# PSY (Psychology) 493: Issues in Psychology (W)

# Logo, company name Description automatically generatedFinal Conversation: Psycho, socio, cultural perspectives on death,

# dying and bereavement

**Time/Format:** Mon/Wed 8:20 am -9:50 am

1/13/25 – 4/27/25

Natural Science Rm 205

# Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Kandy Patrick

Email: [mckeow31@msu.edu](mailto:mckeow31@msu.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-2pm, Room 136A Psych Bldg, book an appointment via the link in D2L

# 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:

**Class Text**:

While the latest edition is not required for the course, it is highly recommended that you obtain a copy to participate in the group discussions, prepare for the unit exams and the final exam.

**Title:** Life-span Development

**Author:** John W. Santrock

**ISBN:** 9781260245844

**Edition:** 18

**Copyright Date:** 2021

**Required**

Yes

**Library Copies**

No

**Comments**

You can use an older edition, no older than 16, you do not need to buy an access key

# Course Policies and Assignments

**Desire2Learn (D2L):** Students are expected to use the course website on D2L to access lectures and readings, keep track of grades, and receive announcements.

# Class Format and Workload

This class meets 2xper week. You will be expected to have read the material prior to coming to class in order to participate in classroom activities and discussions. **Points missed in class can not be made up**. You can expect to spend 3-5 hours outside of class, working on quizzes, packbacks and doing your weekly reading.

**Honors Option:** There is no honors option for this course.

Use this link to see a video demonstration of MSU’s course management software system, Desire2 Learn (D2L): [Video Introduction to D2L](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Psychology+and+ISS+-+Getting+Started+in+D2L/1_gz25apy1)

Any concerns regarding the D2L system should be directed to the MSU Help Line (517) 432-6200 or 1-844-678-6200 (24 hours, 7 days a week). Put these numbers in your cell phone.

Learn how to clear the cache and cookies on your browser – that resolves many problems.

1. Clear your cache and cookies by going into the Tools tab.
2. Choose “Clear Private Data” and check two boxes, “Cache” and “Cookies”.
3. Click on “Clear Private Data Now”.
4. Log into D2L.

# Communication Policy

If you have questions during the course:

1. First, check the syllabus. Many of the most frequently asked questions are already answered in the syllabus.
2. Next, check the FAQ discussion board in D2L. Another student may have had the same question earlier in the course and you won’t have to wait for your answer.
3. If your question is not in the syllabus or FAQ, then post it to the FAQ discussion board in D2L within your assigned group if it is a question that may interest other students.

Email is the best way to reach me. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours during the week (Monday through Friday 9 am -5pm). Messages received over the weekend will receive a response by the following Monday evening. Please keep the following in mind when contacting me:

* Put PSY 493 in the subject line to ensure that your email is answered promptly.
* A clear, concise, polite email is more likely to receive a clear, concise, and polite response.

# Attendance

Students whose names do not appear on the class list may not participate in this course. This class relies on persistent engagement and reflection. Therefore, students must complete assignments in the week they are given. It is your responsibility to understand when and how you are able to unenroll from a course. Refer to the [Office of the Registrar](https://reg.msu.edu/) for important deadlines.

Class Begins 01/13/2025

Open adds end 01/17/2025

Last day to drop with refund 02/06/2025

Last day to drop with no grade reported 03/10/2025

Class Ends 04/27/2025

# Course Content

Course content will encompass PowerPoints, in class lecture, self-paced reading, quizzes, assignments, exams, writing assignments and discussions along with in class participation.

D2L tracks all student login information. It keeps a record of when you log in to D2L and when you log out. It also records when you begin a quiz and when you submit it. This helps us to resolve problems. You should know, however, that the instructor cannot view student activity except in the course content area. That is, we cannot view anything you put in the “My Content” area.

# Academic Honesty

[The Spartan Code of Honor s](https://honorcode.msu.edu/)tates, “As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.” In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilites (SRR)](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university) states that “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” The Department of Psychology 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. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide)](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/).

Therefore, unless authorized by the instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. 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. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity](https://msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html) webpage.)

# Limits to Confidentiality

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. In addition, most personal disclosures are kept in confidence. 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)](http://police.msu.edu/) 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 involving MSU students, faculty, or staff.
* 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.](http://counseling.msu.edu/)

# 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. 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.

# Commercialized Lecture Notes

[The Code of Teaching Responsibility r](https://reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Print.asp?Section=514)equires that students receive the written consent of the instructor to sell or otherwise commercialize class notes and materials. Specifically, the Code of Teaching Responsibility states, “Instructors may allow commercialization by including permission in the course syllabus or other written statement distributed to all students in the class.”

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

1. Students may record lectures or any other classroom activities and use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.
2. Students may share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class, provided that they also use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.
3. Students may not post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.
4. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

# Disruptive Behavior

Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university) 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.III.B.10 of the [SRR](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university) states that “The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility.” [General Student Regulation 5.02](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) 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.

# Religious Accommodations

If you need to miss a class or need accommodations regarding homework assignments due to religious observances, practices, or holidays, inform the instructor **in advance** so that such accommodations can be made.

# Generative AI Usage

Generative AI can be a useful tool in many contexts. However, the use of generative AI may be considered a violation of academic integrity in others. Often submitting something for a grade that was created by generative AI will be considered as a violation of policy and may lead to sanctions.

The use of generative AI may also be considered as a violation of academic integrity. Specifically, papers and writings should be written by you and any use of generative AI in any aspect of the research process must be detailed. Using generative AI in answering comprehensive exam questions will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

Also note that some uses of generative AI may violate copyright, privacy, FERPA or other policies. Be aware that when you submit something to generative AI platforms (e.g., an examination question), it becomes part of the corpus of data used by that tool. Note also that you are responsible for the accuracy of your work products, and the use of generative AI can result in inaccuracies that can impact your professional credibility (e.g., using generative AI to conduct data analysis for a manuscript; use of references from generative AI).

# Course Policies

Students are expected to adhere to the policies of Michigan State University whether noted in this syllabus or not. Instructors have the right to add or adjust policies within limits for the specifics of their courses. While the below may appear at first glance to be common policy boilerplate there may be nuances or course specifics within it that the student must be aware of and adhere to.

# Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem you can:

* Visit the [Distance Learning Services Support Site](https://www.lib.msu.edu/dls/) (lib.msu.edu/dls)
* Visit the [Desire2Learn Help Site](http://help.d2l.msu.edu/) (help.d2l.msu.edu)
* Or call Distance Learning Services: (800) 500-1554 or (517) 355-2345
* To learn D2L use, login with your MSU NetID and password at [d2l.msu.edu](https://d2l.msu.edu/d2l/home), select “Self Registration” from the menu bar, register for and complete the course named “Students - Getting Started with D2L.” Also be aware of the “Help” option on the D2L Home page menu.

# Participation

Students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar.

# Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

# Assignments

We will cover quite a bit of content each week. Throughout the course, there will be three types of assignments to complete. In general, the course week runs from **Monday (12:01am) until Sunday (11:59pm).** All times are in Eastern Daylight Time. You need to pay attention to the due dates and give yourself plenty of time to complete all of your assignments. There are no opportunities to make up this work if you miss a due date. I suggest you complete all tasks well in advance of the due date to avoid disappointment.

* **In Class Assignments**
* **Group Discussions**
* **Research critiques**
* **Chapter Quizzes**
* **Writing Quizzes**
* **Final Writing Exam**

# Grading

The D2L gradebook for this course is organized on a points basis for their contribution to your final grade. You can always check your grade by going to the D2L home page, clicking on the “Assessment” tab, and selecting “Grades” from the drop-down menu.

Class Assignments

Assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through [D2L] unless otherwise instructed**.** Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline. I**f you miss class this can not be made up.**

Discussions

The point of the group discussions is for you to engage with material more deeply, talk with classmates about the material, and reflect on your experiences. You are expected to post promptly and show initiative; contribute to the learning community; make your post relevant; express yourself clearly and respectfully; and use appropriate style, grammar and citations. Prompts will be given in class and  **if you miss class this can not be made up.**

**Quizzes:**Note that there are official Final Exam policies from MSU about if Final Exam times overlap or if the student is taking three Final Exams on the same day. See here - <https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Calendar/FinalExam.aspx>

* Makeup Exams: Plan to complete your exams during the day and time they are given. Obviously, things happen. If something happens that prevents you from completing an exam by the end time of the exam, please notify Dr. Patrick **with documentation** (like a signed Doctor’s note that includes your name and the date) by the end of the day for the missed exam. Failure to notify Dr. Kandy within 24 hours of the end exam time will result in you not being allowed to makeup the exam. Additionally, makeup exams must be taken within 1 week of the end time of the missed exam.
* If you cannot take an exam because of a religious holiday, required participation in a university-sanctioned event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), or some other acceptable event that can be foreseen, you must notify Dr. Patrick at least **two weeks** in advance.
* **Personal travel, having to go to work, or lack of planning are not acceptable reasons to receive an earlier examination time or a later one. Plan accordingly.**

# Final Grading Scale

Final course grades are dependent upon a straight percentage of points earned during the semester and the weighting of those points. There is no “curve”, which means that no one in the course is statistically required to do poorly and everyone in the course is eligible to earn a 4.0 for the semester.

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| **Grade** | **Percentage** |  | **Grade** | **Percentage** |  | **Grade** | **Percentage** |  | **Grade** | **Percentage** |
| 4.0 | 90 – 100% | 3.0 | 79 – 84.9% | 2.0 | 67 – 71.9% | 1.0 | 57 – 61.9% |
| 3.5 | 85 – 89.9% | 2.5 | 72 – 78.9% | 1.5 | 62 – 66.9% | 0.0 | < 57% |

If your grade in this course is very important to you, do everything in your power to get as many points as possible. I will not raise students’ grades at the end of the semester simply because they are close to the cut point for earning a higher grade. Please do not ask. It is a violation of University standards to allow an individual student an opportunity to raise a grade by doing some additional work at the end of the semester unless that opportunity is available to everyone in the class. Please do not ask me to do this either as there are no extra credit options in this course.

## Errors in Recording or Reporting your Grades

If you believe that a score is in error or has been omitted from the D2L gradebook, please email me as soon as you become aware of the error. On the subject line of this email please write “PSY 238 gradebook error.” If you state that you completed an activity and it is not recorded in the D2L system, I will be able to access the D2L log to see when you accessed the activity.

## Disclaimer

On the next page is a ***general indication*** of when we will cover the topics in the course. However, as the Professor, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule according to the pace of the course and the needs of the students. This also includes making any changes that I deem necessary to the details and/or policies listed in this syllabus. **Check D2L regularly to keep up with the topics. You will be given notice of any changes. Also, please know that you are responsible for keeping track of all assignments. The instructor will not remind you about upcoming deadlines. Due to the fast paced nature of the course, deadlines will be strictly adhered to. Announcements are utilized to communicate with you as a class, please be looking for those through the week, they will be very helpful for you as well as informational**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Weekly Schedule | Chapters to Read | Assignment | Exams |
| **Unit 1 Learning about Death and Dying ch 1** | | | |
| Week 1 Jan 13/15 | Syllabus/ Chapter 1. Education about Death, Dying, and Bereavement |  |  |
| NO CLASS JAN 20th  Week 2 Jan 22 | Chapter 1. Education about Death, Dying, and Bereavement | Bucket List | Content Quiz 1 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Discussion posting Unit 1 |
| **Unit 2 Death Chapters 2-5** | | | |
| Week 3 Jan 27/29 | Chapter 2: Changing Encounters with Death  Chapter 3: Changing Attitudes towards Death | APA Writing | Content Quiz 2/3 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Introduction is Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 4 Feb 3/5 | Chapter 4: Death Related Practices and the American Health Care System | Obituary | Content Quiz 4 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 5 Feb 10/12 | Chapter 5: Cultural Patterns and Death |  | Content Quiz 5 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Discussion posting Unit 2 |
| **Unit 3 Dying chapters 6-8** | | | |
| Week 6 Feb 17/19 | Chapter 6: Coping With Dying Chapter 7. Coping with Dying: How Individuals Can Help  Chapter 8. Coping with Dying: How Communities Can Help | APA Writing | Content Quiz 6/7/8 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Discussion posting Unit 3  Summary of the Study is due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| **Unit 4 Bereavement chapters 9-11** | | | |
| Week 7 Feb 24/26 | Chapter 9. Coping with Loss and Grief  Chapter 10. Coping with Loss and Grief: How Individuals Can Help | APA Writing | Content Quiz 9/10 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Critical Analysis is due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| **SPRING BREAK MARCH 3-7** | | | |
| Week 8 Mar 10/12 | Chapter 11. Coping with Loss and Grief: Funeral Practices and Other Ways Communities Can Help | Eulogy Video Assignment | Content Quiz 11 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Discussion posting Unit 4 |
| **Unit 5 Developmental Perspectives chapters 12-15** | | | |
| Week 9 Mar 17/19 | Chapter 12. Children  Chapter 13. Adolescents | APA Writing | Content Quiz 12/13 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Future Research is due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 10 Mar 24/26 | Chapter 14. Young and Middle-Aged Adults  Chapter 15. Older Adults |  | Content Quiz 14/15 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Discussion posting Unit 5 |
| **Unit 6 Legal, conceptual and moral issues chapters 16-19** | | | |
| Week 11 Mar 31/ April 2 | Chapter 16. Legal Issues | Wills | Final Paper is Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Content Quiz 16 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 12 April 7/9 | Chapter 17. Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior |  | Content Quiz 17 Due at 11:59pm Saturday |
| Week 13 April 14/16 | Chapter 18. Aided Death: Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia, and Aid in Dying |  | Content Quiz 18 Due at 11:59pm Saturday  Discussion posting Unit 6 |
| Week 14 April 21/23 | Chapter 19. The Meaning and Place of Death in Life | Tuesdays With Morrie in class w/Questions |  |
| Final Exam- Writing Assignment | Opens 4/24/25 |  | Due: Thursday May 1 @9:45 am |

**Quizzes/Exams:**

* 12 content Quizzes @ 20p each 240 (lowest score will drop)
* Final Writing Assignment / Exam 100 (see D2L)

**Research Critique:**

* Introduction 50
* Summary of the Study 50
* Critical Analysis 50
* Future Research 50
* Final Paper 100

**Discussion Boards:**

* 6 Discussion @ 30 each 180 (lowest score will drop)
* You can earn 12 points of extra credit by responding to 2 peers in each discussion before the discussion closes

**In Class Assignments:**

* 4 APA Writing in class assessments 20
* Tuesdays with Morrie 50
* Obituary 30
* Wills 20
* Eulogy Assignment 50
* Bucket list 30