Psychology 101 (Section 002): Introductory Psychology

Fall, 2024

# Course Information:

## **Time:**

Monday and Wednesday, 8:00-9:50 AM

## Location:

N130 Business College Complex

## Course Personnel:

**Instructor**: Dr. Richard Lucas **Teaching** **Assistant**: Naomi Alvarado

**Email**: lucasri@msu.edu alvar285@msu.edu

**Office** **Hours**: Tuesday 1-3, 249A Psychology Thursday 10-12 (location TBA)

**Undergraduate Assistants**: Charlize Haworth (haworthc@msu.edu) and Eva Valverde (valver13@msu.edu).

# 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.

Free!

# 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. The readings and dates are listed on the course website.

There will also be occasional readings from popular news sources and websites. The course website is organized by weeks, and these additional readings will be posted in the appropriate week on the website.

**iclicker**: Class participation and attendance is assessed using iclickers. Iclicker has an app for your phone that you can use. This should be free for you to use; for instructions see the documentation here: <https://tech.msu.edu/service-catalog/teaching/student-response/iclicker/>

# Course Policies and Assignments

****Course Material****: This is an in-person course that meets twice a week for one hour and fifty minutes. The course is broken down into four sections, grouped by content. There will be one in-person exam after each section of the course. You will be expected to attend the lectures, and attendance will be assessed using the iclicker app. There are also low-stakes quizzes almost every week, which you can take multiple times to improve your grade.

**Grading:** There are 500 total points that you can receive in this class. These points come from the following categories of assignments: 8 (out of 10) Weekly Quizzes (32 points total), 4 (out of 5) Exams (400 points total), 7 hours of research participation (28 points total), and 20 (out of 24) class period attendance points (40 points total). See the detailed point breakdown below.

**Quizzes:** At the end of each week (other than the first week and weeks where we have an exam), there will be an online quiz, consisting of 20 questions, drawn from a larger pool (so different students will get somewhat different questions). You will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz, and each is worth 4 points. If you are not happy with your grade, you can retake the quiz as many times as you would like to improve your score. These quizzes cover any material that we have discussed during the week, including textbook readings, additional readings, lectures, videos, or other activities. These are open-book quizzes, so you can use your book and notes to complete the quizzes. Quizzes will open at 7AM on Thursday and close at 11:59PM on Sunday, so you will have almost four days in which you can attempt each quiz.

**Exams:** There will be five exams: Four during the regularly schedule class period, and one during the final exam period. **All exams will be administered in person.** Each exam will be worth 100 points, but only the best four exams will count. In other words, your lowest exam score is dropped. The first four exams will not be cumulative, but the final exam will be. If you are happy with your grade after the first four exams, you do not have to take the final; you will receive a score of zero for the final, but that score will be dropped. Each exam will consist solely of multiple-choice questions. All exams will begin precisely at the start of the class or exam period; if you do not arrive before the first person finishes the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam; so please set multiple alarms! You will have the full course or exam period to complete the exam.

**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 hours of research credit. The psychology subject pool allocates credits in half hour units. This means that you will need 14 half-hour credits to complete your research participation requirement. Each credit is worth 2 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 learning about the research process and providing 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.

**Surveys:** There will be two surveys that you will be asked to complete during the semester (including one during the second week of class). These surveys will be used for in class demonstrations, and also to provide some information to me about you. Each survey will be worth three points of extra credit that you can use towards your grade.

**Attendance:** You get points for coming to class and participating. Specifically, I will present questions to be answered using iclicker at the beginning of each class covering material from the previous class and readings, along with questions 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 iclicker questions, including those at the beginning and end of class, so make sure you do not arrive late or leave early.

You will receive 2 points for each class

* iclicker questions start on the second day of classes. There will be no iclicker questions or points on exam days
* You should use the iclicker app for your phone (which is free)
* Please create an iclicker account (instructions are [here](https://mhe.my.site.com/iclicker/s/article/How-to-Create-an-iClicker-Student-Account)).
* You can then add this class to your account by going to <https://join.iclicker.com/> and entering the code: VTKD
* We will use iclickers in 23 classes, but you can miss three of these without penalty. That means that you can get a total of **40 points** from iClicker questions
* You do not need to get the questions correct to get credit, you simply need to respond using your iclicker.
* If you forget your phone or have some other technical problem, 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 no credit for that day.
* **Please note:** If you have someone else use your iclicker account 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.**

**Makeups:** I know that students may occasionally have health issues that prevent them from coming to class. I want to encourage students to stay home from lectures when feeling sick and will institute flexible policies for makeups due to illness. I trust that students will not abuse this flexibility, so please only use this makeup policy when you are showing symptoms or are sick. Student using the makeup policy may be required to take a different exam than the one administered during the class or final exam period.

The only requirement for making up exams is that you must email me before the exam begins—at least 30 minutes before—to be eligible to makeup an exam or assignment. In other words, forgetting about an exam or sleeping through it is not an acceptable excuse. If you do not notify me before the exam begins, you will not be able to make up the points (though remember, you can drop your lowest score).

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 me at least one week before the exam to be eligible for a makeup.

I also understand that students may need to miss classes because they are sick or have been exposed to someone who is. Indeed, it is beneficial for all of us if people do not come to class with symptoms, even if they are mild. For these reasons, I will make it easy to access the course materials and get credit for attendance even when you think it would be better not to attend class.

All class lectures will be recorded and will be provided for you to view. If you cannot attend class, there will be a place on D2L to indicate that you cannot attend class for a specific day. If you indicate that you cannot attend a specific class in between 6PM on the day before that class begins and 8AM on the morning of class, then an assignment will open for you to upload 5 questions about the course material that you will write. These questions can be in the style of the iclicker questions that I ask in class. They should be multiple-choice questions with five response options, and you should indicate which is the correct option.

You can use this alternative assignment to miss up to five classes in the semester. If you need to do this more than five times, please get in touch, as we may require a doctor's note at that point.

**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/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_blank). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please email 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. When sending the form, please specify which accommodations you will actually request to use, as some students are entitled to accommodations that they don’t intend on using. In addition, if you will be using an accommodation during the exam, you must get in touch with me at least one week before each exam to make arrangements.

**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.

**Grade Breakdown**. Your grade will be calculated in the following way. There are 500 total points available in this class.

To get this grade: You need this percentage: Which is this many points:

4.0 90% 450

3.5 85% 425

3.0 80% 400

2.5 75% 375

2.0 70% 350

1.5 60% 300

1.0 50% 250

0.0 <50% <250

**Your total points (i.e., the actual points you get from exams, participation, etc.) will be rounded to the nearest whole number.**

There will be 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. All 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.

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.

# 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](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 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](http://counseling.msu.edu/).

**Important Dates (in addition to weekly quizzes)**

September 18th: Exam #1

October 14th: Exam #2

November 6th: Exam #3

December 4th: Exam #4

December 9th: Final Exam (7:45AM)

Please see the course schedule document for a list of topics and readings by week.