

# Psychology 101 (Section 002): Introductory Psychology

Fall, 2019

## Course Information:

**Time:** Monday & Wednesday, 8:00-9:50AM

**Location:** E100 Vet Med

**Final:** December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:45-8:45AM

## Course Personnel:

**Instructor:** Dr. Richard Lucas  
**Email:** lucasri@msu.edu  
**Office:** 249A Psychology  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1-3

**Teaching Assistant:** Jennifer Gruber  
gruber12@msu.edu  
125C Psychology  
Tuesdays 10-12

**Undergraduate Assistants:** Emily Martell ([martel35@msu.edu](mailto:martel35@msu.edu)) and Lia Forman ([formanl1@msu.edu](mailto:formanl1@msu.edu)). Office hours TBA.

## Course Objectives:

- To learn about the major theories and findings from the field of psychology.
- To learn about the research methods that psychologists use.
- To learn to think critically about conclusions made by psychologists and other social scientists.
- To apply ideas from psychology to your own life experiences.

## Course Readings and Materials:

**Required Text:** *Noba Project: Introductory Psychology*

Available at: <http://noba.to/xk7w89qr>

This is a **free**, online textbook that is specifically designed for this course. You have the option of paying a small fee to have a paper copy sent to you (see the course website for details). Please read all assigned readings immediately **after** the corresponding lecture. The readings and dates are listed at the end of the syllabus.

There will also be occasional readings from popular news sources and websites; these will be announced throughout the semester.

**iClicker:** You will need to purchase an iClicker remote for class participation and in-class activities. These are available at the bookstores. These must be registered by the second class period to get full credit. If you do not register your iClicker by this date, you cannot get points retroactively. To register your iClicker go to the module on the D2L course page for this class and follow the instructions there. If you are having trouble affording an iClicker, please contact Dr. Lucas. If you cannot afford an iclicker, please contact Dr. Lucas.



## Course Policies and Assignments

**Attendance:** You get points for coming to class and participating. Specifically, there will be a quiz at the beginning of each class covering material from the previous class and readings, along with a quiz at the end of each class covering the material from that class. There will also be iClicker questions spread throughout the class, both for review and for use as demonstrations. To get credit for attendance that day, **you must complete all of the quiz questions**, including those at the beginning and end of class, so make sure you do not arrive late or leave early. You will receive 3 points for each class (excluding the first class). Sometimes, answering the iClicker questions will involve participating in group activities; and occasionally, they will involve completing additional scantron or written forms. If you forget your iClicker or run out of batteries, there is a **one-time-use** sign-in sheet. Once you have used your one sign in, any future classes where you miss iClicker questions will result in lost points for that day.

**Please note:** If you have someone else use your iClicker for you when you are not in class, this is a violation of academic integrity policies. You will lose all class participation and bonus points for the semester and will be reported to your dean for an academic integrity violation. **If you miss class for any of the excused reasons described below, you must submit documentation within one week of the missed class to receive credit, see the course FAQ about how to receive credit for missed classes.**

**Class Participation:** Although this is a large class, I encourage class participation. Please feel free to ask questions and offer your opinions about the topics we are discussing.

**Course Notes:** Please take detailed notes on the lecture material—you will be tested on it. Research shows that providing students with copies of the overhead notes does not help them learn or remember the material any better. For that reason, I do not provide copies of my overhead notes. Developing note-taking skills is an important part of your education, and you should practice it in this class. If I ever go too quickly, please do not hesitate to ask that I repeat something or slow down. I do also record and post my lectures, so you can review these on-line if you believe that you have missed any important details.

**Research Participation:** An important part of your education in psychology is to learn, first hand, how psychological research is carried out. In Psychology 101, this is accomplished through a research participation requirement. Students in Psychology 101 are required to participate in seven and a half hours of research credit. The psychology subject pool allocates credits in half hour units. This means that you will need 15 half-hour credits to complete your research participation requirement. Each credit is worth 3 points towards your overall grade. Completing your participation requirement is a very easy way to improve your grade in this course! You must complete your research participation by **the last day of classes.**

By participating in research projects, you will provide an important service to psychologists who are trying to further knowledge in the field. As you read through your textbook, you may notice the names of some of the professors at Michigan State. In most cases, these professors' studies were carried out right here at MSU, using participants from Psychology 101. So, at some point in the future, you may be able to point to a study that is being reported in a textbook or even in the news and say "I was a participant in that study, they're talking about me!" If you have any objections to participating in psychological research, alternative projects are available. These will involve reading and writing about published psychological studies. Details about these alternative projects will be posted on the course web site. An information sheet describing the psychology department participant pool is available on-line (under "Lessons" and then "Course Documents").

**Homework:** There will be two written homework assignments, along with one on-line survey for credit. The survey will be posted after the first class. The written assignments will be posted later in the semester. The goal of these assignments will be to have you apply ideas from the course to your own life. Each assignment will be worth 15 points. You will be required to submit these assignments to an electronic "drop box" on the course web site. This drop box will record the time that you submitted the assignment. You will lose points for each hour that the paper is late. For this reason, you may want to complete these assignments and submit them earlier than the due date. **You cannot work with others on either homework assignment. Working with others will be considered academic dishonesty.**

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student's work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student's work with 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, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student's work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin. Student submissions will be retained only in the MSU repository hosted by Turnitin.

There will also be a beginning-of-the-semester survey that you will be asked to complete at some point in the first two weeks of class. Completing this survey will be worth four points towards your grade.

**Exams:** There will be five one-hour multiple-choice exams—four during the regularly scheduled class period, and one during the final exam period. The first four exams will not be cumulative, but the final exam will be. Each exam will consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions covering material from lectures, readings, films, and class discussions (so don't tune out when other students are speaking). The four in-class exams will begin at exactly 8:00 AM, and you will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. The final exam will also be one hour. All exams (including the final) will be held in the regular classroom.

Each exam is worth 100 points, but only your top four out of the five exams will count towards your final grade. This provides you

with some flexibility. For instance, if you do well on the first four exams, your grade on the cumulative final exam will not matter. Or, if you do poorly on one of the first four exams, you can take the final exam to make up for it. Finally, if you cannot take a makeup exam during the regularly scheduled makeup exam time, you will need to take the final exam (see Makeup Exam Policies below).

**Makeup Exams:** No makeup exams will be given unless you have a valid, documented excuse (e.g., a note from the dean, a note from your doctor recommending that you not attend class). Any notes must explicitly state that "This student was unable to take the exam on (date) because \_\_\_\_\_." Simply having a bad cold is not an acceptable excuse. The note cannot come from someone in your family. If you cannot get a note or if your excuse involves something that is personal and that you want to keep private, you must get a note from the Dean. **You must notify the professor that you have a valid excuse by the end of the day of the exam or you will not be allowed to take the makeup exam.** There are no exceptions to these rules.

If you cannot take the exam because of a university-scheduled event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), a religious holiday, or some other acceptable event that you could have foreseen, you must notify the TA **at least one week before the exam.** If you cannot take the exam because of a sudden illness or because of a family emergency, you must notify the TA **by the end of the day of the exam.** If you do not notify the TA within this time frame, you will not be allowed to take the makeup exam. There will be one makeup time scheduled for each of the in-class exams. If you cannot make this time, you will not be able to take a makeup exam. Instead, you will need to take the optional final exam to make up your grade. Again, there are no exceptions to this rule.

**Exam Retake Extra Credit:** In the class that immediately follows each of the four in-class exams, you will be allowed to go over the exam in small groups. Your group can use the textbook and any notes that you have taken to help you. Based on the group discussion, each person will complete a new answer sheet that will be graded. If you get all questions correct, you will get four extra credit points. If you get 1 or 2 questions wrong, you will get 3 extra credit points. If you get 3 or 4 wrong, you will get 2 extra credit points. If you get between 5 and 25 wrong, you will get 1 extra credit point. These exam-retake scores will be added to your exam total, but your maximum score (original score plus extra credit) cannot exceed 100. Everyone should be able to get at least 25 correct, given that you can work in groups and use your books and notes. Doing the exam retake will also help you prepare for the next exam and final.

**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 [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 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 able to be honored.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and present your VISA **at least one week before the exam date** to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, I will schedule for you to take the exam during a special exam session offered by the Psychology Department. If you are unable to make the times offered, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two-week prior notification requirement.

**Questions:** If you have questions about any of the material in the textbook or lectures, please attend my office hours or the teaching assistants' office hours. Please feel free to interrupt me with any questions or comments about the material being discussed (even if it is simply to request that I slow down or repeat something).

**Grade Breakdown.** Your grade will be calculated in the following way. There are 550 total points available in this class.

<u>To get this grade:</u>	<u>You need this percentage:</u>	<u>Which is this many points:</u>
4.0	90%	495
3.5	85%	467
3.0	80%	440
2.5	75%	412
2.0	70%	385
1.5	60%	330
1.0	50%	275
0.0	<50%	<275

**Your total points (i.e., the actual points you get from exams, homework, participation, etc.) will be rounded to the nearest whole number. There will be no adjustments because your score is close to the cutoff.**

There is a grade calculator available for download on the course website. You can download it and use it to keep track of your grades in the course.

## **Academic Integrity**

The only way that you will benefit from this or any other course is to do the required work. In most cases, this means doing the work on your own. There are only two times when you will be allowed to work with other students on assignments: (1) During the in-class activities and (2) During the emergency extra credit sessions after the exams. All other work (including the homework and the exams) should be done entirely your own. If you engage in any form of cheating, you will receive a 0.0 for this course. This includes using someone else's iClicker for in class activities when those people are not in class.

Statement on Academic Integrity from the MSU Office of the Ombudsman: There is a statement from the MSU ombudsman posted on the course website. This provides a definition of what cheating and academic dishonesty is. You should read this statement, as it provides clear guidance on what counts as cheating in this and other courses at the university. Not knowing that your behavior is cheating is not an excuse if the behavior is covered in this document.

One Last Thing — Class Disruptions and Expectations for the Classroom Environment: When class begins, please put away newspapers and other reading materials. Please turn off ringers on cell phones, and please do not talk to other students. Talking is distracting for those around you and for me (even if you are sitting in the back of a large classroom). These guidelines apply during lectures, films, and discussions. University policy prohibits any behavior that disrupts a class. If I have to ask you to stop any of these behaviors more than once during a semester, you will lose all extra credit and in-class activity points.

## **Limits to confidentiality**

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that 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 MSU Police Department) 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.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. 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.

## **Important Dates**

September 4<sup>th</sup>: Register iclickers

September 11<sup>th</sup> (11:59PM): Complete D2I Survey

September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Exam #1

October 7<sup>th</sup> (11:59PM): Homework #1 Due

October 16<sup>th</sup>: Exam #2

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Exam #3

November 20<sup>th</sup> (11:59PM): Homework #2 Due

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Exam #4

December 6<sup>th</sup> (5:00 PM): Complete research participation

December 9<sup>th</sup> (7:45AM): Final Exam

	Monday	Wednesday
AUG		<b>28 Introduction</b> <u>Read:</u> History of Psychology
SEPT	<b>2 NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>	<b>4 Psychology as a Science: Replication Crisis</b> <u>Read:</u> The Replication Crisis in Psychology
	<b>9 Psychology as a Science: What is Science</b> <u>Read:</u> Why Science?	<b>11 Psychology as a Science: Statistics</b> <u>Read:</u> Statistical Thinking
	<b>16 Psychology as a Science: Research Methods</b> <u>Read:</u> Research Designs; Conducting Psychology in the Real World	<b>18 Catch Up/Review</b>
	<b>23 EXAM #1</b>	<b>25 The Nervous System</b> <u>Read:</u> The Nervous System; Neurons
OCT	<b>30 The Brain</b> <u>Read:</u> The Brain	<b>2 Genes and the Nature/Nurture Question</b> <u>Read:</u> The Nature/Nurture Question
	<b>7 Developmental Psychology: Cognitive</b> <u>Read:</u> Cognitive Development in Childhood	<b>9 Developmental Psychology: Social</b> <u>Read:</u> Attachment through the Lifecourse
	<b>14 Catch Up</b>	<b>16 EXAM #2</b>
	<b>21 Sensation and Perception</b> <u>Read:</u> Sensation and Perception; Vision	<b>23 Sensation and Perception Continued</b> <u>Read:</u> Failures of Awareness: The Case of Inattentional Blindness
	<b>28 Learning</b> <u>Read:</u> Conditioning and Learning	<b>30 Memory</b> <u>Read:</u> Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval); Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases
	<b>4 Thinking</b> <u>Read:</u> Judgment and Decision Making	<b>6 Catch Up</b>
NOV	<b>11 EXAM #3</b>	<b>13 Personality</b> <u>Read:</u> Personality Traits; Personality Assessment
	<b>18 Personality/Clinical</b> <u>Read:</u> Personality Stability and Change	<b>20 Disorders</b> <u>Read:</u> Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders; Mood Disorders
	<b>25 Therapy</b> <u>Read:</u> Therapeutic Orientations; Psychopharmacology	<b>27 Social Psychology</b> <u>Read:</u> An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology; Conformity and Obedience
	<b>2 Putting It All Together: Happiness</b> <u>Read:</u> Happiness: The Science of Subjective Well-Being	<b>4 EXAM #4</b>
DEC	<b>FINAL EXAM : Monday, December 9th</b> 7:45-8:45AM E100 Vet Med	