

PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology (Fall 2020, Section 004H)

- Objectives:** Survey data, theory, and methods from the study of behavior and mental processes.
- Zoom link:** <https://msu.zoom.us/j/91841772622>, password psy101h.
Use this link for class, exams, and office hours.
- Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00pm-4:50pm, via Zoom
- Instructor:** Dr. Erik Altmann (ema@msu.edu)
- Office hours:** Fridays 2:00pm to 4:00pm or by appointment, via Zoom
- Textbook:** Introduction to Psychology: <http://noba.to/8szgkja3>
- Course webpage:** “FS20-PSY-101-004 - Introductory Psychology” on d2l.msu.edu

Assessment:

Your grade in the course will be based on the total number of points you accumulate out of 200. Points come mainly from exams but also from research participation and a short final paper. There are no extra credit options.

Exams (175 points): There will be three exams. The first two are each worth 50 points and will cover specific segments of the course. The third is worth 75 points and will be cumulative. Exam dates appear in the Course Schedule, below. Any material covered in class or in the required readings listed in the Course Schedule could be tested. Information about exam format and content will be presented in the class period preceding each exam period (see the Course Schedule).

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 sign up to participate in research you will use the [HPR system](#). Instructions for using the system are posted on the Course Webpage. For questions about research participation or the HPR system, contact the research participation coordinator, Ms. Audra Jeffrey, at jeffre22@msu.edu. In lieu of research participation, you may write a paper; for details, contact me no later than the date of Exam 2.

Final paper (11 points): There will be one short paper due at 5:00pm on Thursday, Dec. 10 (the day of the last regular class). A document describing the content and format requirements, grading criteria, and method of submission is posted on the Course Webpage along with a sample paper.

Your point total will be converted to a grade using following scale:

<i>Total points</i>	<i>Grade</i>
0-95	0.0
96-110	1.0
111-120	1.5
121-135	2.0
136-150	2.5
151-165	3.0
166-180	3.5
181-200	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; a schedule conflict that you know about in advance, such as a religious holiday or sports travel; or 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, that exam may be omitted from your final score and those points distributed over the other exams.

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. Lecture and module content will overlap more for some classes than others.

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

The textbook contains additional modules, not listed here, that are recommended reading. Material from these modules is subject to testing only if it overlaps with lecture topics or required readings.

Lectures will be recorded and will be posted to the Course Website the day after class (barring technical difficulties), along with the Powerpoint slide decks and videos shown in class.

<i>Date</i>		<i>Lecture topics and textbook modules</i>
3-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Introduction and scope
	<i>Modules:</i>	History of Psychology Research Designs
8-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Methods
	<i>Module:</i>	Thinking like a Psychological Scientist
10-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Memory and studying
	<i>Module:</i>	The Replication Crisis in Psychology
15-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Organization of the brain
	<i>Module:</i>	The Brain and Nervous System
17-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Neurons, sensation
	<i>Module:</i>	Sensation and Perception
22-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Perception
	<i>Module:</i>	Vision
24-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Attention
	<i>Modules:</i>	Attention Failures of Awareness: The Case of Inattentional Blindness
29-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Sensemaking, sleep
1-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Basic learning mechanisms, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	Conditioning and Learning

- 6-Oct **Exam 1**
- 8-Oct *Lecture:* Sensory memory, working memory
Module: Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)
- 13-Oct *Lecture:* Comprehension and memory
Module: Categories and Concepts
- 15-Oct *Lecture:* Different types of long-term memory
Module: Forgetting and Amnesia
- 20-Oct *Lecture:* Autobiographical memory, false memory
Module: Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases
- 22-Oct *Lecture:* Decision making, intelligence
Module: Intelligence
- 27-Oct *Lecture:* Language
Module: Language and Language Use
- 3-Nov *Lecture:* Motivation, nature vs. nurture
Module: Drive States
- 29-Oct *Lecture:* Development, aging
Module: Cognitive Development in Childhood
- 5-Nov *Lecture:* Personality, family influence, exam review
Module: Personality Traits
- 10-Nov **Exam 2**
- 12-Nov *Lecture:* Forming impressions
Module: Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
- 17-Nov *Lecture:* Attributions, attitudes
Module: Social Cognition and Attitudes
- 19-Nov *Lecture:* Obedience
Module: Conformity and Obedience
- 24-Nov *Lecture:* Stanford prison project

Module: The Psychology of Groups

26-Nov *No class - Thanksgiving*

1-Dec *Lecture:* Schizophrenia
Module: History of Mental Illness

3-Dec *Lecture:* Depression
Module: Mood Disorders

8-Dec *Lecture:* Anti-social personality disorder
Module: Personality Disorders

10-Dec *Lecture:* Special topics, exam review; final paper due at 5pm

16-Dec, 10am-noon **Exam 3**

Syllabus and other course 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.