



Society for the Teaching of Psychology (APA Division 2)  
**OFFICE OF TEACHING RESOURCES IN PSYCHOLOGY (OTRP)**  
 Department of Psychology, Georgia Southern University, P. O. Box 8041, Statesboro, GA 30460-8041

## PSYCHOLOGY 102 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2000  
 TTH 10:30-11:45

Dr. Rory O'Brien McElwee

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Office hours: Mon & Wed 9:30-11:30

Friday 1-3

and by appointment

### Course Description:

This is the second half of a two-semester course in which we will continue to explore human behavior and mental processes. Topics this semester will include lifespan development, motivation, emotion, stress, personality, psychological disorders and therapies, social psychology, and health psychology. Throughout the course is an emphasis on developing an understanding of psychology as the science of human thought and behavior and to critically evaluate "common sense" knowledge about how people function.

### Course goals:

My goals for you in this course are:

- To abandon misconceptions about the field of psychology and to appreciate its breadth and scientific rigor.
- To further your understanding of the scientific methods used in psychological research.
- To become familiar with basic psychological terminology and current knowledge.
- To gain experience reading original reports of psychological research studies.
- To strengthen your ability to think critically and creatively about course material and its application to the "real world" and to the laboratory.
- To gain an understanding of psychology's role in modern culture.
- To learn about psychology and critical thinking not only from the readings and from the instructor, but also through interactions with your colleagues.
- To come to share my enthusiasm for studying the human mind and behavior.

### Readings:

- Required: Matlin, M. W. (1999). Psychology (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace.
- Two articles on reserve in Lipscomb Library:
  - Boyatzis, C. J., Mallis, M., & Leon, I. (1999). Effects of game type on children's gender-based peer preferences: A naturalistic observation study. Sex Roles, 40,

93-105.

Yovetich, N. A., & Drigotas, S. M. (1999). Secret transmission: A relative intimacy hypothesis. Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 25, 1135-1146.

- Recommended: Appleby, D. C., & Matlin, M. W. (1999). Study Guide for Psychology. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace.

**Attendance:**

Attendance at all classes is expected. Please initial the class roster (beside the door) before each class meeting. Some of the material presented in class does not appear in the text book, but will be covered on exams. If your attendance is erratic, I will schedule a conference with you to determine why. Frequent absences can adversely affect your grade in this course.

**Reading Assignments:**

Please note that you are expected to do all reading assignments prior to coming to class. If I notice that students are unprepared, I reserve the right to incorporate pop quizzes into the course and your final grade.

**Exams:**

There will be three non-cumulative exams during the term and a self-scheduled cumulative final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, identification, and/or essay questions, and will cover material from the readings as well as from class lectures and discussions.

**Journal Article Assignments:**

You will read two journal articles which report a study (or series of studies) on a psychological topic. Every member of the class will read the same articles (on reserve in the library) and we will discuss them as a class on January 27 and April 4. However, every student will independently answer questions on each article to turn in. Any student who does not attend class on a journal article day without a documented excused absence will have her paper downgraded by 10%. Please see the attached Guidelines for the Journal Article Assignments for more information.

**Participation in Research Projects:**

Opportunities to serve as participants in student and faculty research projects will be available. These provide excellent opportunities to learn first-hand about the research process in psychology. To compensate you for participation that takes places outside of class time, you will be awarded three points toward your final grade for any studies in which you participate. I reserve the right to limit the amount of extra credit that can be earned.

**Late Assignment/Missed Exam Policy:**

Please note that except for documented health or family emergencies, all exams must be taken and all work must be turned in on the dates listed here (unless explicitly changed by the instructor). In the interest of fairness for all students, make-up tests will not be given and late assignments will be subject to significant grade penalties except in cases of genuine and documented emergencies. If you need to miss an exam for an emergency family situation or for illness, you must contact me BEFORE the exam unless it is truly a last-minute emergency or you are in the hospital.

### Honor Code Policy:

Please note that all exams and written assignments in this course are pledged work under the R-MWC honor code. I encourage you to study with other students in the class for the exams and to discuss with them course material. However, you must not discuss the journal articles with any classmates until after you have completed your assignment. You may have someone who is not enrolled in this course proofread your papers for you. **Please note that it is a violation of the honor code in this course to look at exams from other offerings of this course, whether concurrent or past, regardless of the instructor of the course.** It is also a violation of the honor code to provide me with false information in order to obtain special consideration for an illness or personal problem. If you need clarification about how the honor code applies in this course, I will be happy to meet with you to discuss it.

See additional information about plagiarism on the Journal Article Assignment handout.

#### The final grade will be computed as follows:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Exam 1	February 3	100 points
Exam 2	February 24	100 points
Exam 3	March 23	100 points
Journal Article Papers	Jan 27 & Apr 4	100 points
Final Exam (cumulative)	self-scheduled	<u>200 points</u>
		600 points total

Final grades will be computed as a percentage of the possible points you earned:

A	93-100%	558-600 points
A-	90-92.9%	540-557 points
B+	87-89.9%	522-539 points
B	83-86.9%	498-521 points
B-	80-82.9%	480-497 points
C+	77-79.9%	462-479 points
C	73-76.9%	438-461 points
C-	70-72.9%	420-437 points
D+	67-69.9%	402-419 points
D	60-66.9%	360-401 points
F	0-59.9%	0-359 points

## Class Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	Chapter	Pages
1	T 1/18	Introduction to the course; issues in development	10	
	Th 1/20	Perceptual and Cognitive Development in Childhood	10	315-332
2	T 1/25	Gender and Personality Development in Childhood	10	332-351
	Th 1/27	<b>JOURNAL ARTICLE #1 (Boyatzis et al.) DUE</b> Later Physical and Cognitive Development	11	<b>Reserve Reading</b> 353-362
3	T 2/1	Later Gender and Personality Development	11	363-383
	Th 2/3	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
4	T 2/8	Motivation	12	385-397
	Th 2/10	Emotion	12	398-413
5	T 2/15	Emotion		
	Th 2/17	Personality: Historical Views	13	415-432
6	T 2/22	Personality: Current Views	13	432-449
	Th 2/24	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
7	T 2/29	Abnormal Psychology: Mood and Anxiety Disorders	14	451-470
	Th 3/2	Abnormal Psychology: Schizophrenia, Personality Disorders	14	471-481
8	T 3/7	SPRING BREAK		
	Th 3/9	SPRING BREAK		
9	T 3/14	Abnormal Psychology continued		
	Th 3/16	Types of Psychotherapy	15	483-493
10	T 3/21	Special Issues in Psychotherapy	15	493-507
	Th 3/23	<b>EXAM 3</b>		
11	T 3/28	Social Cognition: Attitudes and Person Perception	16	509-522
	Th 3/30	Social Cognition: Stereotypes and Close Relationships	16	522-541
12	T 4/4	<b>JOURNAL ARTICLE #2 (Yovetich &amp; Drigotas) DUE</b>		Reserve Reading
	Th 4/6	Social Influence: Social Pressure	17	543-555
13	T 4/11	Social Influence: Social Pressure		
	Th 4/13	Virginia Psychological Association meeting: No class		
14	T 4/18	Social Influence: Altruism and Aggression	17	555-573
	Th 4/20	Stress and Coping	18	575-587
15	T 4/25	Health Psychology	18	587-599
	Th 4/27	Course wrap-up		

**Final Exam -- Self-scheduled**