

PSY 101: Introductory Psychology (Fall 2025, Section 004H)

- Objectives:** Survey data, theory, and methods from the study of behavior and mental processes.
- Time and Place:** Classes are in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00pm-4:50pm, in Snyder Hall C20. Exams will be administered in person in the regular classroom.
- Course Homepage:** “FS25-PSY-101-004H - Introductory Psychology” on d2l.msu.edu
- Instructor:** Dr. Erik Altmann (ema@msu.edu)
- Office Hours:** Wednesdays from 12:00pm to 2:00pm or by appointment. Office hours will be held remotely via the Zoom link posted on the Course Homepage.
- Textbook:** *Introduction to Psychology* by the NOBA project. The textbook is open source (i.e., free) and available through the Course Homepage.

Course Schedule:

The schedule below lists the date, lecture topic, and required readings for each class, as well as exam dates.

The required readings are textbook modules, usually one per class but sometimes two or none. For most classes, the lecture will cover material related to the module(s), but for some classes the material will differ. You can do the required reading before or after class but try to keep up, so you don't have to do all the reading right before an exam.

The textbook contains additional modules, not listed below, that are recommended reading. Material from these modules will not be tested unless it also comes up in lecture or the required readings.

<i>Date</i>		<i>Lecture topics and textbook modules</i>
26-Aug	<i>Lecture:</i>	Introduction and scope
	<i>Module:</i>	History of Psychology
28-Aug	<i>Lecture:</i>	Methods
	<i>Modules:</i>	Research Designs <i>and</i> Thinking like a Psychological Scientist
2-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Memory and studying
	<i>Module:</i>	The Replication Crisis in Psychology

4-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Organization of the brain
	<i>Module:</i>	The Brain and Nervous System
9-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Neurons, sensation
	<i>Module:</i>	Sensation and Perception
11-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Perception
	<i>Module:</i>	Vision
16-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Attention
	<i>Modules:</i>	Attention <i>and</i> Failures of Awareness: The Case of Inattentional Blindness
18-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Sensemaking, final paper requirements
	<i>Module:</i>	<i>No module</i>
23-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Basic learning mechanisms, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	Conditioning and Learning
25-Sep	Exam 1	<i>Administered in person in regular classroom</i>
30-Sep	<i>Lecture:</i>	Sensory memory, working memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Memory (Encoding, Storage, Retrieval)
2-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Long-term memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Categories and Concepts
7-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Long-term memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Forgetting and Amnesia
9-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Long-term memory
	<i>Module:</i>	Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Biases
14-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Decision making, reasoning
	<i>Module:</i>	Intelligence
16-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Language
	<i>Module:</i>	Language and Language Use
21-Oct	<i>No class</i>	<i>Fall break</i>
23-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Development, aging
	<i>Module:</i>	Cognitive Development in Childhood
28-Oct	<i>Lecture:</i>	Personality, family influence, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	Personality Traits
30-Oct	Exam 2	<i>Administered in person in regular classroom</i>
4-Nov	<i>TBA</i>	<i>To be announced</i>

6-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Forming impressions
	<i>Module:</i>	Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
11-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Attributions, attitudes
	<i>Module:</i>	Social Cognition and Attitudes
13-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Power of the situation
	<i>Module:</i>	Conformity and Obedience
18-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Power of the situation
	<i>Module:</i>	The Psychology of Groups
20-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Schizophrenia
	<i>Module:</i>	History of Mental Illness
25-Nov	<i>Lecture:</i>	Depression
	<i>Module:</i>	Mood Disorders
27-Nov	<i>No class</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
2-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Serial killers
	<i>Module:</i>	Personality Disorders
4-Dec	<i>Lecture:</i>	Course themes, exam review
	<i>Module:</i>	<i>No module</i>
10-Dec, 10:00am to noon	Exam 3	<i>Administered in person in regular classroom</i>

Assessment:

Your grade in the course will be based on your total number of points out of 200 (see Grading Scale, below). Points come from exams, research participation, and a short final paper, as described below. There are no extra credit options.

Exams (166 points):

There will be three exams. Exams 1 and 2, each during a regular class period, are worth 50 points each and will cover specific segments of the course. Exam 3, during finals week, is worth 66 points and will cover the last segment of the course and some material from previous segments (i.e., it will be partially cumulative). Exam dates appear in the Course Schedule, above.

Exams will be administered in person in the regular classroom.

Any material covered in class or in the required readings listed in the Course Schedule could be tested on an exam, but I will give you some guidance about exam content in the class period

preceding each exam. Lectures will not be broadcast or recorded, but the slide decks and videos from class will be available on the Course Homepage starting the evening of class day.

Collaboration during exams is prohibited. Students who collaborate or otherwise violate academic integrity as defined in the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge are subject to a penalty grade, such as a score of 0 on an exam or a failing grade in the course.

Research Participation (14 points):

You will receive 2 points for each hour you spend participating in research conducted in the Psychology Department, up to a total of 14 points (7 hours).

To participate in research, you will use the SONA/HPR system, which you can access through the Course Homepage. When you register for an account on the system, **make sure to choose PSY 101-004H as the section**, or I will not receive your participation hours at the end of the semester.

For questions about SONA/HPR (e.g., problems signing in, issues with credits), contact the research participation coordinator, Ms. Audra Jeffrey, at jeffre22@msu.edu. **Research participation closes at 5:00pm on Friday, Dec. 5.** In lieu of research participation, you may write a paper; for details, contact me no later than the date of Exam 2.

Final Paper (20 points):

You will submit a short final paper. The requirements are posted on the Course Homepage, along with a sample paper. We will review the requirements in class on Thursday, Sept. 18, but you should read them soon, around the time we discuss research methods during the first full week of class. **The paper is due at 5:00pm on Friday, Dec. 5**, via upload to the Course Homepage.

Grading Scale:

Total points out of 200	Grade
0-85	0.0
86-100	1.0
101-115	1.5
116-130	2.0
131-145	2.5
146-160	3.0
161-175	3.5
176-200	4.0

Emergencies and Schedule Conflicts:

You may take a makeup exam if you must miss a regular exam because of a documented medical emergency, a schedule conflict that you know about in advance such as a religious holiday or sports travel, or any other reason allowed by university policy. Please notify me as soon as you can in case of a medical emergency and at least a week in advance in case of any other schedule conflict. If you miss an exam for any other reason or fail to notify me in advance in case of a schedule conflict, you should expect a score of 0 on that exam.

Makeup exams will usually be the day after the regular exam day. If you cannot take a makeup on that day, then, at my discretion, I may omit that exam from your final point total and increase the weight on your other exam scores.

Electronic Devices:

You may use your computer or other mobile device in class, with audio off, for class-related purposes such as taking notes. However, be aware that noise from typing can distract people within earshot and that images on your screen can distract people sitting behind you (for reasons we'll discuss in class when we learn about visual attention). If your device use is disrupting others in the class, I may ask you to move to the back of the classroom or to stop using your device.

Syllabus Changes:

Any changes to this syllabus or any other aspect of the course will be announced either in class or via email to the class listserv.