

PSY 320: HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Kaston D. Anderson Jr. (any pronouns)

Time & location: MWF, 9:10am-10:00am

Class location: 146 Giltner Hall

Email: kaston@msu.edu

Office hours: Mondays, 10:00am-11:00am or by appointment

Office hours location: Psychology 238

Teaching Assistant

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Ethan Wright (he/him)

Email: wrightet@msu.edu

Office hours: By appointment only.

Course Description: Social, psychological, and biological factors affecting health, illness, and use of health services. Stress and coping processes, lifestyles, and illness management. In this course, we will consider health topics from multicultural and global perspectives.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students should be able to: (a) Identify the biological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects of health; (b) Understand the social-ecological determinants of health outcomes; and (c) Apply health psychology concepts and models in real-world settings.

Required Materials: The following materials are required for this course.

- **Course Textbook.** There is no textbook for this course.
- **Top Hat.** We will be using Top Hat extensively in this course. For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enroll in the course, please refer to the invitation sent to your university email address. If you already have a Top Hat account, you should see PSY 320 in your list of courses.

If you are new to Top Hat, go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>. Then, click "Search by school" and select "Michigan State University."

To enroll in the course, use join code **963746**. If a paid subscription is required, it will be listed at checkout when you enroll in our Top Hat course.

You must sign up for, and be enrolled in, the Top Hat course by **9/5/2025**. **The cost is \$26**. Starting September 8th, we will use Top Hat for reading quizzes and exams.

- **D2L.** We will use D2L for viewing grades, accessing additional reading assignments, and communicating course-related information.

If you have any trouble using D2L, you can contact the help desk. If you are unfamiliar with D2L, please complete the on-line tutorial: from the D2L page, click on help. A new screen will open; click on Student Quick Start Guide. Please direct all technical questions to the D2L help desk at 517.355.2345 or 800.500.1554

Prerequisites: None.

Resource Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) To make an appointment with a specialist, contact: (517) 353-9642 or TTY: (517) 355-1293. The website for RCPD is <https://.rcpd.msu.edu>

Grading Policy: Your grade in this course is based on the activities below. Please note that you will receive a study guide to help you prepare for each exam.

- Weekly reading quizzes: 25% of course grade
- Three (3) unit exams: 45% of course grade
- Outside class activities: 15% of course grade
- Final exam (non-comprehensive): 15% of course grade

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

89.5% - 100%: 4.0

84.5%-89.4%: 3.5

79.5%-84.4%: 3.0

74.5%-79.4%: 2.5

69.5%-74.4%: 2.0

64.5%-69.4%: 1.5

59.5%-64.4%: 1.0

0%-59.4%: 0.0

Course Outline

The course outline below is a guide. As we all know, life comes at us fast. Based on how the semester plays out (e.g., student needs, factors outside our control), we will modify the course calendar as needed.

August

- 25-29: Course Introduction; Introducing Health Psychology; Models in Health Psychology

September

- **1: Labor Day. No class.**
- 3-5: Research Methods
- 8-11: Ethics of Health Psychology
- **12: Exam 1**
- 15-19: Social Determinants of Health
- **17: Outside class activity (Walking Survey) Due Sep. 17 at 11:59pm on D2L.**
- **22-26: Outside class activity (Scavenger hunt). Due Sep. 26 at 11:59pm on D2L.**
- **29: Mental health day. No class.**

October

- 1-3: Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Eating-Related Disorders
- 6-8: Alcohol, Tobacco, & Illicit Drug Use; Stress

- **10: Exam 2**
- 13-17: Coping, Resilience, & Social Support
 - 13: Last day to withdraw from courses
- **20-21: Fall Break. No class.**
- 22-24: Pain Management; Chronic Conditions & Terminal Illness
- 27-29: Outside class activity: Psychoneuroimmunology. **Due Oct. 29 at 11:59pm on D2L.**
- **31: Exam 3**

November

- 3-7: Psychoneuroimmunology & Immune-Related Conditions; Healthcare Access & Utilization
- 10: Healthcare Systems Around the World
- 12-14: Outside class activity: Healthcare Systems
- 17: Healthcare Systems Around the World
- **19: Mental health day. No class.**
- 21: Healthcare Systems Around the World
- **24-28: Thanksgiving week. No class.**

December

- 1-6: Controversies & Future Directions in Health Psychology
- **11: Final Exam. 7:45am - 9:45am**

Course FAQs:

- **Can I email the Dr. Anderson to find out what I missed in class?**

Your best bet is to email the TA or connect with one of your peers.

- **Is there an honors option for this course?**

Yes. The guidelines are in D2L under Content.

- **I need help with understanding the course material. Whom should I contact?**

Email the TA or Dr. Anderson. You should get a response within two (2) business days.

You can always come to office hours! Dr. Anderson wants you to excel in the course.

- **I missed one of exams. Whom should I contact?**

Contact the Teaching Assistant to make up an exam. Please note that you can make up a exam only if you have a valid reason for not taking it on time.

- **When are my assignments due?**

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due at 11:59pm on the date noted in the syllabus. *Unless you have a valid excused absence, you will not be allowed to make up any assignment. There are no exceptions to this policy.*

- **Is there extra credit in this course?**

Yes. They will be made available at Dr. Anderson's discretion. Please do not ask for additional extra credit opportunities.

- **How should I take notes?**

You can take notes in any format that works best for you. Some students use mind maps, some create outlines, and others draw as a way of understanding course material. Dr. Anderson's lecture slides and content are his intellectual property. Review the last point in the *Academic Integrity* section below.

Academic Integrity

- Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, 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 and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)
- **If you are suspected of engaging in academic dishonesty, you will be required to give an in-person, closed-book oral defense of the material in front of the Professor with the Graduate Teaching Assistant present. If you do not attend—or pass—the oral defense, the academic integrity infraction will be reported to the University.**
- You are expected to adhere to the Spartan Code of Honor, which is as follows: *"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."*
- Unless authorized by the Professor, 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.
- You are not authorized to use any unauthorized Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules will receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to departmental and college administrators for further sanctions—up to and including expulsion. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the Academic Integrity webpage.)
- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted in this class. Therefore, any use of 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 AI tools will be reported to the University as an Academic Integrity violation.
- Course materials such as lectures are the intellectual property of the Professor. Additionally, it is important to safeguard the privacy of students taking this class and discussing complex issues. Recordings of the class, lecture notes, other materials created by the Professor, and screenshots of the class (including of online discussions) may not be shared with those not in the class or uploaded to other online environments. Impermissible use of class recordings and lecture notes or other material may subject the student to disciplinary action under the MSU Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (<https://ossa.msu.edu/srr>).

Lack of knowledge of the academic integrity policy is NOT a reasonable explanation for a violation.

Limits to Confidentiality

All 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. The Professor and Teaching Assistants must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it:

- 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

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.

Class Accommodations

It is your responsibility to provide the Professor with written documentation of your accommodations from the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD). 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](https://www.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 the Professor at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). **Requests received after this date will not be honored.** Please reference the following link for specific student responsibilities: <https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/accommodations/student-accommodations>.

Other Course Policies

Drops and Adds. The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Commercialized Lecture Notes. Commercialization of lecture notes and university-provided course materials is not permitted in this course.

Disruptive Behavior. Article 2.III.B.4 of the Academic Freedom Report (AFR) 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 AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty 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 through the Student Judicial Affairs office."

Attendance. Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.

Building Rapport. If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, you should notify the Professor or one of the Teaching Assistants 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 Professor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.