INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Psychology 1A, Section 3742, Fall, 2020. My name is Dr. Marilyn Milligan. I like to be called Dr. Milligan, Dr. M or Marilyn.

Because this is an asynchronous class, I will be recording my lectures on video so that you can “attend” class at the time best for you. I will be recording on Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 5, starting on September 1. I would be thrilled if any or all of you would attend. I will send you the url for those meetings.

According to your textbook, “Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes”. I agree, but for the word “scientific”. Some of what we know in Psychology, for example, comes from case studies, rich in ideas, but relatively unscientific. We will further discuss Case Studies, as well as other Research Methods in Unit 5. Behavior: The study of behavior involves all behaviors, from slips of the tongue (Freud, as you will see in Unit 1, thought slips of the tongue revealed significant unconscious content) to Love and War. Mental processes: Thinking (for example, I think sending you some introductory remarks makes a good, beginning connection between student and teacher), feeling (for example, I feel delighted that there is a way that we, you and I, will be able to video interact, using Zoom), sensation and perception. (We will explore sensation and perception in Unit 7, Consciousness and Its Altered States.} Another way of defining Psychology is to say that Psychology attempts to answer the question, “Why do people behave, think, feel, sense and perceive the way they do?” Throughout this class, as you can see from the Course Outline, we will be looking into a diversity of answers to this question!