

# Introduction to Psychology

Summer 2023 Session 1 | PSY 101 Section 730 | Online Asynchronous |

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will cover psychology topics from biological, individual, social, and environmental perspectives. This course covers topics from scientific and professional aspects.



Professor:  
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**Office Hours** – Thursday 11 am - 1 pm ET  
or by appointment

**Link:** <https://msu.zoom.us/j/5836898786>

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Throughout this course, you will:

- ✓ Explore the field of psychology, through various psychology subareas of interest.
- ✓ Identify research methods used in each area of study.
- ✓ Learn the skills associated with scientific study and critical thinking.
- ✓ Apply new course knowledge and skills to your everyday life.
- ✓ Engage in professional skill development related to scientific and critical thinking.

## CLASSROOM PHILOSOPHY

I will seek to help each of you actively engage with and learn the material in a way that leads to success in this course. I also hope to help facilitate an understanding of psychology that helps you in your future studies and, more broadly, life beyond school. To this end, do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance in helping you achieve these goals!

## OFFICE HOURS

- Join at: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/5836898786>
- During times above, or by appointment.
- Bring your questions, concerns, or comments!

## REQUIRED TEXT

- OpenStax: Psychology 2e  
<https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>
  - This is a free, open access text! The digital version is free and can be viewed online or downloaded as a PDF.
  - Hard copies can also be purchased from the MSU bookstore or Amazon.
- Any other materials will be posted on D2L

## COURSE FORMAT

- **Asynchronous online – there are no set class meeting times; you work independently**
- Each week, work through instructional content and complete discussion or individual activity.
- Most of the course content was created by Drs. Jonathan Weaver, Lucy Thompson, and Katie Clements. You will hear Dr. Clements' lectures.



# GRADE REQUIREMENTS

The following are the course activities and assignments. Full assignment instructions are in D2L.

## Application Activities (30%)

As part of meeting the course objectives of learning skills of scientific and critical thinking, and applying concepts to your everyday life, every other week you will complete an individual application activity. The details of these assignments can be found in D2L in the assessments tab and in the applicable weekly content module. You will complete each assignment and upload it to the appropriate assignment submission area in D2L. These activities will give you new and creative ways to think about and apply concepts. You must complete each activity independently. Any instances of cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

## Small Group Discussion (30%)

As part of meeting the course objective of engaging in professional skill development related to scientific and critical thinking, every other week you will connect with your peers in an asynchronous discussion group within D2L. The basic discussion prompt will be provided to you, or you may post a question about the material that you feel will improve your understanding of that week's content. The details of these discussion boards can be found in D2L in the communication tab and in the applicable weekly content module. To receive full credit, you must provide an initial post by Tuesday of discussion week and respond to at least two of your group members' comments by Friday. Each discussion week will be worth 25 points: 15 points for your discussion post and 5 points for each response (x2).

## Research Participation - SONA (5%)

As part of meeting the course objective of understanding the research methods used in psychology, you must participate in seven (7) hours of research through Psychology's SONA system. Research experience is worth 5% of your final grade. You can register an account and sign up for studies here: <https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com>. Double check that you are signing up for the Psychology SONA system! If you accidentally register for a different SONA system, the psychology department will not receive your participation credit. You will find all the additional details that you need to use the system in D2L. You can also watch an online tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>.

Contact Audra Jeffrey ([jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu)), the SONA Student Coordinator, if you are under 18 to learn about non-SONA options for fulfilling your research education requirement.

## Exams (35%)

To assess your new knowledge of the field of psychology, you will be given two exams. The midterm exam will take place during week four and cover content from the first three weeks, and the final exam will take place during week seven and cover content from weeks four through six. Exams will take place in D2L; each exam will open on Wednesday of exam week at 5 pm ET and will close Thursday at 5 pm ET. This means you will have access to start the exam within that 24-hour period. However, once you start, you will have 2.5 hours to complete the exam. If you start less than 2.5 hours before the close of the exam (i.e., 2:30 pm on Thursday or later), you will not get the full 2.5 hours as the exam will close at 5 pm.

## Exceptions and Additions to the Grading System Criteria

### Late Adds/Drops

This course is a half summer session. This means the window for adding or dropping this course is also shorter.

### Grade Changes

At the end of the course, if you believe an error was made in calculating your grade, please let the instructor know. Your grade will be checked and changed if an error was made. This is the only circumstance under which your grade will change. Please do not try to negotiate grade changes. This supports the integrity of the class, students, and instructor.

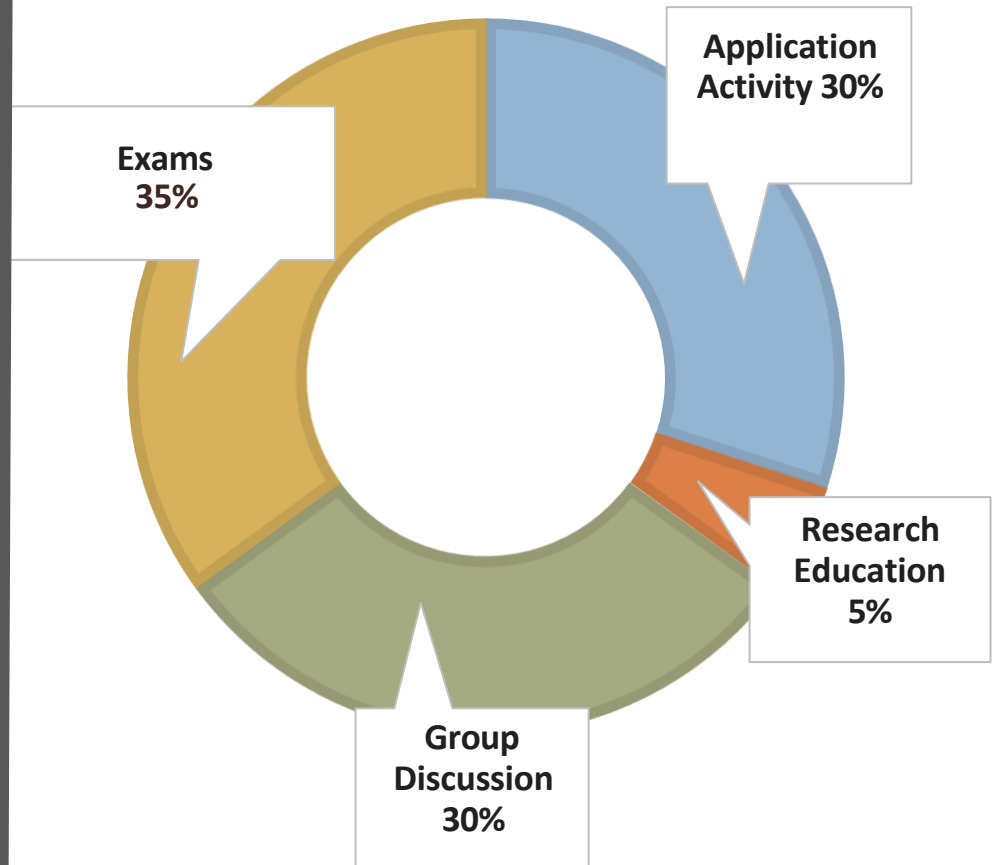
# GRADING POLICIES

The grading scale and points allocated per assignment are shown below.

## Assignment Distribution

Grading Scale	
Grade	%
4.0	89.5-100
3.5	84.5-89.4
3.0	79.5-84.4
2.5	74.5-79.4
2.0	69.5-74.4
1.5	64.5-69.4
1.0	59.5-64.4
0.0	<59.4

- Application Activity
- Research Education
- Group Discussion
- Exams



# POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

The following describes various policies that will be enforced during the semester.

## Deadlines and Due Dates

- Application Activities due 5/20, 6/3, and 6/17 at 7 pm EST (East Lansing, Michigan time)
- Weekly initial discussion posts due 5/24, 6/7, and 6/21 at 7 pm EST
- Follow up discussion responses due 5/27, 6/10, and 6/24 at 7 pm EST
- **Midterm exam opens on 6/8 at 5 pm EST, closes 6/9 at 5 pm EST**
- **Final exam CLOSSES on 6/29 at 5 pm EST**
- Grades are officially submitted to the Registrar on 7/2

Any exceptions will be noted in D2L Announcements.

## Academic Misconduct

Any form of cheating or plagiarism, which includes any form of using, completing, or submitting someone else's work or letting them use, complete, or submit yours is unacceptable. If any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, are discovered, you will receive a zero (0) on the assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean of Students Office. Additional penalties may be imposed under repeated offenses, including a zero (0) in the course. There are no exceptions for ignorance of what is considered academic dishonesty, so please become familiar with university policies. Please visit this page from the Dean of Students Office to learn more about academic integrity, academic dishonesty, and helpful resources for preventing violations of the academic integrity policies (<https://www.deanofstudents.msu.edu/academic-integrity>).

Both students and faculty must be dedicated to the integrity of the academic environment per MSU's [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [Spartan Code of Honor](#). In addition, the Psychology Department adheres to 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.

## Civility (Non-Academic Misconduct)

Developing a successful online learning space requires extra attention to the way we engage each other. Our actions affect everyone in our community. Learning about human behavior may offer the opportunity to challenge and explore our own beliefs and we may find ourselves challenging other people's beliefs as well. Please remember that everyone is going to move through this material in their own way and from the lens of their own experiences, and if you challenge your classmates make sure it is with the goal of enhancing each other's learning.

## Course Management Software (D2L)

- We use D2L (<https://d2l.msu.edu/>) for online course management and communication.
- Please manually set your D2L emails to forward to your @msu.edu email (in D2L email settings)
- Know how to check for announcements and messages in D2L.

## Limits to Confidentiality

Please note that the instructor of this course is a mandatory reporter. That means they are required to report all incidents of relationship violence and sexual misconduct that involve students, faculty, or staff, occurred at a University-sponsored event, or occurred on University property, and even if these are reported in course materials. Therefore, if you share such an experience with one of us, we will be required to share your name and the details of the disclosure to the Office of Inclusion and Equity (OIE) and MSU Police:

- *Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;*
- *Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and*
- *Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.*

OIE will include these facts, (not your name) in the University's statistics on sexual and domestic violence. They will also reach out to you via email with additional university resources. It is entirely your decision to use any of the provided services or even respond to the University's email.

## **Accommodations**

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 [rcpd.msu.edu](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 email or have RCPD send this form to the course instructor as soon as possible or at least one week prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc).**



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

## Reading and Assignments

I cannot overemphasize the speed of this class! If you find yourself struggling at any point, please reach out to your instructor immediately. Time moves quickly in this class, and if you get behind at any point it may be impossible to catch up. Complete the assigned reading/watching/listening early in the week. These are necessary to complete the assigned discussions or assignments due later in the week. During the week of your midterm exam, you will be learning new material and taking the exam. Plan accordingly!

## Weekly Schedule Modules

This online summer course is a full semester course on an accelerated timeline. It is not less content or less work. At the end of each week, the next week's content will become available. Get started as soon as you can. I recommend maintaining a weekly schedule of activities for this and any other online courses. It can be extra difficult for some students to hold themselves accountable in fully online courses, especially ones on an accelerated timeline like a summer session course. You must work diligently and consistently to work through the instructional content in each module, the required assignment or discussion for each week, and study for the exams. If this is not feasible for you, a summer course may not be a good fit for you.

## Emails

All informational updates are posted as announcements in D2L and may or may not be cross posted to email. Announcements are in the announcements widget on the course homepage and under the communication tab. Check your email and D2L regularly for updates. Please set your D2L inbox to forward to your regular MSU email. Always include 'PSY 101' in your subject line so we can find your emails and respond appropriately. Please review the posted announcements and FAQ section of the communication tab for the answer to your question or concern before emailing.

## D2L

D2L will be used for administrative and instruction purposes including announcements, housing course documents (e.g., assignments, exams, readings), and recording grades. Please explore D2L widely, so you know how to find materials and track your progress. As an instructor, I can also see your progress – including what you do and don't access and submit. Please remember the MSU IT Service Desk (accessed at <http://d2l.msu.edu> or by phone locally at (517) 432-6200 or from North America and Hawaii at (844) 678-6200) is a great tool for navigation and troubleshooting. If you encounter a D2L error that affects your grade, call them and receive a help ticket to receive a grade adjustment.

## Personal Success

Please utilize me as are source to help you succeed, both in class and outside class. I want you to get a 4.0 and enjoy this class, do well at MSU, and still have a life with your friends, family, and hobbies.

# RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Here are some resources that may be helpful to you academically or personally. The university is a huge institution, and if a different form of support would be useful, we will do our best to help you find it.

## MSU Backup Dependent Care Program

Michigan State University offers a Backup Dependent Care Program for children or elders. This is meant to be a backup option for students if their usual child or eldercare falls through and a lack of care would stop them from attending class or completing schoolwork. More information about the program can be found here: <https://worklife.msu.edu/family-care/kids-parents/backup-care>.

## MSU Student Food Bank

The MSU Student Food Bank serves MSU students experiencing food insecurity by providing free food and related items. You can visit their website here: <https://foodbank.msu.edu/> or email them at: [foodbank@msu.edu](mailto:foodbank@msu.edu).

## Student Basic Needs

Student Advocates for Basic Needs Security (SABNS) is a student organization that advocates on behalf of students for the equitable distribution and practice of providing for the basic needs of students. Basic needs as it relates to this purpose are defined as affordable housing, access to healthy food options, and access to the hygiene and other resources that contribute to student success. They offer four annual scholarships by nomination. Their website is: <https://socialwork.msu.edu/students/student-advocates-for-basic-needs-security.html>.

## Writing Center and Collaborative Learning Center

The Writing Center ([writing.msu.edu](http://writing.msu.edu)) and the Collaborative Learning Center ([nssc.msu.edu/clc](http://nssc.msu.edu/clc)) help develop writing skills and successful academic strategies.

## Counseling Services

Free professional counseling services are available to all MSU students. To make an appointment call 355-8270 (TTY users call 353-7278) during business hours. Offices are in Room 207 Student Services Building. You may learn more about their services at <https://caps.msu.edu/services/index.html>.

## Confidential MSU Resources; Crisis Text line

There are several resources available for students who would like confidential support, without mandated reporting to OIE or MSU Police. In addition, you can reach the crisis support text line 24/7 from US and Canada by texting 741741.

### MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

3rd Floor Olin Health Center Building 463  
E Circle Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 355-8270

### MSU Safe Place

(517) 355-1100  
Email: [noabuse@msu.edu](mailto:noabuse@msu.edu)  
Website: <http://safeplace.msu.edu>  
Website: [www.endrape.msu.edu](http://www.endrape.msu.edu)

### MSU Sexual Assault Program

207 Student Services Building 556  
East Circle Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 355-3551 (office)  
(517) 372-6666 (24 hour crisis line)  
Website: [www.endrape.msu.edu](http://www.endrape.msu.edu)

### University Ombudsperson

354 Farm Lane, Room 129, North Kedzie Hall East  
Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 353-8830  
Email: [ombud@msu.edu](mailto:ombud@msu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud>

# COURSE SCHEDULE

Each week we will cover at least one area of the field of psychology. The calendar below outlines the topics, assigned readings, and due dates each week. Note all readings come from the OpenStax textbook except for week 4. For the community psychology reading, you will use a different open-access textbook. The link to that text is in the assigned reading column. All readings are also available through a link in the respective D2L module. A calendar layout is at the end of the syllabus.

W	Dates	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignments & Projects Due
1	5/15 - 5/19	Course Overview		
		Introduction to Psychology, Psychological Research	Chapters 1 and 2 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	
		Bio/neuropsychology	Chapter 3 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	Application Activity 1 due 5/20
2	5/22 - 5/26	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	
		Learning and Memory	Chapters 6 and 8 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	Week 2 Discussion Question due 5/24 and Responses due 5/27
3	5/29 - 6/2	Lifespan Development	Chapter 9 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	
				Application Activity 2 due 6/3
4	6/5 - 6/9	Clinical/Abnormal Psychology	Chapters 15 and 16 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	<b>Midterm Exam due 6/9</b>
		Community Psychology	Chapters 1 and 16 in Jason, L.A, Glantsman, O., O' Brien, J. F., & Ramian, K. N. (Eds.) (2019). Introduction to community psychology: Becoming an agent of change. <a href="https://press.rebus.community/introductiontocommunitypsychology/">Creative Commons License</a> . Open access link at <a href="https://press.rebus.community/introductiontocommunitypsychology/">https://press.rebus.community/introductiontocommunitypsychology/</a>	Week 4 Discussion Question due 6/7 and Responses due 6/10
5	6/12 - 6/16	Social Psychology	Chapter 12 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	
		Personality Psychology	Chapter 11 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	Application Activity 3 Due 6/17
6	6/19 - 6/23	Industrial/Organizational Psychology	Chapter 13 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	
		Health Psychology	Chapter 14 in OpenStax: Psychology 2e	Week 6 Discussion Question due 6/21 and Responses due 6/24
7	6/26 - 6/30	Review and Conclude!		<b>Final Exam due 6/29</b>

**Syllabus Clause: This syllabus is subject to change. Any substantive changes will be shared with you via D2L.**



# TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR WITH DUE DATES

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b> - Course Overview - Bio/Neuro	May 15 <b>First Day of Class</b> Week 1 Lectures Open	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19 Week 2 Content Open <b>Application Activity 1 Due</b> <b>Week 2 Discussion Board Opens</b>
<b>Week 2</b> - Cognitive: Sensation and Perception Learning and Memory	May 22 Week 2 Lectures Open	May 23 <b>Week 2 Discussion Post Due</b>	May 24	May 25	May 26 Week 3 Content Open <b>Week 2 Discussion Response Due</b>
<b>Week 3</b> - Lifespan Development	May 29 <b>Memorial Day</b> College Closed Week 3 Lectures Open	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2 Week 4 Content Open <b>Application Activity 2 Due</b> <b>Week 4 Discussion Board Opens</b>
<b>Week 4</b> - Clinical/Abnormal - Community	June 5 Week 4 Lectures Open	June 6 <b>Week 4 Discussion Post Due</b>	June 7 <b>Midterm Exam opens at 5pm</b>	June 8 <b>Midterm Exam closes at 5 pm</b>	June 9 Week 5 Content Open <b>Week 4 Discussion Response Due</b>
<b>Week 5</b> - Social & Personality	June 12 Week 5 Lectures Open	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16 Week 6 Content Opens <b>Application Activity 3 Due</b> <b>Week 6 Discussion Board Opens</b>
<b>Week 6</b> - Industrial/Organizational - Health	June 19 Week 6 Lectures Open	June 20 <b>Week 6 Discussion Post Due</b>	June 21	June 22	June 23 <b>Week 6 Discussion Response Due</b>
<b>Week 7</b> - Review - Conclude	June 26	June 27	June 28 <b>Final Exam opens at 5pm</b>	June 29 <b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES</b> <b>Final Exam closes at 5 pm</b> <b>RESEARCH HOURS DUE</b>	