

## Spring 2025 Syllabus

**Psychology 101: Introductory Psychology**  
**Section 001**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:20 AM – 12:10 PM**  
**Veterinary Medical Center E100**  
**Course Units: 4.00**

### Instructional Team

**Instructor:** Dr. Amy Drahota ([pronouns](#): she/her/hers)

**Office:** Psychology Building, Room 125-B

**In-person office hours:** Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM or by appointment

**Course email address:** [MSUPsych101@gmail.com](mailto:MSUPsych101@gmail.com)

- The Graduate TA will respond to emails unless there is a need for Dr. Drahota's review
- Responses will be provided within 48 business hours of receiving an email
- Questions that can be answered by reading the course syllabus will not be answered
- As necessary, Dr. Drahota will respond to PSY101 emails on Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Erin Neaton ([pronouns](#): she/her/hers)

**Office:** Psychology Building, Room 293

**In-person office hours:** Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Email:** [MSUPsych101@gmail.com](mailto:MSUPsych101@gmail.com)

- Responses will be provided within 48 business hours of receiving an email

**Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:** Mary Andreoli and Jack Pruyn

**Contacting the Instructional Team:** Dr. Drahota, the Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), and the Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UAs) are here to help you understand and critically think about the course material. I encourage you to connect with at least one of us during office hours to get clarification on course material or to get additional information about topics we have (or have not) covered in class that are of interest to you. If you cannot make office hours, or need a longer time to meet, please make an appointment to meet with someone from the instructional team at another time.

### Who to Contact About What:

- If you have a **quick question about the course**, email the course email address. Your GTA and the UAs have taken this course and can help with questions and clarifications. If your TA cannot answer your question, they will forward it for Dr. Drahota's review. Dr. Drahota and/or your GTA will respond to your email within **two business days** during working hours (**8am – 5pm Monday through Friday**). Please follow up with us if you have not heard back after two business days. Please note, we will not respond to emails outside of business hours (i.e., during evenings and weekends).
- If you are having difficulty with the course, please see Dr. Drahota, the GTA or UAs during their office hours as soon as you can. We will not know you are struggling unless you tell us.
- If you are interested in a particular topic and have more questions, or if you need support or would like to talk more about an idea from class, please come to Dr. Drahota's office hours. One of her favorite things is discussing your ideas and interests!

**E-Mail Policy:** Email is the best way to get a hold of the instructional team. However, please use the following guidelines when communicating via email:

- First, as yourself this question: “Can this question be answered by looking in the syllabus or looking on the D2L course site?”
  - We have spent a lot of time preparing the course materials so that you all have the information you need to succeed in this course. It is your responsibility to read that information.
- Decide if an email is the best option before you send. If your question is complicated or will need further discussion, do not just automatically send off an email. Come to office hours instead. Some things are better discussed face to face.
- When using your phone to send an email, remember that you are writing to a professional person who is doing their job. You are not sending a text to your friend. Treat every email as professional communication. We are in a place of work.
- Use the appropriate salutation. Please address every email properly.
  - For your professor, you should say “Hello Dr. Drahota” or “Hi Dr. Drahota”.
  - For your GTA, you should say “Hello [first name]” or “Hi [first name]”.
- Always sign off your emails with your full name, so we know who you are. We can’t wait to get to know all of you, but [maizeandbluearetheworst@spartans.com](mailto:maizeandbluearetheworst@spartans.com) makes it hard for us to know who you are. Include a sign off like “Thank you”, “Sincerely”, “Best wishes” and then your name. This is a sign of professional courtesy.
- Proofread your e-mail. Is your question conveyed clearly? Did autocorrect or ChatGPT (or other AI programs) make it sound super weird?
- Please sign your e-mail with your full name so we know who you are.
- Please be polite.
  - Do not use abusive email behaviors.
  - When a TA or professor responds to help you via email, it is good practice to respond and thank them for their help.
- Finally, emergencies can arise in life, but it is unlikely that a true emergency will arise in relation to this course (i.e., a situation that requires immediate action to be resolved - and cannot be resolved any other way). Please do not use the 'urgent' flag in your emails.
  - Most solutions to academic problems cannot be put in place immediately, and all emails will be addressed in a timely and appropriate manner regardless of how they are flagged.
  - See again the Forbes guidance, this time on issues with overusing the priority flag - <https://www.forbes.com/pictures/egfj45ili/over-use-of-the-priority-flag/?sh=bc4d76069f6>
- More guidance on **email communication in the academic context** is provided in this link and this link.
- Why is there so much guidance about email habits to avoid?
  - **Answer – because this advice will serve you well in all professional settings!**

### **Check Your Email and Course D2L Regularly!**

- During the course, we will email you occasionally and post announcements on the course site often with important information and reminders. Please read these emails and announcements as soon as you receive them.
- Please set up your D2L to forward course emails and announcements to your preferred email address. See D2L for information about how to do this.

## Course Description

Psychology is a scientific discipline investigating human behavior and the mind. The scientific investigations and the impact of psychology are broad and far-reaching. This course will introduce students to the foundational concepts of psychology and aims to provide greater understanding to students of themselves and the world, as well as help students become critical consumers of psychological media found in the popular press.

**Course Goals:** There are four course goals for you in Psychology 101.

1. **Explore the field of psychology.** Psychology is both broad and complicated. In this course, you will be exposed to a variety of areas of interest (disciplines) within the field of psychology, as well as the research methods used to investigate these areas.
2. **Learn skills associated with scientific study and critical thinking.** Whether you choose to continue studying psychology after this class or not, there are several basic scientific and critical thinking skills that will serve you well regardless of your major. These skills are an integral part of all science endeavors, and you will learn to employ them in understanding the nature of psychology.
3. **Apply the knowledge and skills gained in this course to everyday life.** Psychology is unique in its clear relation to our everyday lives. Studying psychology directly benefits you by developing a better understanding of yourself, others, and the world around you.
4. **Demonstrate your knowledge of psychological science.** Through exams, quizzes, and activities, you will demonstrate knowledge about psychological topics learned throughout the semester.

**Learning Objectives:** This course has six learning objectives, which will be achieved through exams, assignments, and activities. At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify basic concepts and research findings, and give examples of psychology's integrative themes.
  - a. Psychological science relies on empirical evidence and adapts as new data develop.
  - b. Psychology explains general principles that govern behavior, while recognizing individual differences.
  - c. Psychological, biological, social, and cultural factors influence mental processes and behavior.
  - d. Our perceptions filter our experiences of the world through an imperfect personal lens.
  - e. Applying psychological principles can change our lives in positive ways.
2. Apply psychological principles to everyday life.
3. Draw appropriate, logical, and objective conclusions about behavior and mental processes from empirical evidence.
4. Evaluate misconceptions or erroneous behavioral claims based on evidence from psychological science.
5. Evaluate basic psychological research.
6. Describe ethical principles that guide psychologists in research and practice.

**Honors Option:** An honors option is available for this course. However, only 10 honors spots are available. If you are interested in applying for an honors option for this class, you must meet in person and discuss the extra requirements with Dr. Drahota before the end of Week 2 (Friday, January 24, 2025).

**Course Mode:** PSY 101, Section 001 meets in person for all lectures and exams. All readings, quizzes, and assignments will take place outside of class sessions. You will need to have access to a computer with consistent access to a high-speed internet connection. Access to computers with consistent access to a high-speed internet connection can be found on campus if you do not have access at home.

**Course Format and Structure:** This class is largely lecture based and takes place in person. This means that your attendance in class is required during the scheduled class sessions. Lectures will not just be a repetition of reading, but rather will make space to clarify, extend, and illustrate specific concepts from the readings, with a focus on difficult concepts and critical ideas. Outside of class, you will be expected to engage with the class topics through readings, watching videos, and – at times – completing assignments. These can be accessed through the course website, found at MSU's [Desire to Learn \(D2L\)](#).

**Weekly Structure:** The course schedule has been developed and is available on D2L. Materials related to each chapter will be posted 1-2 days prior to the chapter being discussed in class. For each chapter, you are expected to complete the readings, come to the lectures and engage in the course topics. As a 4-credit, 16-week course, you are expected to spend about 10-12 hours each week on course materials. This should look like 3-4 hours of reading and taking notes on the reading, 1 hour for answering comprehension questions while reading, approximately 4 hours of attending lectures, 1-2 hours of planning and studying for exams or reviewing previous material, and 30 minutes-1 hour of participating in research as a research subject (or working to complete the alternative to research participation essays).

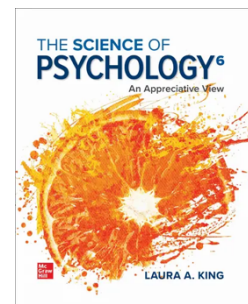
**One of Dr. Drahota's goals is to help you find rest and restoration on your weekends, so the weekly structure is designed to help you achieve that goal. You can use your weekend however you see fit – catching up on previous content for exams, getting ahead on the next week's content, or doing absolutely nothing for this course – but please know this is why chapter readings have a due date scheduled for 5pm on the day after we have finished the chapter content during lecture.**

### Textbook and Course Materials

**Required Textbook:** Our textbook is King, L. A. (2024). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View*. Our textbook is available through **McGraw Hill Connect**. You must purchase the version of the book with **Connect**. Do not simply purchase the standalone eBook. We have a special price for this course, but you need to follow the registration instructions provided to access the correct version and the special price.

**D2L Course Website:** This course has a [D2L](#) website (<https://d2l/msu.edu>) where you will find class policies, schedules, lecture notes, assignments, grades, and important class information. During the semester, the instruction team will email you and/or post information, announcements, and reminders on the course D2L website. Please read these emails or posts as you receive notification about them, and please check your email regularly.

- Again, it is helpful to make sure you set up D2L to forward emails from the D2L site to the email address that you use most regularly; information about how to do this can be found at <https://help.d2l.msu.edu/node/4410>.



### Course Activities and Evaluation Criteria

**Orientation and Re-orientation Quizzes:** There will be two quizzes about the policies and procedures of this course. These quizzes assess your understanding of the course policies as outlined in the syllabus and introduction videos that are available on our D2L course site. You can take the Orientation and Re-orientation quizzes as many times as you would like in order to maximize your score. **Be sure to read the syllabus first!** Each quiz is worth 30 points and determines 10% of your final grade.

- Orientation Quiz will **open on 1/14/2025 at 8am** and will **close on 1/31/2025 at 5pm**.
- Re-orientation Quiz will **open on 3/13/25** at 8am and will **close on 3/28/25 at 5pm**.

**Exams:** There will be five exams in this course that will be taken in person – four exams covering material learned since the last exam and one cumulative exam that takes place during the final exam period scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Any material from lectures, readings, videos, and related materials may be on the exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. Your lowest exam score will be dropped. Therefore, your four best exam scores will account for 400 points of your final grade. This will count for 66.7% of your final grade.

1. **Exams 1 through 4 will occur during regularly scheduled class sessions**, and will be made up of 80 multiple choice questions. These exams will focus on material covered since the previous exam.
2. **Exam 5 will take place during MSU Finals Week**. This exam will be cumulative; that is, it will have questions about every chapter covered during the semester). It will be comprised of 100 multiple choice questions. The Final Exam date and time is set by MSU and is the only time the Final Exam is offered. No early or late Final Exams will be given unless a student meets the criteria for a make-up exam (see below) or as required by a student's RCPD accommodations letter.

### Exam Information and Instructions

- A study guide will be posted for each exam.
- **BRING PENCILS AND AN ERASER** to exams!!! Exams are completed on a paper Scantron form. Make sure that you bring sharp pencils and an eraser to correct any errors.
- Exams will begin with detailed instructions. Arrive on time and do not miss these.
- During exams, you may only have pencils and erasers at your desk.
- Leave refreshments or other materials zipped up in your book bag or do not bring them at all.
- Turn off anything that makes noise.
- You are not permitted to wear headphones, ear buds, or wear hats with a forward-facing bill. You must also remove and put away smartphones and smart glasses.
- Once the exam has begun, there will be no talking or disruptions.
- Leaving the room is reserved for emergencies only.
- If you arrive late, you may take the exam, but you will not be able to begin an exam once the first student has completed and turned in the exam.
  - If you arrive after the exam has started, please wait at the back of the room to see Dr. Drahota for instructions.
- **You need to show your MSU ID to turn in your exams.** Make sure you remember this!
- See the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for dates for the exams.
- For those of you with extended time because of RCPD accommodations, please email Dr. Drahota a week before each exam to work out the appropriate accommodations.

- Exam grades will be posted online once they are available from the MSU Scoring Office and Dr. Drahota has reviewed and corrected any potential scoring errors.
- Exam questions will not be posted after exams, but you may review your exams with Dr. Drahota during office hours.

**Make-up exams will only be given in certain cases.** Plan to complete your exams during the day and time that they are scheduled to occur. No make up exams will be given unless you have a valid reason and supporting documentation (such as a doctor's note), or other type of MSU-approved absence (such as a grief absence). If you have a valid reason or approved absence, you must notify Dr. Drahota via email with supporting documentation within 24 hours of the end of the given exam. You must include supporting documentation with any request for a make-up exam or extension for this to be considered. Failure to do so will result in you not being allowed to make-up the exam. If your make-up exam request is approved, your instructor will send you arrangements, including exam time and location. You must attend at the specific time to complete the make-up exam.

**Potentially valid reasons for requesting a make-up exam include:** 1) a documented medical or family emergency or 2) a documented scheduling conflict. Absence from an exam for any other reason will result in a grade of 0 for that exam. For those who are eligible, make-up exams must be completed within one week of the exam or one week after a student has returned (that is, if a medical emergency has occurred). If a student does not complete a make-up exam by this time, the student will receive a score of 0.

1. A documented medical or family emergency means that you must have a note from a professional (e.g., dean, advisor, doctor) recommending that you not attend class. Any notes must explicitly state that "This student was unable to take the exam on \_\_\_\_\_ (specified date) because \_\_\_\_\_ (specified reason)." The note cannot come from someone in your family. You must send an email to the instructional team as soon as you are aware of the conflict indicating that you have a valid excuse, even if you do not yet have the documentation.
2. A documented scheduling conflict includes (but is not limited to): 1) a religious holiday, 2) required participation in an MSU-approved event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), or 3) some other acceptable event that can be foreseen. You must send an email to Dr. Drahota at least one week in advance of exam. Absence from an exam **for any other reason** – family obligations or events, job interviews, and vacations – will result in a 0 for that exam.

**Also, please keep in mind the 1 exam that is dropped.** This is already built into the course to accommodate unexpected situations that are not considered valid reasons for an approved absence (for example, events like car trouble, working on another project, or technical problems are not considered valid reasons, family obligations, travel problems).

- If you cannot take an exam because of a religious holiday, you must notify Dr. Drahota by 1/24/2025.
- If you cannot take an exam because of required participation in a university-sanctioned event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team – note that clubs are not included in this description), or some other acceptable University-approved event, you must provide official documentation and notify Dr. Drahota at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

**Reading Comprehension Questions:** The eTextbook through McGraw Hill Connect has integrated comprehension questions throughout each chapter to ensure that students are understanding important concepts while reading the material and taking notes. For each of the

14 chapters covered during the semester, students will be asked to respond to questions about the material they have read. If students answer correctly, they will be able to move to the next page/topic within the chapter. If a student does not answer correctly, the textbook will guide the student to the area in the chapter containing the information to review. If a student answers a question incorrectly, a new question will be provided on the same topic. This will allow the students the opportunity to learn from their mistake, but still ensure they master each topic. The topics will rotate until all topics are mastered. This assignment helps students have a solid foundation of the basic course concepts before entering class, that way they can come to class prepared with specific questions and conversation points.

- Reading the material prior to answering the questions will allow students to move more efficiently through the questions and, thus, the chapter.
- Reading the materials and giving an honest effort while answering questions will help the adaptive question bank create a more personalized study tool if students choose to practice a chapter again before an assessment.
- Students will earn 5 points for completing the reading comprehension questions for each of the 14 chapters covered during the semester before the deadline. Students who do not complete the reading comprehension questions for a chapter before the deadline earn a 0. Students can earn either 5 points or 0 points for each chapter.
- A total of 70 points can be earned by completing the Reading Comprehension Questions. This determines 11.7% of final grade.

**Research Experience:** One fundamental way of learning firsthand about psychological research is to participate in research studies as a research participant. You are required to participate as a research participant in 7 hours of research through the [Psychology Department's SONA system](#). Research experience is worth 70 points and determines 11.7% of your final grade. You need to complete your hours before **Friday, April 25, 2025, at 5pm**, when the SONA system will close.

- More detailed instructions for setting up our HPR / SONA account and how to sign up for research participation hours is provided in the D2L course under "Research Experience/ SONA Info."
- **Make sure you enter your details correctly!** You must register with your MSU email address and correctly enter your personal information (e.g., date of birth). Also, there is a detailed document on the D2L website that provides all the information that you need to use the SONA system. You can also watch an online tutorial at <https://youtu.be/1OnT2ZU6QQ>.
- **Be sure that you register on the Psychology SONA system.** Any questions, inaccuracies, or problems with the SONA system or your participation in experiments should be directed to Audra Jeffrey, the Department of Psychology's Human Subject Pool Administrator ([jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu)). It is your responsibility to sign up, participate in the experiments, and track your personal history on the computer.
- When setting up your SONA account, be sure that you sign up for the correct **SECTION** of PSY 101. We are in **SECTION 001**.
- Note that the Psychology SONA system may not open until Week 2 or 3 of the semester.
- The Psychology **SONA system closes on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 5pm**. There will not be any research studies conducted after this date and time.
- **ALL SONA QUESTIONS, INACCURACIES, OR PROBLEMS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO AUDRA JEFFREY: [jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu)**. Your instructor and teaching assistants do not have access to SONA and cannot see your participation. We do not know how many credits you have until we receive the report from SONA at the end of the semester.
- **Students under 18 years of age are ineligible for SONA experiments.** Contact Audra



Jeffrey ([jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu)) if you are under 18 to learn about other options for fulfilling your research experience requirement.

**Alternative to Research Participation.** If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may write 7 papers about psychology in today's world. One paper is worth one hour of research participation. Instructions are available on the course D2L site. Papers will be due on **Friday, April 25, 2025, before 5pm**. The Assignment folder will close promptly at 5pm, and no papers will be accepted after this. **There will be no exceptions to this rule.**

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on the following course points:

Requirement	Points	Percent Totals
Exams: Highest 4 out of 5 exam scores (100 pts each)	400	66.7%
Quizzes: Two quizzes (30 points each)	60	10%
Research Participation or Alternative to Research Participation papers: 7 hours or 7 papers or a combination (10 points each)	70	11.7%
Completed Reading Comprehension Questions (5 points each)	70	11.7%
<b>CLASS TOTAL:</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100.1%</b>
<b>Extra Credit:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students can participate in 2 extra hours of research studies or write 2 extra Alternative to Research Participation papers for extra credit. Each extra hour or paper can be worth up to 3 points.</li> <li>Additional extra credit opportunities may be announced throughout the semester.</li> </ul>		

**Grading Scale:** The following grading scale will be used to assign earned grades:

Total Points Range	Grade
537 - 600	4.0
507 - 536	3.5
477 - 506	3.0
447 - 476	2.5
417 - 446	2.0
387 - 416	1.5
357 - 386	1.0
0 - 356	0

**Policy on grade changes:** I will adhere to these cut-offs. Extra credit is the only way to increase your point total if you are concerned about falling on the wrong side on one of these cut-offs. 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 up" your grade or give you a special extra credit opportunity. I never do this, so please don't ask. **There will be no exceptions.**

### Course Policies

**Academic Honesty:** Any and all forms of cheating are unacceptable. Students are expected to complete tests, exams, and written assignments individually and without outside help. Any student caught cheating on tests, exams, homework, or in-class assignments will receive a zero in this course. The Spartan Code of Honor states, "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 Responsibilities (SRR) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Psychology Department 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](#). For extensive details see *Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide*. Further information about cheating can be found on a website provided by the MSU Ombudsperson (<https://ombud.msu.edu/resources-self-help/academic-integrity>). Make sure you are familiar with MSU definitions regarding academic dishonesty. Ignorance is not an excuse.

Therefore, unless authorized by your 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. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in 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 and may be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Affairs. Contact Dr. Drahota if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. Or, for general examples of what constitutes plagiarism, see:

- <https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/plagiarism.html>

**Cheating:** Any student caught cheating on an exam, cheating on a quiz, cheating on Reading Comprehension Questions, or plagiarizing the Alternative Papers for Research Participation, **will receive a zero for the assignment, a zero for the course, and be reported to the University.** This includes sharing answers in any form via group messaging applications like GroupMe.

**Policy on Use of Generative A.I. (Artificial Intelligence):** The policy of this class is that you must be the creator of all work you submit for a grade. The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted in this class; therefore, any use of generative AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Michigan State University's policy on academic integrity, the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge and Student Rights and Responsibilities, since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized generative AI tools will result in a score of 0 for the assignment.

**Policy on Religious Observations:** If you anticipate being unable to complete a graded portion of the course due to a major religious observance, please provide notice of the date(s) to Dr. Drahota, via email, by **1/24/2025**.

**Note-taking and recordings:** 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:

- Students may not post 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.

- Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials **is not permitted in this course**.
- Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

**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). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued an Accommodation Letter or Temporary Adjustment Letter that outlines any course accommodations necessary for you to learn. Please present this letter to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the date in which the accommodations are needed (e.g., test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored. If you require testing accommodations (that is, additional time, etc.) you must contact me and present your Letter **at least two weeks before the exam date** to schedule an alternative exam date and time.

**Academic Assistance:** If you have any trouble with assignments or the material covered in class, please speak with anyone on the instructional team. We all want to help with students having an introduction to the major concepts within the field of psychological science. Additionally, MSU has resources to assist students, such as the [Campus Tutoring Center](#), [Campus Writing Center](#), and [Neighborhood Student Success Center](#). We understand that a lot is expected of you here at MSU, but we all want to help you to produce your best work. Additionally, on the course D2L, you will find resources that may assist you in learning the material. See the module titled, "Study Tips and Tricks" for these tips and techniques.

**Limits to Confidentiality:** Any 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) 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
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others
- Suspected hazing

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 Counselling Center: <https://caps.msu.edu/>

This is an MSU required mandate that Dr. Drahota and the Graduate Assistant(s) are required to follow as MSU employees. Given this, **you should not disclose experiences of abuse or sexual violence related to MSU unless you are comfortable having this information shared with the Office of Institutional Equity.** Despite the mandate, Dr. Drahota does not

want to further the culture of silence surrounding abuse and sexual violence in this class. All are encouraged to use the resources listed below (not mandated university reporters) as they process their feelings and experiences in this course.

- MSU Safe Place: <http://safeplace.msu.edu/> or (517) 355-1100
- NRCDV: <http://www.nrcdv.org/>
- NNEVD: <http://www.nnedv.org/>
- NCDSV: <http://www.ncdsv.org/>
- MCEDSV: <http://www.mcedsv.org/>
- No More: <http://nomore.org/>
- RAINN: <https://rainn.org/>
- The Joyful Heart Foundation: <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/>
- Feministing: <http://feministing.com/>
- Futures Without Violence: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

**Course Climate:** We are all working toward the same goals in this course! By building a strong learning community from the start, we will benefit.

- **Inclusive Environment:** MSU is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) reviews concerns related to discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, disability status, and any other protected categories under the University Anti-Discrimination Policy ([https://www.hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP\\_policy.html](https://www.hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP_policy.html)) and Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (<https://civilrights.msu.edu/policies/rvsm.html>). If you experience or witness acts of bias, discrimination, or harassment, please report these to OIE: <http://oie.msu.edu/>.
- **Student-student interactions:** Part of being a strong group member is being a good listener, being motivating and empathetic, and providing constructive feedback. We will focus on these characteristics throughout the semester.
- **Student-instructor interactions:** If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let Dr. Drahota know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional.
- **Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.III.B.4 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) 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 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 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.**"
- **Lying:** Lying is an unacceptable behavior in both personal and professional relationships. Lying to get what you want is a manipulative behavior and will not be tolerated in this course. This includes lying to get an unfair advantage in a class or assignment. Do not do this!
- **Appropriate Netiquette:** Below are the key elements that we can use together to build a strong learning community.

- Be professional. Interact with your fellow classmates and instructor as you would in your professional life. Use appropriate language. Be clear and concise.
- Have opinions but be respectful of disagreement.
- Be cautious with humor or sarcasm. We do not want to create a dull environment devoid of fun, but it is very easy for these tones to be lost in text. If you want to make jokes or be sarcastic, indicate your intent with emoticons or a sarcasm tag “/s”.
- **Be kind. Be respectful.**

**Use of Turnitin:** Consistent with MSU’s efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student’s work with 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, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student’s work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers to Turnitin Assignments without identifying information included in the paper (e.g., name or student number), the system will automatically show this information to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

**Disclaimer:** Below is a general indication of when we will cover the topics in the course. However, as the instructor, Dr. Drahota reserves the right to adjust this schedule and activities according to the pace of the course and the needs of the students. This also includes making any changes that Dr. Drahota deems necessary to the details and/or policies listed in this syllabus. **Check D2L regularly to keep up with the topics. You will be given updates and notice of any changes via email, so please check this regularly.**

**Also, please know that you are responsible for keeping track of all due dates.**

*Welcome to Introductory  
Psychology!*

**PSY101 (Section 001) Course Schedule for Spring Semester 2025**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
1	Jan 12	13 MSU: Classes begin	14 In class: Course introduction & Ch. 1 • Orientation quiz opens	15	16 In class: Ch. 2	17 MSU: Open add ends	18
2	19	20 MSU: University Holiday	21 In class: Ch. 2	22 DUE: Ch. 1 & 2 Reading Comprehension questions	23 In class: Ch. 3	24	25
3	26	27	28 In class: Ch. 3	29 DUE: Ch. 3 Reading Comprehension questions	30 In class: EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-3)	31 DUE: Orientation quiz	<b>Feb 1</b>
4	2	3	4 In class: Ch. 4	5	6 MSU: Drop with refund deadline In class: Ch. 4	7 DUE: Ch. 4 Reading Comprehension questions	8
5	9	10	11 In class: Ch. 5	12	13 MSU: Classes cancelled	14	15
6	16	17 DUE: Ch. 5 Reading Comprehension questions	18 In class: Ch. 6	19	20 In class: Ch. 6	21 DUE: Ch. 6 Reading Comprehension questions	22
7	23	24	25 In class: Ch. 7	26	27 In class: Ch. 7	28 DUE: Ch. 7 Reading Comprehension questions	<b>March 1</b>

Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8	2 MSU: Spring Break	3 MSU: Spring Break	4 MSU: Spring Break	5 MSU: Spring Break	6 MSU: Spring Break	7 MSU: Spring Break	8 MSU: Spring Break
9	9 MSU: Spring Break	10 MSU: Last day to drop with no grade reported	11 In class: EXAM 2 (Ch. 4-7)	12	13 In class: Ch. 9 • Re-orientation quiz opens	14	15
10	16	17	18 In class: Ch. 9	19 DUE: Ch. 9 Reading Comprehension questions	20 In class: Ch. 8	21	22
11	23	24	25 In class: Ch. 8 • Extra credit survey	26 DUE: Ch. 8 Reading Comprehension questions	27 In class: Ch. 10	28 DUE: Re- orientation quiz	29
12	30	31	April 1 In class: Ch. 10	2 DUE: Ch. 10 Reading Comprehension questions	3 In class: EXAM 3 (Ch. 8-10)	4	5
13	6	7	8 In class: Ch. 12	9	10 In class: Ch. 12 & Ch. 13	11 DUE: Ch. 12 Reading Comprehension questions	12
14	13	14	15 In class: Ch. 13	16 DUE: Ch. 13 Reading Comprehension questions	17 In class: Ch. 15 & 16	18	19

<b>Week</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
15	20	21	22 In class: Ch. 15 & 16	23 DUE: Ch. 15 & 16 Reading Comprehension questions	24 In class: EXAM 4 (Ch. 12-16)	25 DUE: SONA hours completed before 5pm DUE: Alternative to Research Participation Papers due before 5pm	26
16	27 MSU: Classes end	28 MSU: Finals week	29 Class does not meet during finals week	30	May 1 Class does not meet during finals week	2 7:45 – 9:45am FINAL EXAM (Ch. 1-10, 12-13, & 15-16)	3