

Introduction to Psychology
PSY 101-001
B115 Wells Hall
Monday 10:20-11:10
Wednesday & Friday 10:20-11:40

Instructor

Kimberly Fenn, Ph.D.
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Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

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Jenna Venegas
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All office hours will be held via zoom.
All members of the course team are also available by appointment for either in-person or zoom meetings.

Please feel free to email any of us to set up a time.

Course Description

This course is designed to give you a broad overview of the field of psychology. Psychology as a field has had a rather short history. However, its impact on our current understanding of the human experience is significant. In this course, we will review the basic methodology, theories, and findings in the field. Psychology contains several different subfields, such as sensation and perception, memory, neuroscience, social psychology, and clinical psychology. This course will survey both seminal findings and current research in many of these subfields. Because this is an introductory course, it is designed to provide a basic understanding of the principles of the field but will not go into great depth on any of them. If you become interested in a given area, the course team can recommend future classes to take or faculty with whom to work.

Readings

The textbook for this course is called *Introducing Psychology* by Schacter, Gilbert, Nock, and Wegner, fifth edition. The textbook is entirely online and comes packaged with Achieve, an online resource. If you would prefer a print copy, they are available at an additional cost.

You may purchase the textbook and Achieve software [here](#). Scroll down to Achieve (\$84.99) and our course code is: **9adauz**. Even if you enter this code, you still must access Achieve through D2L to link your accounts.

Online Content

There will be two websites associated with the course – the course page on [Desire to Learn \(D2L\)](#) and a page on the publisher's website, called **Achieve**. To access Achieve, you should first log in to [D2L](#). Then, under Content, go to ebook and Achieve, and there you will find a link to Achieve. You must link your D2L account to your Achieve account. The best way to do this is to simply click on one of the homework assignments. To do this, go under Content, click on the Homework folder, and then click on any assignment. You do not need to complete the assignment at that time, but this will link your accounts.

If you do not access Achieve through D2L, your grades will not transfer to D2L.

When you register your Achieve account, you MUST use your MSU email address or D2L will not recognize you and your grades will not transfer.

If you registered your Achieve account with an alternate email address, you will need to contact Macmillan support to change the email address associated with your account.

If you need technical assistance, you may consult the [Macmillan support](#) website or you can [chat](#) with them, or you can call Technical Support: (800) 936-6899.

Exams

All exams will be administered online.

This means that you do not need to be in the classroom to take the exams. You may take the exam in your apartment or dorm room, or at your parents' house, or even in Hawaii! However, you must take the exam during the designated time, regardless of what time zone you are in.

There will be four exams and one final in this course. **We will drop your lowest exam score.** This means that if you have your desired grade after the fourth exam, you do not need to take the final. You will be responsible for all material associated with the course on the exams. This includes material presented in lecture and information from the book. Note that the lectures and book readings will not be entirely redundant. Some material will be presented in lecture that is not covered in the book and likewise, some material from the book will not be covered in lecture.

The four regular exams will not be cumulative; chapters associated with each exam are listed on the course schedule. The final exam **WILL** be cumulative, meaning that the final exam will cover material from the entire course.

During the exams, you may use your book and your notes, but you may not consult with any other individuals during the exam period.

Guidelines for the exams

1. **All exams will be administered online.** This means that you do NOT need to come to the lecture hall for the exams.
2. **You must have high speed internet connection for the exams.** Because the exams will be administered online, you must have a high-speed internet connection. If your internet is weak or spotty at home, we encourage you to take the exam in the library or in a classroom building. You will not be permitted to retake the exam if your internet is spotty.
3. **The exam will close precisely at 11:40.** If you start the exam late, you will still only have until 11:40 to complete the exam. There are no exceptions to this rule.
4. **All exams are open book and open notebook.** You may use any material associated with the course during the exams.
5. **You may not consult with any other individual during the exams.** You may not discuss the exam or any questions on the exam with any other individual. Doing so would constitute academic dishonesty and will be reported.

Make-up exams: Make-up exams will only be given in case of: 1) a documented medical or family emergency, or 2) a documented scheduled conflict, such as a religious holiday or required participation in a university-sanctioned event. In either case, you must send an email to the professor as soon as you are aware of this conflict. In case of a scheduled conflict, you must send this email at least one week in advance of exam day. Absence from an exam for any other reason will result in a grade of 0 for that exam. However, your lowest exam score will be dropped so if you miss an exam, that will be the score that is dropped.

All make-up exams must be completed within one week of the exam. If you do not complete a make-up exam by this time, you will receive a 0 for the exam.

Homework

Most weeks, you will complete 2-3 homework assignments. During the homework, you will be quizzed on course material using a program called LearningCurve. This is an adaptive homework system that awards points based on your performance. For each assignment, you will be required to accumulate 500 points. The number of points awarded for each question will depend on the difficulty of the question as well as your performance. If you answer the question correctly on the first attempt, you will be awarded more points than if you answered it incorrectly on the first attempt and responded correctly on the second attempt. Furthermore, each question will provide a link to the relevant section in the book so if you do not remember the material, you can review it. Homework will not be graded, per se. If you achieve the 500 points required, you will receive full credit. There are 29 homework assignments across the semester. **We will drop your five lowest scores.** Links to each homework are posted on D2L under the Homework tab. Finally, LearningCurve will be available to you even after you have completed each assignment (and will be available for units that were not assigned) so you can use it as a study tool. **Homework assignments are due at 11:59pm on Friday. We will not accept late assignments and will not give extensions, under any circumstances.** This is why you are permitted to drop five.

Important Note: Achieve will export your scores to D2L but this process is NOT immediate and can take up to 48 hours. Please be patient and do not email the course team if your grade is not immediately reflected on D2L.

Research Participation

One fundamental way of learning firsthand about psychological research is to participate in research studies. You can register an account and sign up for studies [here](#). There is a detailed document on the D2L website that provides all of the information that you need to use the system. You can also watch a short, online tutorial [here](#). There is also a link to an online help room for the Sona system posted on D2L.

Note: Make sure that you are on the psychology Sona site. The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences also has a Sona site. We do not have access to this data and cannot grant participation credit for experiments done under the other site.

You will be required to complete **8 hours** of research participation. Details regarding this element of the course are posted on D2L. Any questions, inaccuracies, or problems should be directed to: Audra Jeffrey, the Human Subject Pool Administrator, jeffre22@msu.edu. Her office is Room 100, Psychology Building. It is your responsibility to sign up, participate in experiments, and track your personal history on the computer. Neither the instructor nor the course assistants have a record of your research participation until the end of the course. We do not know how many credits you have or if you have penalty points. **ALL questions regarding research participation must be directed to Audra Jeffrey.**

Restrictions: Some research studies will be conducted online, and asynchronously (meaning that you will be provided a link and can complete the study at any point in time). This type of research is not as educational as standard, laboratory experiments. **As such, only two hours of your research requirement may be completed in online, asynchronous studies.** Note that online synchronous studies wherein you meet in a zoom meeting, etc. are different and all hours completed in this type of experiment can be used for your research participation grade.

Age Requirement: If you are not yet 18 years old, you cannot legally consent to participate in research. We have a separate system where you can complete all of your hours. Please contact Audra Jeffrey, jeffre22@msu.edu to obtain access to this system.

Deadline: Research participation must be completed by the last day of classes, December 8, 2023, at 5:00 pm. There will not be any experiments conducted after this time.

Alternative to research participation: If you do not wish to participate in psychology experiments, you may fulfill this requirement by writing a one-page paper for every hour of research participation for a total of eight one-page papers. A detailed explanation of the paper requirements is posted on D2L. All papers are due by the last day of classes, December 8, 2023, at 5:00 pm. The drop box will close promptly at 5:00 and papers will not be accepted after this time. There will be **no exceptions** to this rule.

Extra Credit

In addition to the assigned research participation, you may participate in additional experiments for extra credit. For each hour, you will earn 2 points onto your final score. The maximum extra credit is 6 hours or 12 points onto your final grade. This works out to 3 percentage points. This means that if your final grade was 87%, and you did the full extra credit, your final score would be 90%.

Practice Quizzes

For each chapter, there will be a practice quiz on Achieve. You are not required to do any of these; they are posted for your benefit, so that you can practice answering questions about the material. You may take them as many times as you want, to help you prepare for the exams. Note that you will not receive the same questions each time you take the quiz; questions will be randomly distributed. Each quiz will have 10-15 questions and you will be given 30 minutes to complete each quiz. You will see your scores for these, but the score will not contribute to your grade in the course. These quizzes are entirely optional and are posted simply to help you improve your grade on the exams.

Grading

This course is worth a total of 400 points. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1: 80 points

Exam 2: 80 points

Exam 3: 80 points

Exam 4: 80 points

Final exam: 80 points

Total = 240 points

The lowest exam score will be dropped

Homework: 24 assignments at 2 points each = 48 points

There are 29 total assignments but your lowest 5 will be dropped

Research participation: 8 hours at 4 points per hour = 32 points

This is the percentage of each element of the course toward your final grade:

Each exam: 20% (for a total of 80%)

Homework: 12%

Research participation: 8%

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

4.0: 90-100%	2.5: 75-79%	1.0: 60-64%
3.5: 85-89%	2.0: 70-74%	0: < 60%
3.0: 80-84%	1.5: 65-69%	

The point values you need to achieve each grade are listed below. Note that these values take into account decimals. For example, the range for a 4.0 actually starts at 89.5%.

4.0: 358 – 400	2.5: 298 – 317	1.0: 238 – 257
3.5: 338 – 357	2.0: 278 – 297	0: < 238
3.0: 318 – 337	1.5: 258 – 277	

The point values reflect rounding to the nearest whole number (i.e. 89.5% = 4.0). Scores cannot be “on the border”. They are one grade or the next. There will be no adjustments because your score is close to the cutoff. Extra credit is the only way to increase your grade. At the end of the semester, if you believe that I made an error in calculating your grade, please let me know. I will check your grade, and I will change it if I have made an error. **This is the only circumstance under which I will change a grade.** Under no circumstance will I “bump” your grade or give you a special extra credit opportunity. I never do this; please do not ask. **There will be no exceptions.**

Academic Honesty

The Spartan Code of Honor states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities ([SRR](#)) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades](#); [the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](#).

Therefore, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, exams, and papers (if you choose not to do the research) without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com website to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](#).)

When in doubt, students are urged to ask the instructor about the appropriateness of any practice.

ACADEMIC HONESTY IS EXPECTED IN ALL FACETS OF THIS COURSE.**Turnitin Policy**

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, I have chosen to use a tool called Turnitin to compare your papers with multiple sources. The tool will compare each paper you submit to an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a 'similarity score.' The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, I will make a complete assessment and judge the originality of your work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool. You should submit papers to Turnitin without identifying information included in the paper (e.g., name or student number), the D2L will automatically show this information to me when I view the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin. If you forget and submit your paper with your identifying information on it, it will be retained in the Turnitin repository.

Generative A.I. Policy

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted in this class. Therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Michigan State University's policy on academic integrity, the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge and Student Rights and Responsibilities, since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in a grade of 0 for that aspect of the course.

Inclusive Environment

MSU is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) reviews concerns related to discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, disability status, and any other protected categories under the [University Anti-Discrimination Policy](#) and [Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct](#). If you experience or witness acts of bias, discrimination, or harassment, please report these to [OIE](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the [Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) at 517-884-RCPD. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, etc.) you must contact me and email your VISA at least one week before the first exam (9/27). We can arrange to give you additional time within the Achieve system but this takes time and you must arrange it in advance.

Getting Help

The best way to get help is to come to office hours. The instructor, the graduate teaching assistant, and the undergraduate course assistants will all hold regular office hours and are also available at other times, by appointment. During the office hours, we will host an open meeting and anyone who is interested may simply log into the zoom meeting. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours, you may simply contact any of the assistants or instructor to make an appointment for a different time. You may also ask questions via e-mail.

E-mail Policy

E-mail is the best way to contact the course team. However, please use the following guidelines when e-mailing us:

- **First, ask yourself this question:** “Can this question be answered by looking at the syllabus or looking on D2L?” If the answer is yes, then you should not send an email!
- Use PSY 101 in the subject line. This makes it clear you are a student in this course asking a question. This helps to prevent e-mails from going directly to the junk folder.
- **Please address the e-mail properly.**
- Proofread your e-mail. Is your question conveyed clearly with correct grammar and spelling? Did autocorrect make it sound super weird?
- Please sign your e-mail with your full name, so we know who you are. We can’t wait to get to know all of you, but maizeandbluearetheworst@gmail.com makes it hard for us to know who you are.
- Be polite.
- **Check your e-mail regularly!** During the course, we will e-mail you from time to time with announcements and reminders. Please read these e-mails as soon as you receive them, and please check your e-mail regularly.