

# VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SYLLABUS

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## Intro to Psych

Course No.: Psych 101      Course Title: Intro to Psychology      Units: 3.0  
Instructor Name: Dr. Harvey, DMFT  
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*Please put "VVC Class" in the subject line or I may not see it*  
Visit Victor Valley College online at [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu)

FALL Term Begins August 29  
Labor Day Holiday (college closed) September 5  
Veteran's Day Holiday (college closed) November 11- 12  
Thanksgiving Holiday (college closed) November 24-26  
FALL Term Ends December 17  
Sixteen (16) week term August 29 – December 17  
Off-Campus Twelve (12) week term August 29 – December 17 (Does not follow VVC calendar,  
see that site's calendar for holidays)  
First Twelve (12) week term August 29 - November 19  
Second Twelve (12) week term September 26 – December 17  
First Eight (8) week term August 29 – October 22  
Second Eight (8) week term October 24 – December 19

**NOTE – CAMPUS IS CLOSED and CLASSES WILL NOT BE HELD ON  
CAMPUS THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**September 5th, November 11th, 12th, 24th, 25th, 26th**

***STATEMENT OF ACCESS:*** Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with  
instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and referral to  
Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) and services per Administrative  
Procedure (AP 3440)

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**Course Description**

This course provides instruction in the nature of human behavior and a consideration of theories and principles pertaining to the topics of research design and experimentation, perception, emotions and motivation, personality, social psychology, psychopathology, human development, learning, cognition and memory. Includes essential features of the biological and neurological basis of behavior.

**Prerequisites**

Eligibility for ENGL 101.0 recommended.

**Textbook(s)**

Text: *Psychology in Context*, Kosslyn, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition  
Gottman, John, *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail*

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
4. Develop insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management and self-improvement.

**Attendance**

Attendance is required and is the responsibility of the student. If you do not attend the first class session the instructor will drop you. If you do not plan to continue to attend class you must drop the course to avoid receiving an "F" grade. **PLEASE NOTE:** Each class session is very important. After missing the equivalent to **THREE** lectures, dismissal from the class will result. This is a very fast pace class and it is highly recommended that you do not miss a class.

***(Class attendance is not a measure of performance or proficiency. Whether a student is just physically present in the class is not a valid basis for grading. Reference Title 5 Section 55002 of the California Code of Regulations: (A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55758 of this Division. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.)***

**Withdrawal Policy**

It is the student's responsibility to officially withdrawal from this class. **DO NOT** simply stop coming to class and expect the professor to drop you. Not withdrawing from class may result in an "F" grade for the class. If you take a "W" for the course, no assignments are carried into the next semester. You must repeat the class

**Incomplete**

If a student has completed most of the course (75% or more) with a "C" or better average, but is unable to complete the remainder of the semester due to extenuating circumstances (see student handbook), they may elect to take an incomplete (INC) for the course. You are allowed to make up all missing assignments. An incomplete does **NOT** allow you to repeat completed assignments. All missed assignments and exams must be completed by the following semester or the grade will revert back to the one they would have earned at the end of this semester. ***It is the student's responsibility to initiate the request for an incomplete.*** This must be completed in writing on a special school form and signed by both the instructor and the student before the end of the semester.

**Final Grade**

Your final grade is based on the sum of your scores. You may determine your grade at any time during the course by totaling the points you have accumulated and dividing that total by the number of total points possible up to date. There will be 4 lecture exams worth 100 points. Each lecture exam will include multiple choice questions, True False and short essays. Exam topics will be announced several days in advance. Lecture quizzes will not be announced. There will be *approximately* 10 quizzes total worth *about* 5 points each. No exams or quizzes will be dropped.

There will be **one** makeup exam. Makeup exams will be fill in the blank and/or short answer.

***If you have any questions about your grade you must inform the instructor within five days of the grade posting. There will be no change in grades after the five days. This includes the final grade.*** So make sure you check your grades frequently to make sure everything is all right.

**Podcasts and Powerpoint:**

**You can get previous lectures and Powerpoint at the following address:**  
[www.flipflopranch.com](http://www.flipflopranch.com).

Grades in this class are non-negotiable. I would highly suggest studying for your grade. If you are not achieving the grade level you are hoping for in this class, then don't wait until the last minute to ask for help or enquire about your grades. Especially do not wait until the final exam, or even after, and hope I will change your grade to what you

would like it to be. You, the student, earn your grade. I do not assign you one. I will be happy though to help you to try to improve your grade.

The percentage scale is as follows (*No exceptions*):

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89.9% = B

70 – 79.9% = C

60 – 69.9% = D

59.9 and below = F

## **Classroom Policies:**

### **Etiquette and Ethics**

Although extenuating circumstances occur and you must be late to class, do your best to arrive to class on time. If for some reason you cannot arrive at the assigned time, then please enter the classroom quietly and have consideration for other students and the instructor. Because we are also in an intimate classroom setting any extraneous talking is not appreciated during lecture because it is very distracting to your fellow students and even the instructor.

Please read the college policy on cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated, and may result in failure of an exam/assignment, failure of the course or expulsion from the college. If you have any questions regarding dishonesty or are in anyway unclear about the meaning of the college policy, please see me immediately. If Academic Dishonesty is observed in the classroom, the assignment will be given a grade of “F” and the student will be expelled from the class for two days.

### **Children**

It is the policy of Victor Valley College that children NOT attend class with their parents nor be left unattended on campus while parents attend class. If you qualify, there is a day-care center on campus, if not, please make arrangements for a babysitter.

### **Exams**

**PLEASE TAKE CAREFUL NOTE: During an exam there will be no leaving the classroom for any reason, except with a written Doctor’s excuse. If you leave the classroom your exam is over.**

If you are interested in challenging a question on an exam there is a proper protocol to follow. You will be required to write down the number of the question on the exam and then, using a computer, type a one page rebuttal to that question explaining why you believe your question was correct, as well as supplying facts to back your claims. If your knowledge on the subject proves less than adequate you may lose extra points. The professor’s opinion on your rebuttal is non-negotiable and final. **There will be no challenges during classroom discussion of the exam.**

You must have a scantron for the exam.

***Term Paper: Your term project will be a paper on your reading of Gottman's book.***

Choose a relationship in your life to study. This may be a relationship with a spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, close relative, or a good friend. It is important for the relationship to be very close, in other words, with a person whom you interact with a great deal and on a deeper emotional level than the average relationship. You will need to carefully observe the relationship for a day and also an interaction of high emotional intensity, an argument. Do you use the four horsemen? Does the other person? Do you or the other individual use harsh startups? How does the use of these variables affect the relationship?

- Describe this relationship and analyze both the relationship in general and the emotional episode in terms of Gottman's research.
- Now that you have analyzed the relationship, attempt another argument where you consciously avoid using the four horsemen. What happened? How did it improve the interaction?

***The final papers should be 7-10 pages long. Attaching research notes and using photos would be fine but they should be in addition to the 7-10 pages of text.***

## **Tentative Lecture Schedule**

This is a tentative lecture schedule with approximate dates for lecture topics and examinations. Materials may be covered at a faster or slower pace, depending upon the circumstances. **Chapters may be taken out, added or changed depending on the needs of the course. Exams are generally every 2 to 3 chapters. Please check on the website regarding changes if you are absent.** It is the responsibility of the student to note any and all changes. The chapters indicated for exams should be read by the day of the exam *whether or not we have lectured over them completely.*

### **Chapter/Lecture Topics**

- 1. Psychology: Yesterday and Today**
- 7. Memory**
- 3. Biology**

**Day 6–9/15 Exam 1**

- 5. Consciousness: Focus on Awareness**
- 6. Learning**
- 8. Perception**

**Day 14–10/13 Exam 2**

- 9. Types of Intelligence: What Does It Mean to Be Smart?**
- 10. Emotion and Motivations: Feeling and Striving**
- 11. Personality: Vive la Difference!**

**Day 25–11/22 Exam 3**

- 12. Psychology over the lifespan**
- 13. Stress, Health, and Coping: Dealing with Life**
- 14. Psychological Disorders**

**Second to last Friday of semester @ midnight 12/8 Term Paper Due**

**Last day 12/15 Final Exam**