

**Introduction to Psychology**  
**PSY 101-005**  
**1281 Anthony Hall**  
**Monday & Wednesday 10:20-11:40**  
**With Additional Online Content**

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**Instructor**

Kimberly Fenn, Ph.D.

Zoom office Hours: Monday 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/95216049052>

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**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Linh Lazarus

Office Hours: Thursday 11:00am – 12:00pm

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**Undergraduate Teaching Assistants**

Savannah Kendra

Zoom office Hours: Wednesday 1:00pm-2:00pm

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Lauren Wohltjen

Zoom office Hours: Monday 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/93194269524>

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**All office hours will be held via zoom for safety.**  
**All members of the course team are also available by appointment.**  
**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 quite 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 biological psychology. This course will survey both seminal findings and current research in many of the subfields of psychology. 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.

## Course Structure

This is a hybrid course which means that most of the course will be delivered in-person, in the classroom but a subset of the course will be available for you to complete online. 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 LaunchPad. To access LaunchPad, you should first log in to [D2L](#). Then, under Content, go to ebook and Materials, and there you will find a link to LaunchPad. **It is critical that you access LaunchPad through D2L so that your accounts get linked.** You must always use your MSU email address (NOT your gmail address) for anything related to the course. If you fail to do this, your accounts will not be linked and your grades will not transfer to D2L.

## Readings

The textbook for this course is called *Introducing Psychology* by Daniel Schacter, Daniel Gilbert, Matthew Nock, and Daniel Wegner. In addition to the book, you must purchase access to LaunchPad, which is an online resource. Information about this can be found at the bookstore or on the D2L page. The textbook is entirely online and comes packaged with LaunchPad. If you would prefer a print copy, they are available at an additional cost.

## Exams

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, material posted online, and information from the book. Note that the lectures and book readings will not be entirely redundant. Some material will be presented in lecture or posted online 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 at the end of this document. The final exam *will* be cumulative, meaning that the 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.** All exams will consist of 80 questions each.

### **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. You may take the exam in your dorm or apartment or in the library.
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.
3. The exam will close at precisely 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 will have access to your book and notes during the exam but 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.

**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**

Each week, you will complete two homework assignments. During the homework, you will be quizzed on course material through LaunchPad, 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 300 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 try, you will be awarded more points than if you answered it incorrectly on the first try and responded correctly on the second try. Furthermore, each question will offer you 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 300 points required, you will receive full credit for that homework. There are 26 homework assignments across the semester. **We will drop your two lowest scores. This essentially means that you may skip two assignments.** 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 each week.**

**Important Note:** LaunchPad 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: <https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com>. 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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>. 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 earn 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](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu). Her office is Room 100, Psychology Building but she will be working remotely. It is your responsibility to sign up, participate in the experiments, and to 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.

***Deadline:*** Research participation should be completed by the last day of classes, December 9, 2021, 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 seven 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 9, 2021, 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 up to 6 hours. 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%, if you did the full extra credit, your final score would be 90%.

## Practice Quizzes

For each chapter, there will be a practice quiz on LaunchPad. You are not required to do any of these. They are posted for you 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 grades for these but the grade 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

*The lowest exam score will be dropped*

**Homework:** 24 assignments at 2 points each = 48 points

**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, so please do not ask. **There will be no exceptions.**

## Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for knowing and following the university policy on academic integrity and plagiarism. Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states, "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the College of Social Sciences adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU website [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)).

You are expected to complete all course assignments without improper assistance from any source. Specifically, you may not assist anyone or be assisted by anyone on an exam. In addition, your written work must be your own, and you must cite sources appropriately. 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](http://www.allmsu.com) web site to complete any course work in this course. The course will be run according to these rules without exception. Any student caught cheating or otherwise violating the MSU academic integrity policy may receive the maximum punishment, including a grade of 0.0 in the course. Visit the following websites for more details about MSU's Academic Integrity policies: <https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/index.html> <https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/student-faq.html> 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.

### 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 or on the web at <http://rcpd.msu.edu>. 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 LaunchPad system but this takes time and you must arrange it in advance.

### **Mask Policy**

As you know, MSU is mandating masks indoors at the university. This includes the classroom. Please remember that some of your fellow students may be immunocompromised and we need to do everything we can to protect them. If you refuse to wear a mask in class, you will be asked to leave. We understand that this is not ideal and if the administration removes this mandate, then you will not need to wear a mask during class.

### **Getting Help**

The best way to get help is to come to zoom office hours. The instructor, the graduate teaching assistant, and the undergraduate course assistants will all hold regular zoom office hours and are also available at other times, by appointment. During the zoom 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 one of us:

- **First, ask yourself this question: “Can this question be answered by looking in 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](mailto: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.

<b>Week Number &amp; Start Date</b>	<b>Schedule of Topics</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1 - Beginning 9/1	Class Orientation	Read Syllabus Read Chapter 1 pgs. 18-22
2 - Beginning 9/6	Chapter 2: <b>Methodology</b> (no class 9/6 – Labor Day)	Read Chapter 2 LearningCurve 2a and 2b Optional: Chapter 2 Quiz
3 - Beginning 9/13	Chapter 3: <b>Neuroscience</b>	Read Chapter 3 LearningCurve 3a and 3b Optional: Chapter 3 Quiz
4 – Beginning 9/20	Chapter 4: <b>Sensation and Perception</b>	Read Chapter 4 LearningCurve 4b and 4c Optional: Chapter 4 Quiz
<b>9/27</b>	<b>Exam 1</b> Chapters 2, 3, 4	<b>Begins at 10:20</b>
5 – Beginning 9/27	Chapter 5: <b>Consciousness</b>	Read Chapter 5 LearningCurve 5b and 5c Optional: Chapter 5 Quiz
6 – Beginning 10/4	Chapter 6: <b>Memory</b>	Read Chapter 6 LearningCurve 6b and 6c Optional: Chapter 6 Quiz
7 – Beginning 10/11	Chapter 7: <b>Learning</b>	Read Chapter 7 LearningCurve 7a and 7b Optional: Chapter 7 Quiz
<b>10/18</b>	<b>Exam 2</b> Chapters 5, 6, 7	<b>Begins at 10:20</b>
8 – Beginning 10/18	Chapter 8: <b>Emotion and Motivation</b>	Read Chapter 8 LearningCurve 8b and 8c Optional: Chapter 8 Quiz
<b>10/25</b>	<b>No Class – Fall Break!</b>	



9 – Beginning 10/25	Chapter 10: <b>Development</b>	Read Chapter 10 LearningCurve 10a and 10b Optional: Chapter 10 Quiz
10 – Beginning 11/1	Chapter 11: <b>Personality</b>	Read Chapter 11 LearningCurve 11a and 11b Optional: Chapter 11 Quiz
<b>11/8</b>	<b>Exam 3</b> Chapters 8, 10, 11	<b>Begins at 10:20</b>
11 – Beginning 11/8	Chapter 13: <b>Stress and Health</b>	Read Chapter 13 LearningCurve 13a and 13b Optional: Chapter 13 Quiz
12 – Beginning 11/15	Chapter 14: <b>Psychological Disorders</b>	Read Chapter 14 LearningCurve 14b and 14c Optional: Chapter 14 Quiz
13 – Beginning 11/22 <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	Chapter 9: <b>Decision Making and Intelligence</b>	Read Chapter 9 pgs. 281-300 LearningCurve 9b and 9c Optional: Chapter 9 Quiz
14 – Beginning 11/29	Chapter 12: <b>Social Psychology</b>	Read Chapter 12 LearningCurve 12a and 12d Optional: Chapter 12 Quiz
15 – Beginning 12/6	Finish Chapter 12: <b>Social Psychology</b>	
<b>12/8</b>	<b>Exam 4</b> Chapters 9, 12, 13, 14	<b>Begins at 10:20</b>
	<i>Reading period</i>	
<b>12/17</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>7:45-9:45</b>