

Introduction to Psychology
PSY 101-001
1281 Anthony Hall
Monday & Wednesday: 10:20 – 11:40
Friday: 10:20 – 11:10

Instructor

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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 *Psychology*. This book is part of the OpenStax initiative. This is a nonprofit organization, affiliated with Rice University, that is dedicated to providing quality textbooks and resources for students for little to no cost. The textbook is entirely online but you can download the book as a pdf or order a print copy, if you prefer. The online resource and pdf are completely free to you but the print copy will cost around \$30 for a paperback version. The website for the book is here: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology>. A pdf version of the book can be found on D2L in the General Course Documents module.

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, discussions, and information from the book. 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. **The exams will focus primarily on material covered in lecture**, but you are responsible for all of this information. All exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions.

Guidelines for the day of the exam:

1. You must be on time. After the first student completes the exam, no more exams will be handed out. This means that you will not be permitted to take the exam and will be given a zero for that exam.
2. You may only have pencils and erasers at your desk. Leave refreshments or other materials in your bag or do not bring them at all.
3. Turn off anything that makes noise.
4. Please do not wear hats. If you are wearing a baseball cap, you will be required to turn it backward.
5. Smart watches are prohibited.
6. Absolute silence is required. Once the exam has begun, there will be no talking or disruptions.
7. You may not leave the room. Leaving the room is reserved for emergency bathroom breaks only.

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 by 5:00pm on the Thursday following the exam. If you do not complete a make-up exam by this time, you will receive a 0 for the exam.

Lecture Attendance and iClicker Quizzes

It is assumed that you will attend and actively participate during all class sessions. If you must miss class you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions whether you are there or not.

This class will employ active learning strategies via the use of in-class quizzes. These questions may be used to assess your understanding of material presented on that day of class or your memory for information presented in previous classes. In addition, these questions may be used to generate discussion during class.

You will **not be graded** on these questions. However, you will receive feedback on your performance. This will be a good way to assess your mastery of the material.

Daily participation is required on all days of the course. Across the semester, there are 35 lectures. We understand that you may miss a class for various reasons (e.g. doctor's appointment, slept through alarm, etc.). Thus, you are permitted to miss 7 lectures. You can think of these as "sick days" or "personal time off". **In order to receive full credit for this portion of your grade, you must attend 28 lectures.** To receive full credit for each class, you must participate in 75% of the questions that day. If you leave early and only complete 65% of the questions, you will not receive any credit for that day. If you are present (75% or more questions answered) for 27 class sessions, you will receive full credit for lecture attendance (i.e. that portion of your grade will be calculated as 100%).

Because you are permitted to miss 7 lectures, you will not receive credit for minor illness or life event. The only circumstance in which you will receive credit if you did not attend a section would be for a religious holiday or a university sanctioned event (e.g. travel for a sports team, band, etc.).

Finally, because our attendance requirement is so low, your grade will drop 15 percentage points for each additional class you miss. This means that if you miss one additional lecture, your lecture grade will be 85% and if you miss 2 additional lectures, your attendance grade will be 70%, etc.

You must register your iClicker. The process is quite easy, however, you must register your iClicker or your attendance will not be recorded. There is a link on D2L in the General Course Documents folder that can be used to register your clicker. There is also an information sheet in that folder to explain the process.

It is expected that you will attend class each day and that you will participate. **If you forget your iClicker, you cannot obtain credit for that day of class.** Please understand that in a class of over 500 students, there will be at least one person who forgets their iClicker each day and the instructor simply cannot give credit in these circumstances.

Important Note: Participating as another student is a form of academic dishonesty and is a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught participating for another student or

have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will receive a 0 for that portion of your grade and face additional disciplinary action.

Finally, there are a limited number of iClickers available for rent by ASMSU. To rent a clicker (free of charge), you can go to Room 307 in the Student Services Building. At the end of the semester, simply return it. You can call ([517-355-8266](tel:517-355-8266)) or e-mail (info@asmsu.msu.edu) the office to check on availability.

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>.

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 7 hours of research participation credits. 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, Room 100, Psychology Building, jeffre22@msu.edu. 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: In-person experiments provide a much richer educational experience than online experiments. Therefore, a minimum of 5 hours must be from in-person experiments. No more than 2 hours from online experiments may be used to fulfill your research requirements or for your extra credit. **Online research in excess of 2 hours will not count toward your research participation grade or toward extra credit.**

Deadline: Research participation should be completed by the last day of classes, December 6, 2019 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. Detailed explanation of the paper requirements is posted on D2L. All papers are due by the last day of classes, December 6, 2019 at 5:00 pm. The drop box will close promptly at 5:00 and no 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 and earn 3 extra points added to your final percentage grade. For extra credit, each

research hour is worth 0.5% of a percentage point on your final grade. Therefore, to receive one additional point, you must complete 2 hours of experiments. To receive the full 3 extra credit points, you must complete an additional 6 hours of experiments.

Grading

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- Top 4 exam scores: 22% each
- Lowest exam: dropped
- Research Participation: 6%
- Clicker Questions: 6%

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

90-100% = 4.0	75-79% = 2.5	60-64% = 1.0
85-89% = 3.5	70-74% = 2.0	< 60% = 0
80-84% = 3.0	65-69% = 1.5	

Your total percentage will be rounded to the nearest whole number. 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.**

There is a grade calculator available for download on the course website. You can use it to keep track of your grades in the course. To calculate your grade, you can use this formula:

$$(E1*.22) + (E2*.22) + (E3*.22) + (E4*.22) + (\text{Research}*.06) + (\text{Attendance}*.06) = \text{Final Percentage}$$

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. This includes not only performance on examinations but also on in-class participation and use of clickers. Any student who is found to be using another student's clicker will automatically receive a grade of 0 for that portion of his/her grade and will receive further disciplinary action.

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 present your VISA at least two weeks 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. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Tuesday at 5:00pm and Friday at 9:00am in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, 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.

Disruptive Behavior: Article 2.3.5 of the Academic Freedom Report (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to

the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

Respect and Technology in the Classroom: Please respect your instructors and fellow students by turning off your cell phone ringer and/or other electronic communication devices during class. Laptop use is permitted. However, distracting activities such as instant messaging, writing e-mail, social networking (myspace, facebook, etc.), or playing games is strictly prohibited.

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

Date	Schedule of Topics	Readings
Wed 8/28	Class Orientation	
Fri 8/30	Strategies and tips for succeeding in a large lecture	
Mon 9/2	<i>No class: Labor Day</i>	
Wed 9/4	Course Introduction Research Methodology	Chapter 2
Fri 9/6	Study and test taking tips	
Mon 9/9	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 3
Wed 9/12		
Fri 9/14	Review: Methodology and Biology and Behavior	
Mon 9/16	Consciousness	Chapter 4
Wed 9/18		
Fri 9/20	Review for Exam 1	
Mon 9/23	Exam 1	
Wed 9/25	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5, Pgs. 149-153; 157-164
Fri 9/27	Discussion of Exam 1	
Mon 9/30	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5, Pgs. 149-153; 157-164
Wed 10/2	Learning	Chapter 6
Fri 10/4	Review Sensation & Perception & Learning	
Mon 10/7	Learning	Chapter 6
Wed 10/9	Memory	Chapter 8
Fri 10/11	Review: Learning and Memory	
Mon 10/14	Memory	Chapter 8
Wed 10/16	Intelligence	Chapter 7 Pgs. 233-252
Fri 10/18	Review for Exam 2	
Mon 10/21	Exam 2	
Wed 10/23	Thinking	Chapter 7 Pgs. 217-227
Fri 10/25	Discussion of Exam 2	
Mon 10/28	Development	Chapter 9 Pgs.
Wed 10/30	Emotion	Chapter 10 Pgs. 350-364
Fri 11/1	Review: Thinking, Development, Emotion	
Mon 11/4	Motivation	Chapter 10 Pgs. 329-350
Wed 11/6	Personality	Chapter 11

Fri 11/8	Review for Exam 3	
Mon 11/11	Exam 3	
Wed 11/13	Health and Well-Being	
Fri 11/15	Discussion of Exam 3	
Mon 11/18	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	
Wed 11/20	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	
Fri 11/21	Review for Exam 4	
Mon 11/25	Social Psychology	
Wed 11/27	Social Psychology	
Fri 11/29	<i>No Class: Happy Thanksgiving</i>	
Mon 12/1	Social Psychology	
Wed 12/4	Exam 4	
Fri 12/6	Review for Final Exam	
Fri 12/13	Final Exam	7:45-9:45am