

**PSYCHOLOGY 1003**  
**General Psychology**  
**SPRING 2009**  
**Dr. Siciliani**

**Instructor:** Dr. J. Siciliani  
**Email:** siciliani@msx.umsi.edu  
**Telephone:** 314-516-5469  
**Office:** 314 Stadler Hall  
**Office Hours:** Office Hours\*: **TBA**

\*I am presenting research at 2 conventions this spring. At the very earliest point that I find out my exact presentation dates for these conventions, I will send you an email listing the office hours – IF ANY – affected. **Class meetings will not be impacted.**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:**

**GTA:**  
**Email:**  
**Office:**  
**Office Hours:**

University policy dictates that this course syllabus is our contract for this class. I have planned this document very carefully in order that it may serve as a valuable tool for any student taking this course. Additional course syllabus items will be posted to My Gateway as the semester progresses. Many of the questions you may have about this course are answered in this document. Please read it completely and carefully and refer to it often. If you ask a question that is fully answered in this document, we may refer you to this syllabus where the answer has been provided / explained in writing.

Students who require special accommodations should register with **DisAbility Access Services (DAS), 144 Millennium Student Center, 516-6554**. This office will assess your individual needs, maintain your disability documentation **CONFIDENTIALLY**, and request appropriate classroom accommodations on your behalf. As you have been instructed by DAS – it is your responsibility to meet with your graduate TA during the first 2 weeks of this course to explain the accommodations you will need during your time in this class. Please see your graduate TA privately at your convenience **during the first two weeks of school** to discuss your special needs. I keep a record of these special needs on file in a locked cabinet in my locked university office – this is done in order that I am sure to meet your individual needs. Special arrangements need preparation. We rely on you to register those special needs with us in order that we may meet them.

**If you are registered with DisAbility Access Services, and you need to take your exam in a location other than the classroom, you will need to set this up with your graduate TA one week before EACH exam. You will need to remind the TA of your special arrangements before EACH exam. We have many students in this course this semester who will need unique accommodations – communicating these to your TA ONE WEEK before each exam ensures that your specific needs will be met. If you are taking any exam in this course at any location other than the classroom – you will receive a zero on this exam if you take it (for example, at DisAbility Student Services) at any time other than at the exact time that the whole class is taking the exam. Let me be sure to re-state this: you are responsible for alerting your graduate TA and for making an appointment with Linder or Marilyn to take your exam with them – if the appointment you make with them is for any time other than on the test date starting at 9:30 AM (even if they agree to whatever time you have suggested) you will receive a zero for this exam. You must take the exam at the exact time that the**

**class is taking it. So... you may just want to go ahead and book these appointments with Linder and Marilyn right now, using this syllabus.**

**Required Text:**

- *Introduction to Psychology, Eighth Edition, James W. Kalat (2008). New York: ITP / Wadsworth Publishing.*

Please note: I have not required you to purchase the Student Study Guide to accompany Introduction to Psychology. I have left this determination up to each individual student. If you decide you would like to purchase the study guide, please see the UMSL bookstore to inquire as to whether or not one can be ordered for your purchase.

**Course Overview:**

This course is designed to help you learn to think critically about the subject of psychology through the examination of pertinent theoretical information and case examples. Psychology is the study of all human behaviors – no behaviors will be left unexamined. The course objectives will be met through readings, in class interactions, your writing, mastery of lecture materials, and written examinations.

**Class Format:**

This class will be conducted in a discussion/lecture format, with an emphasis on application of theories. Because of time constraints, not all of the material covered in the text or readings will be covered during lectures. You are still responsible however, for all material in the text chapters listed here and in any assigned readings (as directed). You are also **especially** responsible for mastery of lecture material not covered in the text or readings. You are expected to communicate thoughts, insights, and questions in a thoughtful and appropriate manner to your peers and instructor during class sessions. You will be graded on your participation in class discussions.

I would also like to note in this document that, as a faculty member, I also conduct scientific research. My research background is biopsychology, but I specialize in the study of the physiological ramifications of stress – one such form of stress that I have researched extensively, is human sexual behavior. Through my experiences presenting research in this area, I have gained an acute understanding of the variability with which individuals handle all discussions of anything having to do with human sexual behavior. Some react with comfort, ease, and interest, while others feel anxious, avoidant, and uncomfortable. Human sexual behavior is a human behavior. It merits the same study as do all other human behaviors. Researching this human behavior is neither inappropriate nor perverse. For professors, the most frequent source of examples offered in lecture come from their respective areas of research. As a sex researcher, an overwhelming majority of the examples I use in class will relate to this research area. I am respecting you by telling each and every one of you NOW – that if you are AT ALL uncomfortable with examples having to do with this human behavior, do not take this course with me. Speak to me immediately – absolutely within the first week of school – and I will help you make arrangements to take this course from another professor or instructor.

**Communications:**

I need to have open communication with all of you. It helps my efficacy as an instructor, and it results in an enhanced learning experience for you. In order to foster a good learning environment, you are required to utilize MY GATEWAY (MG) – AT THE VERY LEAST – on each class day, and one extra time each week. You are responsible for keeping up-to-date on this information. Information on MG is an extension of the syllabus. If you make me aware that you

have missed information posted to this site due to your failure to check it regularly as indicated here, 5 points will be subtracted from your final grade in this course – no exceptions.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT INFORMATION POSTED TO MY GATEWAY IS AN EXTENSION OF THIS SYLLABUS, AND HENCE ALSO SERVES AS A CONTRACT FOR TAKING THIS COURSE.** This site will contain important course information including examination information, scheduling announcements, and course requirements. Students may also use the MG site to contact Dr. Siciliani, a TA, or fellow classmates. My Gateway may be accessed from any of the UMSL computer labs or from any computer with Internet access. MG is here to stay. Not having access to MG at home does not in any way, excuse you from the requirements of its use for this course. Plan your time CAREFULLY in order to make arrangements to get to any computer with access to the World Wide Web to access MG if you do not have it at home. Instructions directing individuals to each particular course are contained on the MG site. Any computer that has access to the Internet can access this site.

I really value you taking time to communicate with me through e-mail; but email should only be used for short, succinct questions, to which it is possible for me to provide a 1 to 3-sentence response. Please do not email me to tell me why you have missed a class meeting. If you would like to tell me in person that you have to miss a future class, then please feel free to do so – but this is not a topic for email. It is difficult to conduct complex discussions over this milieu, and since email does not convey tone-of-voice, these communications will need to be dealt with in person. If you need any kind of explanations, I welcome your visit at my office hours – as does the TA for this course. Please be prepared for me to respond to any emails that would be better dealt with in person, by suggesting that you meet with me – or our TA – in office hours.

If I alert you that the topic of your email needs to be discussed in person, this decision is final.

Please feel free to visit me in any of my scheduled office hours.

You do not need to tell me which of my scheduled office hours you will be coming to – just come ahead, and as long as you are meeting me at one of my scheduled office hours – I will be there. You do not need to ask to come to my office hours. My office hours are for all students.

The discussion board is there for your use. When posting messages there, please try to keep the language similar to language that you would use while talking out loud, to your peers, inside the collegiate classroom, in person – this is a class discussion board – it is maintained by UMSL to assist in this collegiate course. Do not send me messages on this board, as I do not check the board with any scheduled regularity. If you would like me to read something on the board, send me an email asking me to check it out.

Remember that you are governed by the University of Missouri – Saint Louis Student Conduct Code – you should be aware that this code applies to emails and MG use as well.

**University and Federal laws prohibit me from discussing any aspect of your grade in any method other than in person, at office hours.** If you are reading this, then you know not to even begin to ask the slightest question about any aspect of your grade in any manner other than with me, in person. I will not waiver from this policy – under any circumstances.

### **Course Requirements:**

You will be required to log on to MY GATEWAY at <http://mygateway.umsf.edu>, AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK in addition to logging on each day that lecture meets. **You may obtain assistance with accessing MY GATEWAY from the support staff in the technology Support Center (516-6034). Please do not contact your instructor with difficulties logging on to this site. The staff at the support center is there for you; they are specialists in this area (your instructor is not).**

**You are also required to utilize your UMSL student email account for this course. You are required to check your UMSL student email at least 2 times per week. Important**

information will be posted here, and as it is your responsibility to keep up with these communications, work missed due to you missing an email cannot be made up. I will not be able to communicate with you via any email other than your student email. If you prefer some other email, you will need to visit tech support to have your student email forwarded to some other preferred account. Call the phone # above to make an appointment with them and to find their location.

### **Schedule of Topics:**

This section of the syllabus is subject to modification at the discretion of your instructor. The course calendar provided below is an estimate of what will be covered each day. You should rely on this schedule unless directed otherwise. The VERY BEST college instructors respond to the needs and specific interests of their students. This means that I may **slow down** on a topic that you as a unique group of students is having difficulty on; conversely, I may move **more quickly** over information that seems uninteresting or elementary to you as a unique group of individuals. I will modify the schedule if said modifications may enhance learning, or out of necessity due to material or technical availability.

### **Class Attendance:**

You are expected to attend all classes. I certainly do not expect you to be functioning at 100% capacity every day – but you must be in class from 9:30 to 10:45. Important announcements and material, for which you are responsible, will be covered during class time. Class attendance and participation is essential for success. If you read below, you will see that you will have difficulty taking exams, and you will lose quiz and class participation points if you miss class. It is your responsibility to clarify missed assignments with classmates or with me prior to the next class. If you do miss a class, you will not be able to make up work passed in during the class meeting. If a quiz takes place in the class session during which you are absent (for any reason, even reasons considered as “excused”), **you will not be able to make up this quiz** – as I will drop the zero when I drop your lowest quiz grade.

If you “use up” your one excused quiz for any reason (even for an unavoidable emergency or for a university-sponsored event – you will not get a chance to have a second quiz excused. Attending class means attending class.

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS A CLASS MEETING:**

**If you miss class, please be sure NOT to ask me for the class notes.** You will need to find and copy the notes from a classmate; if you have questions about the lecture, I will be happy to go over your notes with you in office hours, **after you have obtained them**. I do not have lecture notes, and I am simply not able to re-teach class sessions to individual students who have missed a class session(s) for any reason. If you miss class, please do not use email to request a copy of the notes from your peers. In the past, quite a few students have complained about opening their email accounts only to find several mass-mailed pleas for a copy of the notes, sent from students who have missed class. No one likes to have their inbox clogged with 10 new messages - 8 of them from someone whom they don't know, asking to borrow their work. Students who make the effort to drag themselves to class on a bad or gloomy day should not be punished by being harassed for their notes. Students who need to ask their peers for missed notes need to do this in person during class or via a new thread on the discussion board.

**Grading:** Your grade will consist of the points you earn in each of the following areas;

### ***Quizzes:***

Everyone has a bad day. I will administer 11 quizzes for 10 points each, and I will drop your lowest score of these at the conclusion of the semester (for a total of 100 points). All quizzes will be unannounced and will be given during the course of the semester. Two separate quizzes may often be given within one class period. Quizzes most often take place during the first 3 minutes or the last 3 minutes of the class session. Since these quizzes are aimed at keeping you on track with your readings, and since I am dropping the lowest one – **there are no make-ups for these for any reason – no exceptions.** Any written take-home quizzes (or any written extra credit or exam material) will be due **within the first five minutes of the class meeting** on their due date and are to be word-processed and double spaced (unless otherwise directed). You may feel the need to ask me why I always administer my quizzes during the first couple minutes of class. This will not change this policy.

IF YOU HAVE A TIME CONFLICT THAT MAY RESULT IN YOU BEING EVEN ONE MINUTE LATE FOR THE LECTURE SESSIONS WITH ANY CONSISTENCY AT ALL – YOU SHOULD ENROLL IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THIS COURSE, OR TAKE THIS COURSE ANOTHER SEMESTER. Conversely, if you have same said conflict that results in you having to leave early – you should not take this course. Lecture begins at 9:30 and ends at 10:45. You should plan your time accordingly. Work, family obligations, or another class are not appropriate or acceptable excuses for being late to your collegiate course meetings.

### ***Exams:***

I will administer 3 regular exams and 1 optional comprehensive final exam. If you elect to take this final exam, the score you earn will replace your lowest regular test grade. **If you do not come to class, or arrive at class after the first exam has been turned in by any student, on an exam day – FOR ANY REASON - you will receive a zero for that exam.** There are no make-ups for an exam missed, but if you elect to take the comprehensive final, it will replace a zero for a missed exam. Your lecture and reading notes will serve as a study guide for each exam, I do not provide study guides for exams. **WHEN YOU COME TO CLASS TO TAKE THE TEST, YOU MUST HAVE A VALID UMSL PICTURE ID. YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE TEST WITHOUT SUCH AN ID.** You are required to arrive on time for exams. No exam will be administered to any student who arrives after the first student has completed his/her exam – no exceptions. Additionally, if you do arrive late for an exam, but the first exam has not yet been handed in, you must complete your exam within the time remaining in the formal class period, even if the lateness was not under your control. Each exam will be worth a possible 100 points, for a total of 300 possible exam points.

### ***On-line Participation:***

Completing work on My Gateway is a REQUIREMENT of this course. At times, you will be asked to comment on, or to complete work on the class website. Details on a writing project that you will be completing on this site will be provided in mid-April. You will have the possibility of earning 30 points for this part of your course responsibilities.

### ***Research Participation:***

You will need to complete 20 points in this section of your course requirements. Research Participation details will be outlined on the class website under “Course Documents” as the semester progresses.

### **Extra Credit:**

Opportunities for extra credit MAY come along during this course. If I do decide to offer some EC, these items will be discussed in lecture and material outlining them will be posted to the class website. **Extra credit is EXTRA and any you may earn WILL be cancelled if you miss more than 2 of 11 quizzes.**

### **Grade Computation:**

YOU HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF EARNING A TOTAL OF 450 POINTS IN THIS COURSE THIS SEMESTER. I do not curve grades and I do not issue plus (+) or minus (-) grades. There are several ways to earn points in this course: **Unannounced Quizzes, Exams, On-line**

**Participation, and Research Participation.** The grade scale for points earned is listed below:

<b>A</b>	<b>405 and above</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>360 – 404</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>315 - 359</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>270 - 314</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>269 and below</b>

\*Remember, your grade is NOT based on percentages, but on the total points you accrue, and on how that number falls on the scale above.

### **Grade Total Subtractions:**

- Remember to be sure to subtract any extra credit points you may have earned from your final total if you have missed **more than 2 of 11 quizzes.**
- Remember as well, that if you make me aware of the fact that you have missed any information posted to the MG site for this course due to your failure to check it regularly as indicated in this document, 5 POINTS will be subtracted from your final grade total in this course for failure to adhere to this absolute requirement.

### **Grade Day:**

On MAY 6, 2009, our class is scheduled to have **grade review day**. This is a regular class meeting and you are required to attend. At this session, each student will receive a private review of his/her grade to date, without the optional comprehensive final exam added in. I have a **strict policy** of not discussing grades within one week before this date – either in person or otherwise. I will also not discuss grades at any time AT ALL after this date, until spring semester. All students are required to attend this class session. If you do not, I will not be able to answer questions about your final grade. I will address all of your questions IN this class session. While in this session, make sure to get all of your questions answered. **I will not discuss grades over the phone or by email.** I will not discuss final grades outside of Grade Review Day. Grade review day is the only day to address these questions.

You are responsible for keeping track of the accuracy of your grade data in the MG gradebook throughout the semester. If you notice something that is not accurate, you must let us know – IN PERSON – immediately. Failure to let us know about any data point that is in error prior to the date that EXAM 3 takes place – will result in that data point not being changed. Once exam 3 is upon us, all previously entered gradebook data are frozen. So please be sure to monitor your grades throughout the entire semester.

### **Classroom Protocol:**

Some words on protocol... you, as students, have a large responsibility as members of the “learning community”, and it is expected that you have an understanding of all of the following points:

1. Plagiarism is a complex factor. Plagiarism is not only the use of another person's words or ideas without crediting that person. It is even possible for you to plagiarize

yourself by submitting work completed for another class to meet the requirements of this class. Plagiarism will absolutely result in an issuance of zero points for the work submitted and the filing of an incident report with Academics Affairs. If work is submitted for no points and is plagiarized, it will still be reported to Academic Affairs. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, and dismissal from the University.

2. You are responsible for being attentive to and observant of campus policies about academic honesty as stated in the University's Student Conduct Code. This is your code; you are responsible for mastering this information and for abiding by the university rules.
3. Turn off beepers and cell phones during class.
4. You will make every effort to be on time for the class. If you EVER ARRIVE EVEN ONE MINUTE LATE OR HAVE TO LEAVE EVEN ONE MINUTE EARLY, you are required to restrict yourself to sitting in an outer-most aisle chair on the outside of any of the back 5 rows of the lecture room, nearest the door. You will also be required to enter and exit quietly and with minimal disturbance to those around you. This will mean that, if you arrive late, you will absolutely not be able to sit in your usual seat – unless of course, this seat is the outer most aisle seat on one of the back 5 rows. Now... professors develop pet peeves based on past experiences. I have three and this is one of them. If you do not adhere to this request and requirement, I can tell you at this very moment that you will be surprised how steadfast I will be about this. I am also stating here, in writing, in this syllabus, that if you fail to adhere to this policy, you will be ejected from the classroom and allowed to return only during the next class meeting.
5. If you are handed a pink slip, you must promptly leave the class session. I will explain more about this in person.
6. You will not read materials unrelated to the course during lecture.
7. You will not engage in any behaviors that may infringe on the rights of your peers to obtain the maximum learning experience during lectures. This includes EXCESSIVE OR LOUD talking, leaving and entering loudly during lecture, or other activities annoying to myself and to your classmates.
8. You will deal with any complaints/criticisms in a mature and professional manner. Please communicate your concerns to me.
9. You must take responsibility for your learning experience. If you are having any difficulty with any of the course material, seek help from those assigned to this class to help with such a purpose. Form study groups. These groups are a terrific opportunity for sharing ideas, meeting new people, and enhancing your absorption of the course content.
10. Your academic performance is based on YOUR honest efforts. Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the rules of the University.
11. You will make yourself completely familiar with this syllabus document and any other materials posted to My Gateway or handed out as an extension of the syllabus. Since my time with each of you is limited, when you ask me a question that is covered in this syllabus document, I may refer you to it for the answer.

### **Instructor Protocol:**

You are encouraged to shape your instructors' behaviors. Let's agree on some unacceptable instructor behaviors;

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Dr. Siciliani received her doctorate in Psychoneuroendocrinology / Experimental Psychology from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where she conducted research investigating the immune consequences of exercise stress, exercise competition, anger, betrayal, and human sexual intercourse. She received a Masters degree in Human Neuropsychology from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley Colorado, where she developed an assessment tool to identify sexual dysfunction. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern Maine, in Gorham, Maine. Dr. Siciliani is presently conducting research on changes in secretory IgA and salivary cortisol as a function of sexual intercourse in married individuals. She is also currently conducting and presenting research on male and female body image distortions and the “tend and befriend” hypothesis. She has presented her research at two international meetings of The Society for Behavioral Medicine, and at three international meetings of the American Psychological Society. Her research has been featured in the APS Observer, the Annals of Behavioral Medicine, Health Magazine, and Fitness Magazine. She has experience teaching many different psychology courses at her two alma maters mentioned above, as well as at The University of Illinois at Chicago, and DePaul University in Chicago. Her hobbies include snowboarding, SCUBA diving, culinary arts, dirt biking, weight training, surfing, travel, reading, hiking, rock climbing, soap making, and swimming with her two dogs – Tyson and Mr. P. She is also a professional vocalist.



**COURSE OUTLINE\***  
**GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 1003**  
**SPRING 2009**

\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH ANNOUNCED NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS

**January**

19 DR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY – NO CLASS MEETING  
21 INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE – READ CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 BEFORE JAN 26  
26 LECTURE  
28 LECTURE

**February**

2 LECTURE  
4 LECTURE  
9 LECTURE  
11 LECTURE  
16 LECTURE  
18 **EXAM 1**  
23 LECTURE  
25 LECTURE

**March**

2 LECTURE  
4 LECTURE  
9 LECTURE  
11 LECTURE  
16 LECTURE  
18 **EXAM 2**  
23 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MEETING**  
25 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS MEETING**  
30 LECTURE

**April**

1 LECTURE  
6 LECTURE  
8 LECTURE  
13 LECTURE  
15 LECTURE  
20 LECTURE  
22 LECTURE  
27 LECTURE  
29 LECTURE

**May**

4 **EXAM 3**  
6 **GRADE REVIEW DAY**  
13 **OPTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM 8:00 – 10:00 AM**