

PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology (Fall 2021, Section 004H)

- Objectives:** Survey data, theory, and methods from the study of behavior and mental processes.
- Time and Place:** Classes will be held in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00pm-4:50pm, in Psychology 118. Exams will be administered remotely via the Course Homepage on D2L.
- Course Homepage:** “FS21-PSY-101-004 - Introductory Psychology” on d2l.msu.edu
- Instructor:** Dr. Erik Altmann (ema@msu.edu)
- Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm, or by appointment. Office hours will be held remotely via the Zoom link posted on the Course Homepage (a reliable high-speed Internet connection is required).
- Textbook:** *Introduction to Psychology* by the NOBA project. The textbook is open source (i.e., free) and available through the Course Homepage.

Masks:

To protect our health, the University is requiring all of us to wear face coverings while we're indoors on campus. **Class cannot proceed unless everyone is wearing a mask over their nose and mouth.** If you forget your mask, you may leave to get one, or check with me at the start of class, as I will have a few disposable ones with me.

Electronic Devices:

You may use your computer or other mobile device in class, with audio off, for class-related purposes such as taking notes. However, note that noise from typing can distract people within earshot, and that visual images on your screen can distract people sitting behind you (given how visual attention works, as we'll discuss in class). If I notice or receive complaints about disruptive use of electronic devices, I may ask you to move to the back of the classroom or to stop using your device.

Assessment:

Your grade in the course will be based on your total number of points out of 200 (see Grading Scale, below). Points come mainly from exams but also from research participation and a short final paper, as described below. There are no extra credit options.

Exams (166 points):

There will be three exams. Exams 1 and 2, each during a regular class period, are worth 50 points each and will cover specific segments of the course. Exam 3, during finals week, is worth 66 points and will cover the last segment of the course and some material from previous segments (i.e., it will be partially cumulative). Exam dates appear in the Course Schedule, below.

Exams will administered remotely via the Course Homepage on D2L. You may take the

exam from any place with a reliable high-speed Internet connection. Exams will be available only during the regular class period (Exams 1 and 2) or the designated period during finals week (Exam 3). During exams, I will be available for questions at the Zoom link posted on the Course Homepage.

Any material covered in class or in the required readings listed in the Course Schedule could be tested on an exam, but I will give you some guidance about exam content in the class period preceding each exam. Lectures will not be broadcast or recorded, but the slide decks and videos from class will be posted to the Course Homepage the day after class.

Collaboration during exams is prohibited. Students who collaborate or otherwise violate academic integrity as defined in the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge are subject to a penalty grade, such as a score of 0 on an exam or a failing grade in the course.

Research Participation (14 points):

You will receive 2 points for each hour you spend participating in research conducted in the Psychology Department, up to a total of 14 points (7 hours).

To participate in research you will use the HPR system. Instructions for using the system are posted on the Course Homepage. For questions about your credits, problems with the system, or any other aspect of research participation, contact the research participation coordinator, Ms. Audra Jeffrey, at jeffre22@msu.edu. Research studies will be available until 5:00pm on Friday, Dec. 10. In lieu of research participation, you may write a paper; for details, contact me no later than the date of Exam 2.

Final Paper (20 points):

There will be a short final paper, which is due at 5:00pm on Thursday, Dec. 9. The requirements are posted on the Course Homepage, along with a sample paper. We will review the requirements in class on Thursday, Sept. 28, but you should read them soon, around the time we discuss research methods during the first full week of class.

Grading Scale:

Total points out of 200	Grade
0-85	0.0
86-100	1.0
101-115	1.5
116-130	2.0
131-145	2.5
146-160	3.0
161-175	3.5
176-200	4.0

Emergencies and Schedule Conflicts:

You may take a makeup exam if you have to miss a regular exam because of a documented medical emergency, because of a schedule conflict that you know about in advance such as a religious holiday or sports travel, or for any other reason allowed by university policy. Please notify me as soon as you can in case of a medical emergency and at least a week in advance in case of a schedule conflict. If you miss an exam for any other reason, or fail to notify me in advance in case of a schedule conflict, you should expect a score of 0 on that exam.

Makeup exams will usually be the day after the regular exam day. If you are not able to take a makeup on that day, then, at my discretion, I may omit that exam from your final point total and increase the weight on your other exam scores.

Course Schedule:

The schedule below lists the date, lecture topic, and required readings for each class, as well as exam dates. The required readings are textbook modules, usually one per class but sometimes two or none. For most classes, the lecture and module(s) will cover related material, but in some cases they will cover different material.

You can read the textbook modules before or after class, though a benefit to reading related material before class is that you can bring your questions to class and we can address them in context of the relevant discussion.

The textbook contains additional modules, not listed here, that are recommended reading. Material from these modules will not be tested unless it also comes up in lecture or the required readings.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture topics and textbook modules</i>
2-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i> Introduction and scope <i>Modules:</i> History of Psychology Research Designs
7-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i> Methods <i>Module:</i> Thinking like a Psychological Scientist
9-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i> Memory and studying <i>Module:</i> The Replication Crisis in Psychology
14-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i> Organization of the brain <i>Module:</i> The Brain and Nervous System
16-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i> Neurons, sensation <i>Module:</i> Sensation and Perception
21-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i> Perception <i>Module:</i> Vision

23-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Attention
	<i>Modules:</i>	Attention Failures of Awareness: The Case of Inattentional Blindness
28-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Sensemaking, final paper requirements
30-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Basic learning mechanisms, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	Conditioning and Learning
5-Oct	Exam 1	<i>Administered remotely via Course Homepage</i>
7-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Sensory memory, working memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)
12-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Comprehension and memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Categories and Concepts
14-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Different types of long-term memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Forgetting and Amnesia
19-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Autobiographical memory, false memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases
21-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Decision making, reasoning
	<i>Module:</i>	Intelligence
26-Oct	<i>No class</i>	<i>Break day</i>
28-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Language
	<i>Module:</i>	Language and Language Use
2-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Development, aging
	<i>Module:</i>	Cognitive Development in Childhood
4-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Personality, family influence, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	Personality Traits
9-Nov	Exam 2	<i>Administered remotely via Course Homepage</i>
11-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Forming impressions

	<i>Module:</i>	Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
16-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Attributions, attitudes
	<i>Module:</i>	Social Cognition and Attitudes
18-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Power of the situation
	<i>Module:</i>	Conformity and Obedience
23-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Power of the situation
	<i>Module:</i>	The Psychology of Groups
25-Nov	<i>No class</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
30-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Schizophrenia
	<i>Module:</i>	History of Mental Illness
2-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Depression
	<i>Module:</i>	Mood Disorders
7-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Serial killers
	<i>Module:</i>	Personality Disorders
9-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Special topics, exam review; final paper due at 5pm
15-Dec, 10:00am-12:00pm	Exam 3	<i>Administered remotely via Course Homepage</i>

Syllabus Changes:

Any changes to this syllabus or any other aspect of the course will be announced either in class or via email to the class listserv.