



## PSS 201: Introduction to Psychology

### Student Syllabus for the Adult Degree Programs

#### Course Description

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This is a foundational course. Myers defines psychology as a scientific study of behavior and mental processes. This study includes an exploration of how these processes are affected by the physical state, mental state, and external environment of an organism. Introduction to Psychology material applies not only to future courses in psychology, but also to sociology, education, business, biology, and other academic areas. Allow the course to challenge the way you understand others, yourself, your relationships, and your overall environment.

#### Course Introduction

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In modern psychological theory, researchers and practitioners discuss a model of people that focuses on our biological, psychological, and social components (the BPS model). One component that seems to be missing from this model is the spiritual aspect of humans. Thus, in this course, we will take a biological-psychological-social-spiritual (BPSS) perspective on understanding humans. We will use this model to organize our understanding of the psychological triad or our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

#### Course Outcomes

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Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Demonstrate progress in mastering the factual and conceptual knowledge delivered in the lectures and text.
2. Demonstrate understanding of how the concepts of psychology apply practically.
3. Demonstrate the utility of a holistic bio-psych-social-spiritual model of humans.
4. Critically review and evaluate psychology from a Christian and personal worldview.

#### Course Texts

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Myers, D. G., & DeWall, C. N. (2014). *Psychology in everyday life* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Worth Publishers.  
ISBN-13: 978-1464109362  
ISBN-10: 1464109362

Myers, D. G., & Jeeves, M. A. (2003). *Psychology through the eyes of faith* (revised and updated edition). HarperOne.  
ISBN-13: 978-0060655570  
ISBN-10: 0060655577

## Textbook Disclaimer

The textbooks for this course were chosen because their primary content directly relates to the objectives of this course. At times, there may be items or issues that are not presented from a proper Christian worldview. As such, the textbooks do not represent an endorsement by Geneva College or the relevant academic department at Geneva College.

## Archiving of Online Courses

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In order to provide the best service and to eliminate bandwidth bottlenecks, online courses will be removed from Moodle according to a scheduled archiving process. Students will have access in Moodle to courses taken during the current academic year and one previous academic year. Once a course is removed from Moodle, students will no longer have access to their coursework for the archived course. In preparation for the archiving of online courses, students are advised to save copies of their papers and other important coursework offline on a personal computer or other file storage location. Geneva College is not responsible for student files once a course has been archived offline.

## Learning and Physical Disabilities Policy

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Geneva College values diversity and inclusion and recognizes disabilities as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, ultimately leading to the success of our students in and beyond college. Therefore, Geneva College complies with the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by affording reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations should contact Geneva's Student Success Center (SSC) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the SSC before or during the first week of classes. (Some accommodations may take time to put into place, so it is advised to request this appointment as early as possible.) Legally, no retroactive accommodations can be provided.

Accommodations for disabilities are available only as recommended by the SSC. For more details, visit the [Student Success Center website](#), call 724-847-5005, or stop by the SSC office. The SSC is located on the second floor of the Student Center. Students who have questions about their right to benefits or have grievances under these statutes should contact the Director of the SSC.

## The Grading System in the Adult Degree Program

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The grading scale for the Adult Degree Program is A, B, C, D, and F. Geneva includes pluses (+) and minuses (-) in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). Grade points are assigned for each semester hour of credit earned according to the following system:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Explanation
<b>A</b>	<b>93.00% - 100.00%</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90.00% - 92.99%</b>	<b>3.7</b>	
<b>B+</b>	<b>87.00% - 89.99%</b>	<b>3.3</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>83.00% - 86.99%</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80.00% - 82.99%</b>	<b>2.7</b>	
<b>C+</b>	<b>77.00% - 79.99%</b>	<b>2.3</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>73.00% - 76.99%</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>70.00% - 72.99%</b>	<b>1.7</b>	
<b>D+</b>	<b>67.00% - 69.99%</b>	<b>1.3</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>63.00% - 66.99%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>Less than Satisfactory</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>60.00% - 62.99%</b>	<b>0.7</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>&lt; 60.00%</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>No Credit Given</b>
<b>WX, WP, WF</b>			<b>Withdrawal</b>

## Policy on Academic Honesty

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Because honesty is expected in all college relationships, any form of cheating on exams or any plagiarism in formal written work is punishable by failure in the course. Repeated violations may result in expulsion from the college. Please read the Academic Integrity Guidelines in Appendix A of the ADP Student Handbook.

Students may appeal any disciplinary action by following the procedure laid out in the Academic Integrity Guidelines in the ADP Student Handbook.

Students are encouraged to visit [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org) in order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism as well as a number of other academic standards. This website also provides directives as to how to avoid committing this act and how to properly cite academic sources.

## Turnitin Policy

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Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students must agree to the End User License Agreement (EULA) for Turnitin. Use of the

Turnitin service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on Turnitin.com. Assignments that are not submitted through Turnitin will not be graded and will not receive credit.

## Participation Policy

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In the online environment, **participation is marked by the completion of an academic event in each session (week) of the course.** Academic events include, but are not limited to, submission of a class assignment, participation in class discussion forum, or completion of a quiz/exam.

**If no academic event is completed within the first session (Week 1) of a course, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Beyond the first session, if no academic event is completed for a class session, the student will be considered as having not participated in that week of class, which in some cases may result in zeros on the missed assignments and a half-letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade.

**If a student does not complete an academic event for two consecutive sessions, the student will either be administratively withdrawn from the course or will receive a final course grade of F,** depending on how much of the course has transpired at the time of the second week of nonparticipation. For more details, please review Geneva's Student Handbook ([Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#)).

## Academic Grievance Policy

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For grievances related to grading and other course academic policies, the student should follow the published Grievance and Appeal Process in the ADP Student Handbook.

## Course Evaluation

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Criteria	Points Breakdown	Points
Discussion Forums (8)	30 points each	240 points
Behavior Modification Project	Proposal = 15 points Baseline Summary = 15 points Reinforcement Week Summaries (3) = 15 points each Final Paper = 100 points	175 points
Worldview Reflections (5)	30 points each	150 points
Quizzes (8)	15 points each	120 points
Application Papers (2)	60 points each	120 points
Total		805 points

## Assignment Descriptions

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### *Discussion Forums*

Class participation is monitored by postings and responses in the discussion forum. Typically, class participation is composed of two parts:

- a. Part 1 – Requires you to go to your discussion forum and post a response to a question or prompt that is written in your syllabus by 11:55 pm (EST) Wednesday of your scheduled session week. Your instructor will generally respond to your post within 24 hours. Depending on the nature of the assignment, the instructor may have a follow up question for you, ask you for clarification or further details, or direct your conversation to someone else for rebuttal.
- b. Part 2 – Respond back to your instructor’s post. In addition, post a response to at least two of your fellow classmates’ postings, using 1 or 2 paragraphs. Your response should further the discussion (e.g., ask a question, provide further information or examples, or introduce a different opinion). In particular, one response to a classmate **MUST** be in the form of a question that seeks to further the conversation. Your question must be posed by 11:55 pm (EST) Friday of the scheduled session week so that your classmate has adequate time to answer it.

Likewise, if a question is posed to you by Friday night, you are also required to answer it.

Part 2 of these online activities (response to instructor, response to classmates’ questions of you, and responses to your classmates) must be completed by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of each session.

**NOTE:** How to earn full credit in discussion forums:

1. Become familiar with the discussion forum rubric, which is available to you in all of your Moodle classroom discussion forums.
2. Be thoughtful in your responses and incorporate examples from your personal and professional experiences and references to the course material (e.g., readings, lecture, videos, audio clips, scripture, etc.) when appropriate. Remember to cite all sources and references according to proper APA style.
3. Respond to the discussion contributions of at least 2 peers and be sure to adequately address all posts your instructor may pose to you throughout the week. This level of participation is **REQUIRED** as the minimum in all discussion forums (see the rubric for more detail).

Your posting and responses will be graded by your instructor. For a detailed description of your responsibility in discussion forum postings, please see the “Interacting in the Online Environment” section in the ADP Student Handbook.

## Behavior Modification Project

In this course, you will conduct a behavior modification project, using yourself as an experimental participant. For this project, you will be required to think of a personal habit or behavior that you want to change (e.g., stop binge watching *Doctor Who* episodes) or one that you would like to introduce (e.g., study for psychology every night, except Sunday). Using behavior modification techniques (also known as operant conditioning), you will either eliminate the undesired behavior or institute the desired behavior. This project will take approximately one month to complete, so plan accordingly.

The Behavior Modification Project will be worked on in several parts, allowing for feedback and comments from the instructor and culminating in the final project submission in Session 7.

## Worldview Reflections

In this course, we will work toward developing a coherent worldview as it pertains to psychology and the Christian faith. For each worldview reflection paper, you will be assigned reading and then reflect on how Christians can understand humans using psychology. Specific instructions for completing these written assignments can be found in the course outline below.

- Session 1: Worldview Reflection 1
- Session 2: Worldview Reflection 2
- Session 3: Worldview Reflection 3
- Session 4: Worldview Reflection 4
- Session 6: Worldview Reflection 5

Each of these written assignments will be graded on content, style, and timeliness. They should adhere to all page length requirements and typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

All Worldview Reflections are due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of the designated session week.

## Quizzes

During this course, there will be eight quizzes that cover the essential elements of the text and help students review and identify important facets of psychology. These quizzes will include multiple choice questions.

- Session 1 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 1 (15 points)
- Session 2 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 2 (15 points)
- Session 3 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 3 (15 points)
- Session 4 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 4 (15 points)

- Session 5 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 5 (15 points)
- Session 6 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 6 (15 points)
- Session 7 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 7 (15 points)
- Session 8 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 8 (15 points)

Students will be allowed to consult their text and notes when taking online quizzes. However, quizzes will be timed, and students will need to have a working knowledge of the material before taking the quiz. There will simply not be enough time to “look up” every answer in your texts and materials.

If a student does not take the quiz by Saturday at 11:55 pm (EST) of the designated session week, they will not have an opportunity to make it up.

### *Application Papers*

Throughout this course, you will be assessed on your ability to apply course concepts in real-world contexts through the submission of application papers. Specific instructions for completing these written assignments can be found in the course outline below.

- Session 5: Application Paper 1
- Session 8: Application Paper 2

Each of these written assignments will be graded on content, style, and timeliness. They should adhere to all page length requirements and typical APA style and formatting (double spacing, proper APA citations, etc.).

All Application Papers are due by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of the designated session week.

## Professional Skills in Your Online Courses

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All courses in your Geneva College Online program will provide you with an opportunity to develop valuable skills that can positively influence your professional and career development. Each course at Geneva provides numerous opportunities to develop skills employers desire in their employees and job candidates in areas including, but not limited to, written communication, research, critical thinking, and decision-making. However, targeted skill sets are also developed through the learning in particular courses.

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to add these particular skills to your bank of professional assets:

### Research Skills



Skillful in compiling, organizing, and using data to enhance planning and effectiveness

### Synthesize/Integrate



Adept at forming structures, patterns, and connections from information, ideas, and images

### Written Communication Skills



Ability to organize knowledge and beliefs into convincing arguments and to convey meaning through well-constructed text

### Design Skills



Creation of a plan or convention for the construction of an object, system, or measurable human interaction