closely and, even though your intent may not be to plagiarize, you may well find you are doing so.

## Attendance

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### Attendance expectations: iClickers

You are considered to have attended class if **you** respond with **your** iClicker. Full credit is given for full participation: if you fail to click in for every question, you will not get full credit. If you forget your iClicker or it malfunctions on **one** occasion, you will still get full credit. Note that this is adjusted automatically; you don't need to notify the teaching staff. If your iClicker fails to respond, return it to the UVM store for a replacement (make sure you keep your receipt). If you lose it, you will need to buy another and make sure your registration is updated. More details about using iClickers is available in Blackboard.

### Attendance points

Of the 27 scheduled classes, three are used for exams. Attendance is not recorded on the first 4 class meetings, leaving 20 classes for which attendance is recorded. Full points can be earned even if you miss **three** of these 20. As with writing assignments, earlier attendance is worth less (.5 points) than later attendance (5 points). In addition, you can earn up to 5 bonus points for each day you attend over 17.

Full points can also be earned if more than four classes are missed provided that (a.) no more than 7 classes in all are missed, and (b.) the additional absences are excused (scheduled athletic events, religious holidays, illnesses, or family crises). Note that, to get points, you must attend the section in which you are enrolled. Further details about how attendance points are calculated are available in Blackboard.

### Documentation required for excused absences

1. *Scheduled varsity or club athletic events*: written documentation of dates.
2. *Religious holidays*: notify us at the beginning of the semester about these dates.
3. *Illnesses or family crises*: If such events are serious, then you should contact your Dean's office; they will then contact us. In the case of routine illness, you will need to visit the PSYC 001 office **during scheduled office hours within one week of the absence**. You will be asked to read and sign a statement documenting that your absence was for a reason that is covered by the UVM policy.

## Participation (or Conference)

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The in-class discussions and the question-answer format are designed to promote your understanding of research methods and findings, not merely to repeat information in the book. Also, the process helps sharpen your preparation techniques, your oral-presentation skills, and your ability to think clearly under pressure. During

class, students are called on by name to answer questions on the day's topic. Sometimes we call on people randomly; less often we call on volunteers.

**Points.** Class participation points are awarded using the following system. There are 5 categories – A through E in this table – which correspond to the 5 in-class participation scenarios:

Scenario	Response	Outcome	Category
You volunteer and are called upon.	You make a serious attempt to answer the given question, whether you answer correctly <i>or not</i> .	1 point	A ☺
You are called upon.	You promptly identify yourself, and demonstrate that you are paying attention (that is, you can answer the question without it being repeated). Your answer is audible and not read from the book or your notes.*	Your response is <b>acceptable</b> .	1 point
		Your response is <b>unacceptable</b> .	½ point
You are called upon.	Your response clearly indicates that you are not paying attention. You are inaudible or your name card is not visible. You read from the book.	0 points	D ☹
You are called upon after a small-group discussion.	You cannot answer, you do not know what the question was, or you do not know what the discussion was about.	-1 point	E ☹☹

\* You may consult your notes, but we don't want people trying to search for an answer in the book.

Participation points are calculated using this formula. It sums all times called upon in each category, A-E.

$$\frac{A + B + C + D + E}{\text{Number of times called on}} \times 50$$

(You want this to be as close to 1 as possible.)      (The maximum number of participation points)

**Note.** The total number of points will be reduced if you have responded a fewer-than-average number of times. The minimum number of responses needed for full credit is determined later in the semester. This threshold is based on the number of opportunities to respond; it may be different in each section of the course.

**Participation bonus points.** You can earn up to 5 bonus points by responding to many more than the average number of questions. Because this threshold is not pre-determined, if you are interested in getting bonus points for participation, then it is in your best interests to participate as often as possible.

### Classroom code of conduct

Faculty and students will at all times conduct themselves in a manner that serves to maintain, promote, and enhance the high quality academic experience befitting the University of Vermont. To this end it is expected that all members of the learning community will adhere to the following guidelines. At instructor's sole discretion, **up to 550 points may be deducted** if a student is considered to have violated the code.

- Faculty and students will attend all regularly scheduled classes, except for those occasions warranting an excused absence under the policy detailed in the catalogue.
- Students and faculty will arrive prepared for class and on time, and they will remain in class until the class is dismissed.
- Faculty and students will treat all members of the learning community with respect. Towards this end, they will promote academic discourse and the free exchange of ideas by listening with civil attention to comments made by all individuals.
- Students and faculty will maintain an appropriate academic climate by refraining from all actions that disrupt the learning environment (e.g., making noise, ostentatiously not paying attention, and leaving and reentering the classroom inappropriately).
- **PSYC 001-Specific Policies**
  - Much of the communication in PSYC 001 takes place via e-mail. The Classroom Code of Conduct extends to electronic communication. Think before you hit "send." Messages from students that are aggressive, hostile, or profane will lead to an investigation by the Center for Student Ethics and Standards.
  - You may use a laptop computer for taking notes. Use of a laptop for any other purpose is forbidden and will lead to the end of laptop-use privileges.
  - Cell phones may only be used during the 3-minute break. No exceptions, including sending text messages.
  - If you need to leave class early, notify an Undergraduate Teaching Fellow before class starts. They will note this in the database, and will not call on you after you've left. **Please note** that if you are called

upon but are not present, this would suggest that somebody else brought *your* iClicker to class. **This is a serious breach of the code of conduct.** If this happens, the matter may be referred to the Center for Student Ethics and Standards and may also lead to a loss of points

## Examinations

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The exams include questions designed to test understanding of concepts and principles in addition to questions on information in the textbook and on material covered in class. The first three contain about **80 multiple-choice** questions based on all the material covered since the previous exam, including **all assigned readings – textbook and Blackboard – and class discussion**. Check the syllabus carefully, though, as the class immediately before the first 2 of the 3 in-class exams will not be covered until the next exam. The final exam is comprehensive. It consists of **180 multiple-choice** questions based on **ALL** the material covered during the semester.

### Exam details

**Scheduling.** Exams are offered only at the times indicated on the schedule. If you miss an exam, your score on the final exam (percentage correct) will be used to replace the score on the missed exam(s). The final exam can replace one, two, or all three missed exams. You are advised not to skip any of the exams unless prevented from taking them by events outside your control.

**Final Exam.** It is UVM policy that (1.) the final-exam time is not changed and that (2.) students take the final exam when scheduled. If a student has 3 or more exams on the same day, then they may *request* to take their PSYC 001 final with another section of the class. Details on the policy is at this link:

<http://www.uvm.edu/academics/catalogue2008-09/?Page=allpolicies.php&SM=policymenu.html&policy=Examinations>

**Location and time.** All exams are held where you attend class. Note that the final exam is not at your section's usual meeting time. If you arrive late to any exam, you will be permitted to take the exam but **will not be given extra time**. If you have been given extra time through ACCESS and intend to use it, you must take the exam in the Exam Proctoring Center. **Extra time will not be granted in class.**

**What to bring, what to expect.** Bring two #2 pencils and your student identification card. You will also need to know your 9-digit UVM ID number. A number of different forms of each exam are distributed in a way designed to ensure that no student has the same form as the students sitting next to them. (The questions are the same but the order is different on different forms). **Any students found to have the same exam form as a student sitting next to them will receive a zero on the exam**, as will any student seen to have any papers, books, or electronic devices out once the exam has been distributed. In addition, **any** communication between students during the exam will result in a score of zero. If you feel that you need to communicate with another student, raise your hand to alert an exam proctor. Also, please note that the proctors are not authorized to answer questions about the exam's content.

**Scoring.** After being initially scored, each exam is analyzed. Individual items may be excluded when they fail to meet established criteria for statistical validity (a concept that is explored during the first part of the semester). In addition, different types of questions may be worth a different fraction of the overall exam grade (basically, harder questions may be worth more points).

**Review of your exam performance.** You may visit the PSYC 001 office to review your exam, but only during the 2 weeks following the exam administration (for the third exam, one week). During a visit to look at your exam, you may take notes, which will be reviewed by teaching staff. But you are not allowed to make verbatim transcription of exam items or take a copy of the exam with you. You will get details on exam-review procedures when exam results are announced. When planning a visit, note when office hours start and end. Arrive early enough to complete your review before the scheduled end time.

**Replacing low exam grades.** In addition, if your performance on the final is higher than on any of the first three exams, your final-exam grade will replace it. Details will be available on Blackboard.

## Online Quizzes

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There will be 9 quizzes. They are administered in Blackboard. These will emphasize material in the introductory chapters, but they will also include questions on material discussed in class and from the research chapters within each section that was covered during the prior week. Each quiz can earn you up to 7 points. Your best 7 scores will be summed to provide a potential maximum of 50 points (and you'll be given one point, for a total of 50).

**Administration details:** Quizzes are available from 6:00 pm on Tuesdays until 6:00 pm Wednesday on these dates:

Online Quiz Schedule	Quiz	Date	Chapters	Review	Quiz	Date	Chapters	Review
	1	15/16 Sep	1-3	17-22 Sep	6	3/4 Nov	17-18	5-10 Nov
	2	22/23 Sep	1, 4-6	24-29 Sep	7	10/11 Nov	20-21	12-17 Nov
	3	6/7 Oct	7-8	8-13 Oct	8	17/18 Nov	22-23	19-24 Nov
	4	13/14 Oct	9, 11-12	15-20 Oct	9	1/2 Dec	25-26	3-8 Dec
	5	20/21 Oct	Bb 1, 16	22-27 Oct				

If your quiz needs re-opening, the last re-set is at 5:00 pm on Wednesdays. Also, if you go over the allotted time without authorization, then your quiz will not be graded. Quizzes will NOT be reopened if you miss the availability period entirely. If you are unable to take a quiz because of a documented, excused absence, then the average of your quiz grades will replace the missing quiz score. In addition, quizzes will be available for review only during the five days following their administration period. Detailed information on when the quizzes will be available, format, and how to access them will be provided in Blackboard.

## Participation in research or clinical interviews

A good way to learn about psychology is by direct experience. Research and clinical-interview opportunities will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard throughout the semester. There are two categories of research participation.

**Required:** All students are expected to respond to a set of online questionnaires and attend at least one in-person research project. You may choose to observe only, and provide no data. There are deadlines associated with the online questionnaires and for each students' participation (based on your last name, you will have about a month to schedule your in-person session). If you do not adhere to these deadlines, then you may not have an opportunity to fulfill the requirement. **Failure to complete this requirement will lead to a 50-point deduction.**

**Optional:** Some research and interview projects are not part of the requirement. Participation in these is optional and yields bonus points. These points, **up to a maximum of 15**, count toward your course grade. Participation is completely voluntary.

**NOTE:** Failure to show up for a scheduled appointment to participate in any research project will result in a *deduction* of 15 points. More details will be posted on Blackboard. If you cannot make an appointment, then e-mail psych1@uvm.edu no later than 24 hours beforehand.

## Other bonus point opportunities

You may earn up to 10 bonus points by attending up to 2 of the approved presentations that are part of the Fall Institute on Racism, Heterosexism, Bias, and Oppression, which is sponsored by the Department of Psychology. You can also earn 3 bonus points for responding to a brief questionnaire about your knowledge of psychology-related topics. Details will be posted on Blackboard.

## Course policy on missing classes and assignments

In addition to examinations and online quizzes, we award points for attendance, assignments completed satisfactorily (and on time), and participation. If you cannot attend class most days and complete most of the assignments, you should **consider withdrawing from the course and taking it again when circumstances allow you to participate in it.**

**As is detailed above, writing assignments** are preparation for class so students cannot "make-up" for missed assignments by doing them after the deadline. In all cases, other than unforeseeable events, writing assignments are required even when your absence from class is excused. Only in unusual circumstances will late writing assignments be credited.

## Checking our records of your points

Because PSYC 001 has many distinct parts that yield points, we hope that you will take a pro-active role in checking our records of your work. We will post an announcement on Blackboard to let you know when records are available throughout the semester. After records are posted, you will have one week to alert us if you think there is a discrepancy. Do that by sending e-mail from your UVM account to psych1@uvm.edu. Do not use

Blackboard's internal messaging system. You may also visit the PSYC 001 office, but all such questions must also be posed in an e-mail message. After the one-week review period is over, there will be no changes to our records.

### Final grades

Some aspects of PSYC 001 grade calculations are complex. Also, because you can improve your first 3 exam scores by doing better on the final, it can be difficult to estimate your grade with absolute precision as the semester draws to a close. By the end of the semester, the review period for each aspect of the course will have passed and there will be no further changes. Therefore, except in the unlikely event that there was an error in the arithmetic, there will be no changes to semester grades once they have been computed and reported to the Registrar's office.

If you think there was a mistake in how your grade was computed, e-mail [psych1@uvm.edu](mailto:psych1@uvm.edu). However, we do not routinely schedule in-person appointments to discuss grades until the third week of the following semester. If you believe that your grade was calculated in a way that is inconsistent with the syllabus, then you may request an investigation. There are formal processes for appealing grades. You can review them at this URL: <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/gradeappeals.pdf>

### Points, bonus points, and grades

Element and details	Points	Bonus Points		
<b>Writing assignments</b> .25 – 5 points per satisfactory assignment	50	15		
<b>Attendance</b> .5 – 5 points each class where attendance is recorded	50	15		
<b>Class participation</b> See the section, <i>Class participation</i> , above.	50	5		
<b>Examinations</b> <i>Exams 1-3</i> : 60 points each = 180; <i>Final exam</i> : 120 points	300			
<b>Quizzes (online)</b> 9 quizzes, 7 points each; (2 lowest scores dropped, 1 point added)	50			
<b>Research or clinical participation</b>	--	15		
<b>Other bonus points</b> (attendance at approved conference presentations, survey)		13		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>63</b>		
Penalties <sup>+</sup>	Deductions up to 550			
<b>Letter grades</b> are based on total points (including bonus), minus penalty points. There is no rounding up. To receive an A+, you must have at least <b>480</b> points <i>without</i> all bonus points (for assignments, attendance, participation, etc.). <b>To receive a passing grade, your overall exam performance must be at least 60% (180 points).</b>	0%-2%	3%-8.4%	8.5%-9%	
	<b>A = 90%</b>	450-464 = <b>A-</b>	465-492 = <b>A</b>	493-500 = <b>A+</b>
	<b>B = 80%</b>	400-414 = <b>B-</b>	415-442 = <b>B</b>	443-449 = <b>B+</b>
	<b>C = 70%</b>	350-364 = <b>C-</b>	365-392 = <b>C</b>	393-399 = <b>C+</b>
	<b>D = 60%</b>	300-314 = <b>D-</b>	315-342 = <b>D</b>	343-349 = <b>D+</b>
	<b>F = &lt;60%</b>	<300 points, or <180 points on exams		

<sup>+</sup> Including, but not limited to, deductions for cell phone in hand (5 points), cell phone rings (10), earphones in place (10), packing or leaving before dismissal (10), using a laptop for anything but class notes (50+), or failing to complete the research requirement (50). In addition, points are deducted for very low attendance, participation, or insufficient work on writing assignments.

