

## PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology (Fall 2023, Section 004H)

- Objectives:** Survey data, theory, and methods from the study of behavior and mental processes.
- Time and Place:** Classes will be held in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00pm to 4:50pm in Snyder Hall C20. Exams will be administered remotely via the Course Homepage on D2L.
- Course Homepage:** “FS23-PSY-101-004H - Introductory Psychology” on [d2l.msu.edu](https://d2l.msu.edu)
- Instructor:** Dr. Erik Altmann ([ema@msu.edu](mailto:ema@msu.edu))
- Office Hours:** Wednesdays from noon to 2:00pm or by appointment. Office hours will be held remotely via the Zoom link posted on the Course Homepage (a reliable high-speed Internet connection is required).
- Textbook:** *Introduction to Psychology* by the NOBA project. The textbook is open source (i.e., free) and available through the Course Homepage.

### Course Schedule:

The schedule below lists the date, lecture topic, and required readings for each class, as well as exam dates.

The required readings are textbook modules, usually one per class but sometimes two or none. For most classes, the lecture will cover material related to the module(s), but sometimes the material will differ. You can do the required reading before or after class, but you should try to keep up so you don't have to do all the reading right before an exam.

The textbook contains additional modules, not listed below, that are recommended reading. Material from these modules will not be tested unless it also comes up in lecture or the required readings.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture topics and textbook modules</i>
29-Aug	<i>Lecture:</i> Introduction and scope <i>Module:</i> History of Psychology
31-Aug	<i>Lecture:</i> Methods <i>Modules:</i> Research Designs <i>and</i> Thinking like a Psychological Scientist

- 5-Sep *Lecture:* Memory and studying  
*Module:* The Replication Crisis in Psychology
- 7-Sep *Lecture:* Organization of the brain  
*Module:* The Brain and Nervous System
- 12-Sep *Lecture:* Neurons, sensation  
*Module:* Sensation and Perception
- 14-Sep *Lecture:* Perception  
*Module:* Vision
- 19-Sep *Lecture:* Attention  
*Modules:* Attention *and*  
Failures of Awareness: The Case of  
Inattentional Blindness
- 21-Sep *Lecture:* Sensemaking, final paper requirements  
*Module:* *No module*
- 26-Sep *Lecture:* Basic learning mechanisms, exam review  
*Module:* Conditioning and Learning
- 28-Sep **Exam 1** *Administered remotely via Course Homepage*
- 3-Oct *Lecture:* Sensory memory, working memory  
*Module:* Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)
- 5-Oct *Lecture:* Long-term memory  
*Module:* Categories and Concepts
- 10-Oct *Lecture:* Long-term memory  
*Module:* Forgetting and Amnesia
- 12-Oct *Lecture:* Long-term memory  
*Module:* Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases
- 17-Oct *Lecture:* Decision making, reasoning  
*Module:* Intelligence

19-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Language
	<i>Module:</i>	Language and Language Use
24-Oct	<i>No class</i>	<i>Fall break</i>
26-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Development, aging
	<i>Module:</i>	Cognitive Development in Childhood
31-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Personality, family influence, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	Personality Traits
2-Nov	<b>Exam 2</b>	<i>Administered remotely via Course Homepage</i>
7-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Forming impressions
	<i>Module:</i>	Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
9-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Attributions, attitudes
	<i>Module:</i>	Social Cognition and Attitudes
14-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Power of the situation
	<i>Module:</i>	Conformity and Obedience
16-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Power of the situation
	<i>Module:</i>	The Psychology of Groups
21-Nov	<i>No class</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
28-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Schizophrenia
	<i>Module:</i>	History of Mental Illness
30-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Depression
	<i>Module:</i>	Mood Disorders
5-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Serial killers
	<i>Module:</i>	Personality Disorders
7-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Exam review, final paper due at 5:00pm
	<i>Module:</i>	<i>No module</i>
13-Dec, 10:00am to 12:00pm	<b>Exam 3</b>	<i>Administered remotely via Course Homepage</i>

## **Assessment:**

Your grade in the course will be based on your total number of points out of 200 (see Grading Scale, below). Points come from exams, research participation, and a short final paper, as described below. There are no extra credit options.

### *Exams (166 points):*

There will be three exams. Exams 1 and 2, each during a regular class period, are worth 50 points each and will cover specific segments of the course. Exam 3, during finals week, is worth 66 points and will cover the last segment of the course and some material from previous segments (i.e., it will be partially cumulative). Exam dates appear in the Course Schedule, above.

Exams will administered remotely via the Course Homepage on D2L. You may take the exam from any place with a reliable high-speed Internet connection. Exams will be available only during the regular class period (Exams 1 and 2) or the designated period during finals week (Exam 3). I will be available for questions during exams at the Zoom link posted on the Course Homepage.

Any material covered in class or in the required readings listed in the Course Schedule could be tested on an exam, but I will give you some guidance about exam content in the class period preceding each exam. Lectures will not be broadcast or recorded, but the slide decks and videos from class will be available on the Course Homepage starting the evening of class day.

Collaboration during exams is prohibited. Students who collaborate or otherwise violate academic integrity as defined in the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge are subject to a penalty grade, such as a score of 0 on an exam or a failing grade in the course.

### *Research Participation (14 points):*

You will receive 2 points for each hour you spend participating in research conducted in the Psychology Department, up to a total of 14 points (7 hours).

To participate in research you will use the HPR system, which you can access through the Course Homepage. For questions about HPR (e.g., problems signing in, issues with credits), contact the research participation coordinator, Ms. Audra

Jeffrey, at [jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu). Research studies will be available until 5:00pm on Friday, Dec. 8. In lieu of research participation, you may write a paper; for details, contact me no later than the date of Exam 2.

*Final Paper (20 points):*

There will be a short final paper. The requirements are posted on the Course Homepage, along with a sample paper. We will review the requirements in class on Thursday, Sept. 21, but you should read them soon, around the time we discuss research methods during the first full week of class. The paper is due at 5:00pm on Thursday, Dec. 7, via upload to the Course Homepage.

*Grading Scale:*

Total points out of 200	Grade
0-85	0.0
86-100	1.0
101-115	1.5
116-130	2.0
131-145	2.5
146-160	3.0
161-175	3.5
176-200	4.0

**Emergencies and Schedule Conflicts:**

You may take a makeup exam if you have to miss a regular exam because of a documented medical emergency, because of a schedule conflict that you know about in advance such as a religious holiday or sports travel, or for any other reason allowed by university policy. Please notify me as soon as you are able to in case of a medical emergency and at least a week in advance in case of any other schedule conflict. If you miss an exam for any other reason, or fail to notify me in advance in case of a schedule conflict, you should expect a score of 0 on that exam.

Makeup exams will usually be the day after the regular exam day. If you are not able to take a makeup on that day, then, at my discretion, I may omit that exam from your final point total and increase the weight on your other exam scores.

**Electronic Devices:**

You may use your computer or other mobile device in class, with audio off, for class-related purposes such as taking notes. However, be aware that noise from typing can distract people within earshot and that images on your screen can distract people sitting behind you (for reasons we'll discuss in class when we learn about visual attention). If your device use is disrupting others I may ask you to move to the back of the classroom or to stop using your device.

**Syllabus Changes:**

Any changes to this syllabus or any other aspect of the course will be announced either in class or via email to the class listserv.