

Course Syllabus

Introductory Psychology (PSY101, Section 003)

Fall 2019, Michigan State University

Tuesday / Thursday, 12:40 - 2:30 PM, B115 Wells Hall

Instructor

Professor: Dr. Zach Hambrick (hambrickpsy101@gmail.com)

Office hours: Tuesday / Thursday, 11:00 AM - Noon, 298B Psychology Building; or by appointment

Note: hambrickpsy101@gmail.com is the **ONLY** e-mail address that you should use for this course. I will not respond to e-mails sent to any other address.

Text

David G. Myers & G. Nathan DeWall, Psychology, 12th Ed.

[This](#) is the textbook for the course. If you have a different textbook (including an earlier edition of Meyers), return it, and get this book.

You may access the lectures here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5nyqjt689mmc6pc/AAAxKmsyPU3bm0kX0lWi1k8Ka?dl=0>

Courses Goals

The goals of this course are to: (1) educate you about the science of psychology; (2) familiarize you with major research approaches, theoretical issues, and controversies in psychology; and (3) increase your awareness of the practical relevance of research findings from psychology.

Grade

Tests: 71.25% of your grade will be based on your scores on the 3 tests given during the semester. Each test will be worth 23.75% of your grade and (a) include 50 multiple-choice questions, and (b) cover lectures **and** reading from the textbook. For each test, there will be a brief interim review (at the half-way point), and a review (during the last class period before the test) during which you will have an opportunity to ask questions. If you are having trouble with material from the course, you may wish to meet with me or the teaching assistant during office hours (or by appointment).

Final Exam: 23.75% of your grade will be based on your score on the final exam, given during exam week. The final will be **cumulative**, meaning that it will cover material from the entire semester, and will include 50 multiple-choice questions.

Research Experience: 5% of your grade will be based on your participation in research experiments conducted by faculty and graduate students in the Department of Psychology. You must accumulate 7 hours of participation to receive maximum credit for the research experience component of your grade. You may accumulate an additional 6 hours for 2 extra course points. You will sign up for experiments using an online system called the HPR System (HPR stands for Human Participants in Research). Create an account and sign up here:

<https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com>

You may also wish to watch an online tutorial for creating an account and using the system here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>

As long as the SONA/HPR system is open, you may participate.

IMPORTANT: Make sure that you are on the Department of Psychology HPR website and signed up for the correct section of PSY101 (we are Section 3). Also, students under 18 are ineligible for studies on the HPR system. If you are under 18, please contact Audra Jeffrey (jeffre22@msu.edu), the SONA Student Coordinator in Room 100, Psychology Building. Finally, please direct ALL questions about SONA to Audra Jeffrey. I have no control over SONA, and will not have a record of how many credits you have accumulated until the end of the semester.

Alternate assignment: If you do not wish to participate in experiments, an alternative assignment is writing a 14-page term paper, due on the day of the final exam by midnight. If you elect to write a paper, you must get approval for the topic from Prof. Hambrick. Plagiarism of the term paper (e.g., copying a paper from the Internet) will result in a zero for the assignment (and possibly other consequences). You may increase the length of your paper for extra credit (3 extra course points for 20-page paper). The paper should be 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. The paper should include a title page and a page with references (these pages do NOT count toward the page length).

The final grade will be based on 100 course points...

	Points
Test 1	23.75
Test 2	23.75
Test 3	23.75
Final	23.75
Research	+ 5
Total points	100
Extra credit	+ 2
Total possible	102

To track your grade, simply convert each of your test scores to a percentage score (by multiplying your number correct by 2) and multiply that value by .2375 to obtain the number of course points you earned for each test. For example, if you make a 45/50 on Test 1, your percentage score for that test is 90 ($45 \times 2 = 90$), earning you 21.4 course points ($90 \times .2375 = 21.4$). For SONA hours, multiply the number of hours (required hours) you have accumulated **up to 7 hours** by .71. Then, multiply any additional hours (extra credit hours) **up to 3 hours** by .33.

The grading scale will be no more stringent than the following:

- > 89.5 = 4.0
- 84.5 - 89.4 = 3.5
- 79.5 - 84.4 = 3.0
- 74.5 - 79.4 = 2.5
- 69.5 - 74.4 = 2.0
- 64.5 - 69.4 = 1.5
- 59.5 - 64.4 = 1.0
- < 59.5 = 0.0

Here is an example grade calculation:

					Course Pts.
Test 1 score	41	x 2 =	82%	x .238 =	19.5
Test 2 score	38	x 2 =	76%	x .238 =	18.1
Test 3 score	46	x 2 =	92%	x .238 =	21.9
Final exam score	44	x 2 =	88%	x .238 =	20.9
Required SONA hours	7.0	x .714 =			5.0
Extra credit SONA hours	2.5	x .667 =			+ 1.7
Total points					87.1 → 3.5

Policy on grade changes: 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 change your grade or give you a special extra credit opportunity. No exceptions.**

Please do not e-mail me before the end of the course to ask what your grade is, or to ask whether there will be a curve.

Classroom Rules & E-mail Policy

Class will start at 12:40 PM sharp. Talking during class will not be tolerated.

Please don't hesitate to e-mail us about matters pertaining to the course. We will respond to you as promptly as possible (usually within 24 hours). However, we will not respond if you write to ask a question that could have been answered by attending class, or to requests for the syllabus, lecture notes, etc. (i.e., items you could have obtained by attending class). So that we can respond as efficiently as possible, please take care in writing your e-mails. Treat e-mails to us as professional correspondence. Use of cellphones (texting or any other use) during class is strictly prohibited.

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. **WE WILL NOT USE D2L IN THIS COURSE.**

Academic Honesty & Test Make-Ups

Any student caught cheating on a test will receive a zero for that test, and be reported to the University. Test make-ups will only be allowed for serious illness (with doctor's note), or death of family member or loved-one.

MSU policies on academic honesty: Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, 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. If you decide to write a paper for this course instead of participating in experiments, you may NOT submit a paper you completed for another course for this assignment. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. See also:

<https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/student-faq.html>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a disability specialist, call 353-9642 (voice), 355-1293 (TTY), or visit MyProfile.rcpd.msu.edu.

Policy on Religious Observations

If you anticipate being absent from class due to a major religious observance, please simply let us know and we will accommodate you.

Limits on Confidentiality

Students should be aware that Michigan State University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

The Office of Inclusion will reach out to you via a confidential email, to see if you would like to pursue legal action and to provide you with additional university resources. **You have the right to choose whether or not you would like to use any of these services or even respond to the university's email.** If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center (<http://counseling.msu.edu/>).

This is an MSU mandate that I (Dr. Hambrick) am required to follow as an MSU employee. **Therefore, you should not disclose experiences of abuse or sexual violence related to MSU unless you are comfortable having this information shared with the Office of Inclusion.**

Note: Prof. Hambrick reserves the right to correct any errors in this syllabus.

Date	Day	Chapter
8/29	Thurs.	Business & Introduction

9/3	Tues.	Prologue – Story of Psychology / 1. Thinking Critically with Psych. Science
9/5	Thurs.	1. Thinking Critically with Psychological Science
9/10	Tues.	2. The Biology of the Mind
9/12	Thurs.	2. The Biology of the Mind
9/17	Tues.	6. Sensation & Perception
9/19	Thurs.	3. Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind
9/24	Tues.	4. Nature, Nurture, & Human Diversity
9/26	Thurs.	7. Learning
10/1	Tues.	7. Learning
10/3	Thurs.	Test Review
10/8	Tues.	TEST 1

10/10	Thurs.	8. Memory
10/15	Tues.	8. Memory
10/17	Thurs.	9. Thinking & Language
10/22	Tues.	10. Intelligence
10/24	Thurs.	14. Personality
10/29	Tues.	11. What Drives Us: Hunger, Sex, Belonging, and Achievement
10/31	Thurs.	12. Emotions, Stress, & Health / Test Review
11/5	Tues.	TEST 2

11/7	Thurs.	13. Social Psychology
11/12	Tues.	5. Developing Through the Life Span
11/14	Thurs.	5. Developing Through the Life Span
11/19	Tues.	15. Psychological Disorders
11/21	Thurs.	15. Psychological Disorders
11/26	Tues.	16. Therapy
11/28	Thurs.	No class – Thanksgiving
12/3	Tues.	16. Therapy
12/5	Thurs.	TEST 3

12/12	Thurs.	Final Exam
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Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 2019, 12:45pm - 2:45pm in B115 Wells Hall (our regular classroom). The final exam is cumulative, meaning it covers everything from the semester.

Note: I reserve the right to make changes to above schedule or any other part of the syllabus to meet the objectives of this course, or if I discover an error. I will notify you of any changes.



Psychology Building

For directions: <http://maps.msu.edu/interactive/index.php?location=psy>

Frequently Asked Questions

Do we use D2L for this course?

No

Are the lectures available online?

Yes, here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5nyqjt689mmc6pc/AAAxKmsyPU3bm0kX0lWi1k8Ka?dl=0>

How will I receive my test grades?

After each test, you will receive your grade by e-mail from the Scoring Office.

If I am just below the cutoff for a higher grade at the end of the course, will Prof. Hambrick “bump” up my grade?

NO. The only circumstance under which a grade will be changed is if an error was made in computing it.

How do I keep track of my SONA/HPR hours?

The SONA system does it for you; you don’t have to keep track of your credits, although you may wish to.

Do I get partial credit for SONA/HPR hours?

Yes, you get credit for ALL hours you accumulate, even if it less than the required number (7).

If I accumulate more than 13 SONA/HPR hours (7 required + 6 extra credit), will I receive credit?

No, there is no extra extra credit. You will only receive credit for up to 13 hours.

Is the final exam cumulative?

Yes—meaning that it covers everything from semester.

How do I calculate my grade?

See above calculation example

Will we have class the Tuesday before Thanksgiving?

Yes!

Do I get to drop my lowest test grade?

No, all tests count.

Where is the Psychology Building?

Look it up here <https://maps.msu.edu/interactive/index.php>

Do I need to read the book in addition to studying the lectures?

Yes, on each test, there will be 5-7 questions that are covered in the book that we did NOT cover in class.

Is attendance taken in this course?

No

What is the e-mail address for this course?

hambrickpsy101@gmail.com

When is the last day for participating in experiments?

You may participate in experiments as long as the SONA/HPR system will let you.

Can I use an earlier edition of the textbook for this course (we are using the 12th edition)?

This is a very bad idea, because I will write test questions based on the 12th edition.