

# MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

500 E. COLLEGE  
MARSHALL, MISSOURI 65340  
660-831-4000

<b>COURSE SYLLABUS CORRESPONDENT COURSE</b>
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**COURSE PREFIX & NUMBER:** PY100

**COURSE TITLE:** Principles of Psychology

**SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**CLASS DAY & TIME:** Schedule Attached

**INSTRUCTOR:** Lawrence G. Lent, Psy.D.  
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Phone: 660-831-4126  
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**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** The study of human behavior from a scientific point of view, including research and theory relative to all the major specialty areas within psychology.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**TEXTBOOK:** Essentials of Psychology, ISBN#: 978-0-618-71312-7  
**AUTHOR:** Bernstein/Nash  
**EDITION:** Fourth, 2008  
**PUBLISHER:** Houghton Mifflin Company

**MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY:** The mission and purpose of Missouri Valley College are to provide a Baccalaureate education committed to Christian values, life-long learning, and service to the community. As a career oriented, liberal arts institution, Missouri Valley College equips students to confront the challenges of the future by careful preparation for an involved responsible life. As a God-centered community, Missouri Valley is committed to fostering the dignity and positive self-concept of individuals as they pursue their personal life objectives through this four-dimensional vitality:

1. knowledge and understanding
2. social and leadership development
3. physical well-being
4. ethical values

The Missouri Valley College faculty and staff are committed to the mission and purpose of the College and to serve as moral, ethical and academic role models for the College community.

**MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE ADA STATEMENT:** If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact your instructor immediately.

After you have presented documentation, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:** It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at Missouri Valley College to support the academic integrity of the institution. This applies to personal honesty in all aspects of collegiate work, all student records and all contacts with faculty and staff. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

It shall also be the responsibility of every student enrolled at Missouri Valley College to be respectful of the right of other students, staff and instructors to ensure a safe, peaceful atmosphere conducive to the educational goals of an institution of higher learning. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Student actions that do not adhere to the MVC Student Code of Conduct will be addressed according to College policies regarding academic dishonesty and disruptive behavior. Students who exhibit dishonest, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior risk suspension or expulsion from the institution.

**RATIONALE:** This is an introductory course surveying the science, discipline and profession of psychology, the study of behavior and cognition. Beyond the overall introductory framework, the course explores biological foundations, sensation/perception, motivation, emotion, consciousness, learning, memory thinking and intelligence, development, sex/gender, personality, psychological disorders, therapy, health and social psychology. This introductory psychology course is a prerequisite for a psychology major and minor. It provides a broad exploration of technical language and definitions, constructs, theories, methods of observation/measurement, and problem solving interventions. It is a first step in guiding undergraduates toward later coursework choices, eventual graduate degree studies, and ultimate professional maturity in this field.

#### **GOALS OF THE COURSE:**

1. Identify the conceptual framework of significant facts in the course's treatment of psychological specialties.
2. Reflect a grasp of psychological theoretical principles.
3. Demonstrate a grasp of issues underlying lifelong learning.
4. Reflect skills in areas of learning relevant to psychology.
5. Reflect critical thought/reasoning about behavior and cognition, related facts, theory and research.
6. Reflect self-analysis.
7. Reflect understanding of experimental methods, disciplined curiosity and skepticism.
8. Reflect personal/social awareness and sensitivity toward ethnic, gender, age and cultural groups.
9. Reflect understanding of psychology's contribution to the universe of knowledge.
10. Reflect understanding of ethical standards in psychological theory, research and practice.

#### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

1. Assigned reading of text and research
2. Projects with individuals in students vicinity
3. Written APA style papers
4. Application of theory to projects

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**COMPETENCIES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**

1. Knowledge of the history and contemporary schools of psychology.
2. Knowledge of the biological foundations of human psychological behavior and thought.
3. Understand the psychological principles of sensation and perception.
4. Understand the role of emotions in human behavior.
5. Knowledge of the cycles of sleep and consciousness.
6. Knowledge of the role of learning in humans and other species.
7. Understand the concepts and processes of thinking, language, and intelligence.
8. Understand the psychological, physiological, and social variables as they relate to health and illness.
9. Knowledge of the basic issues in developmental psychology from birth through old age.
10. Understand the biological and social aspects of gender and sex issues.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Reading assigned material

Research papers on assigned projects

Integration of theory on projects

Final examination

**GRADING:**

A	-	90-100%
B	-	80-89%
C	-	70-79%
D	-	60-69%
F	-	59% and below

All assignments must be typed and in APA format. They are to reach the instructor at Missouri Valley by the Friday of the week shown due in the syllabus. The final exam will cover the assigned text; student should pay particular attention to the summaries at the end of the chapters.

**DESCRIPTION OF METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Total points possible:	1000
Project I	100 points
Project II	200 points
Project III	200 points
Project IV	200 points
Project V	200 points
Final	100 points

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS: (Topics, Assignments, Tests, Projects)**

Projects can be turned in sooner if done by then

NOTE: correspondence class taken during the summer goes twice the pace as regular semester

WEEK 1:	What is Psychology	1	
WEEK 2:	Scientific Method	2	
WEEK 3:	Biological Foundations	3	Project I Due
WEEK 4:	Human Development	4	
WEEK 5:	Sensation & Perception	5	
WEEK 6:	States of Consciousness	6	Project II Due
WEEK 7:	Learning	7	
WEEK 8:	Memory	8	
WEEK 9:	Thinking & Language	9	Project III Due
WEEK 10:	Intelligence	10	
WEEK 11:			

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	Motivation & Emotion	11	
WEEK 12:	Personality	12	Project IV Due
WEEK 13:	Disorders, Therapy	13, 14	
WEEK 14:	Stress & Coping	15	Project V Due
WEEK 15:	Social Psychology	16	
Final Exam Due Back to Instructor 1 week before the end of semester			

**PROJECTS:** As a means to understand the concepts involved in the field of psychology you will be expected to do the following: Due date reflects when students are to have the project completed and turned into Missouri Valley for the instructor to grade.

**COURSE #:** PY 100  
**SESSION:** CORRESPONDENT / SPRING 2008  
**PROJECT #:** I  
**DUE DATE:** See weekly assignment sheet  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Lawrence Lent

**PROJECT I:** You are to read a newspaper article, popular magazine article or scientific journal article that pertains to some aspect of psychology. Then, you are to write a two page, APA typed paper. The first page should describe in a general way what the article had to say. The second page of this is to be your reaction to the article. It clearly is not necessary that you agree with the article. It is necessary however, that you substantiate the reason you agree or disagree and how this, in a general way, relates to the content of this course text book.

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**PROJECT #:** II  
**DUE DATE:** See weekly assignment sheet  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Lawrence Lent

**PROJECT II:** You are to locate an individual in the community that works in the field of psychology or human behavior. Suggestions could be but are not limited to: Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Social Worker, Community Support Worker, Case Manager, School Teacher, (in particular Special Education teachers or those working with behavior disorders), School Principals, Guidance Counselors, etc. Prior to setting up your interview with this professional you should formulate at least 10 clearly thought through questions that you wish to ask them about psychology as it pertains to their profession. Following the interview you are to write a four page, double space, typed APA style paper that describes who you interviewed, what your questions were and what you learned.

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**PROJECT #:** III  
**DUE DATE:** See weekly assignment sheet  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Lawrence Lent

**PROJECT III:** You are to select a location such as a shopping mall, restaurant, sports event, boat club, golf course, or other social event of your choice. You are to sit and observe, for one hour, with the clear intent of observing human behavior. Following this observation you are to write a 4 page, double spaced, typed APA style paper that clearly indicates your understanding of the psychological phenomena that you observed. In the event that you did not clearly understand what you observed, at least demonstrate understanding to the point of making a clear question about your observation. This observation can address any component studied within the introductory psychology course text.

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**PROJECT #:** IV  
**DUE DATE:** See weekly assignment sheet  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Lawrence Lent

**PROJECT IV:**

Read and understand Erik Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development in your text. It is essential in psychology to learn to think process rather than content. A project that will practice this along with demonstrating knowledge of Erikson's stages is as follows. Obtain a copy of the Disney video "Lion King". Make notes as you watch it of examples of each of Erikson's eight stages. Present this in a one or two page paper, clarifying if the task was resolved or failed in each of your examples of the movie.

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**SESSION:** CORRESPONDENT / SPRING 2008  
**PROJECT #:** V  
**DUE DATE:** See weekly assignment sheet  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Lawrence Lent

**PROJECT V:**

Learning is a complex task. After reading the chapter in the text on learning, you are to do a simple experiment.

1. Obtain a measure of learning
2. Do something to your subject or subjects that you think will increase or decrease learning
3. Measure the same component or variable of learning as you did in Step 1

Write a 2 – 3 page paper that explains the experiment, if there an increase or decrease in learning, and theoretically why did this occur.