

Introduction to Psychology
PSY 101-001
Fall 2020

Instructor

Kimberly Fenn, Ph.D.

Zoom office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:00

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Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

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Jordan Swigart

Zoom office Hours: Thursday 11:00 – 12:00

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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.

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.

Lectures

Each week, there will be a few short (20 min or less) lecture modules. You are expected to watch these each week. Some material will be presented in these lectures that does not appear in the book and you may be tested on this material.

Exams

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. **The final exam will not be cumulative.** This means that the midterm will cover all material from the first day of class until the midterm (chapters 2-8) and the final exam will cover all material from the day after the midterm to the final (chapters 9-14). 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. You will be responsible for all material associated with the course on the exams. This includes material presented in lecture as well as information from the book that was not covered in the lectures. **During the exams, you may use your book and your notes, but you may not consult with any other individuals during the exam period.** The exams will consist of 100 questions each.

The exams will be open for a period of 24 hours. You may take the exam at any point in that window, but you must take the exams during that time. You will be given 120 minutes to complete each exam.

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.

Quizzes

There will be 13 quizzes in this course. Each quiz will have 10-15 questions and you will be given 30 minutes to complete each quiz. Like exams, you may use your book and notes for the quizzes but you may not consult with any other individuals regarding quiz questions. You will be given the opportunity to take each quiz 2 times and we will use your highest score. Note that you will not receive the same questions each time you take the quiz; questions will be randomly distributed. All quizzes are due on Friday each week by 11:59pm. This deadline is strict. If you do not complete the weekly quiz by that time, you will receive a zero. We will drop your lowest quiz score so if you miss a quiz, that will be the score that you drop. Links to each quiz are posted on D2L and can also be accessed directly through LaunchPad.

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 advanced 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 which essentially means that you may skip two assignments. Links to each quiz homework are posted on D2L and can also be accessed directly through LaunchPad. 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.

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. 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.**

Deadline: Research participation should be completed by the last day of classes, December 11, 2020, 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 11, 2020, 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 3.75 percentage points. This means that if your final grade was 87%, if you did the full extra credit, your final score would be 90.75%.

Grading

This course is worth a total of 320 points. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm exam: 80 points

Final exam: 80 points

Quizzes: 12 quizzes at 6 points each = 72 points

Homework: 24 assignments at 3 points each = 72 points

Research participation: 8 hours at 2 points per hour = 16 points

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

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Quizzes: 22.5%

Homework: 22.5%

Research participation: 5%

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: 286 – 320

2.5: 238 - 253

1.0: 190 - 205

3.5: 270 – 285

2.0: 222 – 237

0: < 190

3.0: 254 - 269

1.5: 206 - 221

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).

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, and you may not use the text or any notes during 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 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, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and email your VISA at least one week before the first quiz is due (9/11). We can arrange to give you additional time within the LaunchPad system but this takes time and you must arrange it in advance.

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 be available at other times, by appointment. During the zoom office hours, we will host an open zoom and anyone who is interested may simply log into the zoom room. 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 us. 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 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.

Week Number and Start Date	Schedule of Topics	Assignments
1 - Beginning 9/2	Class Orientation	Read Syllabus Watch all videos Read Chapter 1 pgs. 18-22
2 - Beginning 9/7	Chapter 2: Methodology	Read Chapter 2 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 2a and 2b Chapter 2 Quiz
3 - Beginning 9/14	Chapter 3: Neuroscience	Read Chapter 3 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 3a and 3b Chapter 3 Quiz
4 – Beginning 9/21	Chapter 4: Sensation and Perception	Read Chapter 4 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 4b and 4c Chapter 4 Quiz
5 – Beginning 9/28	Chapter 5: Consciousness	Read Chapter 5 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 5b and 5c Chapter 5 Quiz
6 – Beginning 10/5	Chapter 6: Memory	Read Chapter 6 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 6b and 6c Chapter 6 Quiz
7 – Beginning 10/12	Chapter 7: Learning	Read Chapter 7 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 7a and 7b Chapter 7 Quiz
8 – Beginning 10/19	Chapter 8: Emotion and Motivation	Read Chapter 8 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 8b and 8c Chapter 8 Quiz
9 – Beginning 10/26	Midterm Exam (Chapters 2 – 8)	The Midterm will open at 8:00am on 10/28 and will remain open until 8:00am 10/29. You must complete the midterm in that time.
10 – Beginning 11/2	Chapter 10: Development	Read Chapter 10 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 10a and 10b Chapter 10 Quiz

11 – Beginning 11/9	Chapter 11: Personality	Read Chapter 11 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 11a and 11b Chapter 11 Quiz
12 – Beginning 11/16	Chapter 13: Stress and Health	Read Chapter 13 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 13a and 13b Chapter 13 Quiz
13 – Beginning 11/ 23	Chapter 9: Decision Making and Intelligence	Read Chapter 9 pgs. 281-300 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 9b and 9c Chapter 9 Quiz
14 – Beginning 11/ 30	Chapter 14: Psychological Disorders	Read Chapter 14 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 14b and 14c Chapter 14 Quiz
15 – Beginning 12/7	Chapter 12: Social Psychology	Read Chapter 12 Watch lecture videos LearningCurve 12a and 12d Chapter 12 Quiz
Exam week	Final Exam (Chapters 9-14)	The final exam will open at 8:00am on <u>12/16</u> and remain open until 8:00am on 12/17. You must complete the final exam in that time.