# PSY 339 (Section 001) Psychology of Women – 3.0 Credit Hours

# Fall Semester, 2025

# Monday and Wednesday 3:00pm – 4:20pm\*

# Psychology Bldg 118

# \*Lectures and/or due dates may change in weeks with break days and holidays – always check the schedule

Instructor: **Dr. Lucy Thompson** (she/her) – [aymorluc@msu.edu](mailto:aymorluc@msu.edu)Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. Psychology Building Suite 136 – Instead of knocking, please scan Dr. Thompson’s QR doorbell to check in on arrival!

Graduate TA: Laura Bauer (she/her) – [bauerla4@msu.edu](mailto:bauerla4@msu.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Psychology Building Rm 302

Undergraduate TA:Rachael Blanchard (she/her) – [blanc136@msu.edu](mailto:blanc136@msu.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.   
Book here and a Zoom link will be sent: <https://calendly.com/blanc136-msu/30min>

Undergraduate TA:Riley Clemons (she/her) – [clemon65@msu.edu](mailto:clemon65@msu.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.   
Book here and a Zoom link will be sent: <https://calendly.com/clemon65-msu/30min>

Undergraduate TA:Maddy Mastenbrook (she/her) – [mastenb7@msu.edu](mailto:mastenb7@msu.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Zoom link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/s/89046189239?pwd=R4kXJIiBGqFybHYbO3p64yQN6YyadY.1#success> Password: psy339-m

Undergraduate TA:Amanda Schadler (she/her) – [schadle8@msu.edu](mailto:schadle8@msu.edu)

Office hours: Thursdays 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97278923039> Password: 073263

Time Zone: **All times listed in the syllabus are East Lansing, MI time. Make sure to adjust if you are in a different time zone.**

E-Mail:All official course communication will happen with your MSU email account. You have an assigned TA who will be your first point of contact if you have any questions.

**Groups: TA’s are assigned based on your TA/Packback Discussion group number in D2L. To find your group number in D2L, click ‘Communication’, then ‘Groups’. The TA allocations are as follows:**

* Groups 1, 2, 3: Laura Bauer
* Groups 4, 5, 6: Rachael Blanchard
* Groups 7, 8, 9: Riley Clemons
* Groups 10, 11, 12: Madelyn Mastenbrook
* Groups 13, 14, 15: Amanda Schadler

**Who to contact about what:**

* If you have **a quick question about the course**, email your TA in the first instance. Your TA has taken this course and can help with questions and clarifications. You are more likely to get a quick response from your TA because they work with smaller groups of students. If your TA cannot answer your question, they will forward it for Dr. Thompson’s review. Dr. Thompson and your TA 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. Thompson or your TA in 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. Thompson’s office hours. One of her favorite things is discussing your ideas and interests!

E-Mail Policy:E-mail is the best way to get a hold of your assigned TA and/or Dr. Thompson. However, please use the following guidelines when communicating via email:

* **First, ask 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 you have all the information you need to succeed in this course. It is your responsibility to read that information.
* **Decide if 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!
* **Always use PSY 339 in the subject line.** That makes it clear you are a student in this course asking a question. This helps to prevent e-mails from going directly to the junk folder.
* When **using your phone to send an email**, remember you are writing to a professional person who is doing their job, not texting a 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 “Hi Dr. Thompson” or “Hello Dr. Thompson”.
  + For one of the TAs, you should say “Hi [First Name]” or “Hello [First Name]”.
* **Always sign off your e-mails with your full name**, so we know who you are.
* **Include a sign off like “Thanks”, or “Best wishes**” with your name. This is a sign of courtesy.
* **Proofread your e-mail.** Is your question clearly conveyed? Did autocorrect or ChatGPT make it sound super weird? If you expect your professor to put effort into their emails, do the same in yours!
* **Be polite.**
  + Please do not use abusive email behaviors.
    - For example, typing the word “URGENT” in the subject line.
    - You may think you are highlighting the actionable items in your email, but this shouty subject line implies that your message is more important than any other correspondence the receiver might have received, and may be viewed as a sign that you do not respect or value the receivers’ ability to manage their priorities.
      * This guidance is adapted from Forbes - <https://www.forbes.com/pictures/egfj45ili/abusive-subject-line-behavior/?sh=21f183a3662d>
* When a TA or professor responds to help you via email, it is customary 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 line with course policies 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](https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/email-etiquette-in-college/) and [this link](https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087).
* 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 e-mail and course site regularly! During the course, we will e-mail you occasionally and post announcements on the course site often with important information and reminders. Please read these e-mails and announcements as soon as you receive them, and please set up D2L to forward course emails and announcements to your email address. See D2L for information on how to do this.**

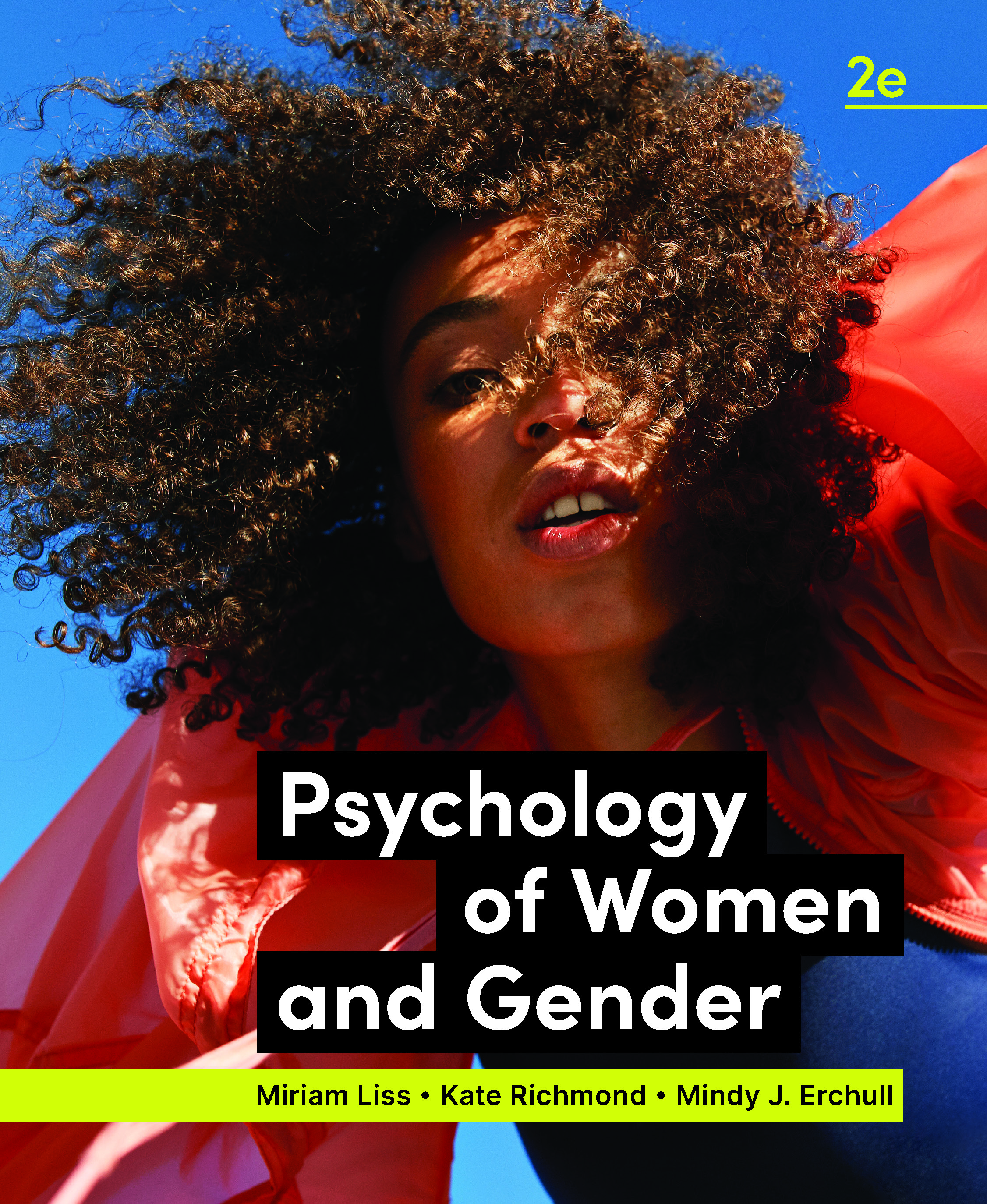
Technical Assistance: Dr. Thompson does not expect any of us to be perfect with the various forms of technology we will be using for this course. If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem, you can:

* Visit the D2L Help Site – <https://help.d2l.msu.edu/>
* Call the D2L Help Line – (517) 432-6200 or (844) 678-6200
* Visit the MSU Tech Support Site – <https://tech.msu.edu/support/help/>
* Call the Tech Support Line – (517) 432-6200 or toll free (844) 678-6200
* Go to Packback Support: <https://help.packback.co/hc/en-us>

Course Webpage:On D2L (<https://d2l.msu.edu/>). This page will provide you with the notes for the lectures, readings, assignments, discussion prompts and links, grades, and other important class information.

Required Textbook:Psychology of Women and Gender, by Liss, Richmond, and Erchull (2nd Edition, 2024). This is available as an eBook or in print.

* **eBook:** The cheapest way to access this book is to purchase access to the digital Norton Illuminate edition here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/psychwomen2>
* **Print\*:** New print copies (hard copy) also include access to the digital version. These are available from the publisher: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9781324070016> and from the MSU bookstore: <https://www.bkstr.com/spartanbookstore/product/psychology-of-women-and-gender--second-edition--211274-1>
  + \*If you are ordering a print copy, make sure you order a new copy or you will not have access to the valuable interactive resources provided with the digital edition. These are not required for the course, but we will be looking at examples, and they will enrich your understanding of the content.



Course Overview:Psychological knowledge is largely derived from androcentric narratives about human behavior and its causes. Within mainstream Euro-American psychology, women have not until recently been viewed as worthy of study within their own right. Instead, knowledge about womanhood has been inferred from established knowledge about men. Definitions of ‘men’ and ‘women’ have also typically reproduced inaccurate and essentialist assumptions about sex and gender. The ‘psychology of women’ developed out of a need to expand these limited narratives. In this class, we will explore how the psychology of women conceptualizes and studies womanhood, and develop critical readings of key topics including gender socialization, development, sexuality, health, relationships, and work.

Course Goals:At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify, describe, contrast, apply, and analyze key theories, concepts, research, and methods relevant to the psychology of women.
2. Critically evaluate conclusions made by psychologists and other social scientists about women and gender.
3. Apply and relate ideas from the course to examples from contemporary society through discussion, interaction, and collaboration with your peers and instructor.

Honors Option:There is an honors option for this course, which involves creating a portfolio of work for a nonprofit organization on a topic related to the discipline of feminist psychology. **Review the ‘Honors Option Information’ module in D2L and follow the posted instructions if you are interested in completing this.**

Course Mode: PSY 339 Section 001 is an in-person course. This means our class meets primarily in-person.

Unit Structure: The course is broken up into three Units. Each Unit is broken into weekly modules with content on the topic for that week. At the conclusion of each Unit there is a consolidation week for the Unit Exam and Discussion Boards, which cover the topics from each Unit. All assignments in Unit consolidation weeks will be completed online via the D2L course. See the **Assignments** and **Evaluation Criteria** sub-sections below for details and see the **course schedule** at the end of the syllabus for due dates and times.

Weekly Structure:

* Each week, the D2L course consists of an overview, topics, activities, and checklist page.
* **Overview:** This page will introduce the week’s topics and learning objectives.
* **Topics:** This page will include the readings, lecture notes, and media to support your learning growth during the course.
* **Activities:** This page will ask you to make products – discussion posts, assignments, etc. – or take quizzes. These are designed to synthesize and represent what you have learned. This is where you will find links for everything due that week.
* **Checklist:** This page will help you keep track of the weekly content and ensure you have completed all tasks.
* Each week’s **content** (D2L Pages including lecture notes, readings, etc.) will open at **7pm Friday before the week is set to begin.**
* Course **activities** for each Unit Content week (i.e. Discussion assignments, Quizzes) will be completed in the D2L course. Assignments will **open at 7am Monday** at the start of the week and **close at 4pm Friday** the week they are due.
  + For example, Week 4 consists of the dates 9/15 – 9/19.
  + Therefore, Week 4 **content** will open at 7pm on Friday (9/12).
  + The **activities** due in Week 4 (Packback #3 & Quiz #3) will open at 7am on Monday (9/15) and close at 4pm on Friday (9/19).
  + **All due dates and times are listed in the schedule at the end of this syllabus** – some weeks have extended deadlines due to holidays, so: If in doubt, check the schedule!
* **One of Dr. Thompson’s goals is to help you find rest (maybe even some fun!) on your weekend, so the weekly structure is designed to help achieve that goal.** You can use your weekend however you see fit – catching up on previous content, getting ahead on the next week’s content, or doing absolutely nothing for the course – but please know that is why **quizzes and Packback assignments close at 4pm on Fridays**.
* Each week you will be expected to complete the readings, come to lectures, participate in the discussions, and take the quizzes or exams. As a 3-credit, 16-week course, **you should plan to spend about 8-10 hours each week on course material**. This should look like 2 hours of reading the textbook and taking notes on the readings, 2 hours to read/take notes on the discussion readings and/or prepare Packback discussion posts, 3 hours to attend and take notes on lecture material, 1 hour to review the previous material, and 1-2 hours for quizzes and/or exams.

**Assignments:**

**There are many assignment drops integrated into this course in place of makeups**. These drops have been integrated to allow you flexibility and grace in unexpected situations, and to choose the topics you study. All students get the same number of drops and can use them however they wish.

Assignments (and therefore drops) are split up according to the different topics covered in the course. **This allows you to approach the course in a way that suits you, including:**

* + **Avoiding topics** you would prefer not to study **without having to disclose or justify your reasons** (i.e., choosing to drop specific topics that may be distressing or uninteresting to you)
  + **Focusing on specific** **topics of interest** to you (i.e., studying the same specific topics for your assignments throughout the semester and dropping the others)
  + **Maximizing your opportunity to** **score the best grade possible** using drops (i.e., studying all topics, completing all assignments, and dropping your lowest scores)
  + **Strategically managing your workload** throughout the semester based on your own preferences and responsibilities (e.g., frontloading by studying the earlier topics and lightening the load at the end of the semester)
  + **Dropping topics if you need to miss a week for unexpected reasons.**

This approach has been designed to give you control and flexibility in terms of how you approach the course, and grace when you need it. **You are responsible for reading the information below carefully so that you understand what is required** **and complete the work on time and according to the guidance.**

## Evaluation Criteria:

* **Orientation Quiz:** This quiz assesses your understanding of the course policies as outlined in the syllabus and course orientation. You can take the Orientation Quiz as many times as you like in order to maximize your score. **Be sure to read this syllabus first!** The Orientation Quiz is worth 10 points and determines 2.5% of your final grade. It will open 8/25/25 at 7am and will close 10/3/25 at 4pm.
* **Packback Discussion Posts:** Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback platform will be used for online discussion to raise consciousness about class topics. Packback is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on what we are covering in class and relate topics to broader examples. Your participation in Packback will be counted towards your final grade for a total of 60 points (15% of your total grade). See the course schedule at the end of the syllabus and see the Packback instructions/details posted on the D2L course webpage for instructions and expectations.

Below are some highlights:

* + **How to Register on Packback:** **You can only access Packback from inside the D2L course!** Packback Registration is part of your Week 1 Activities, so please follow the instructions in D2L.
  + You can access Packback in D2L by navigating to **Content > Packback Information > Packback Questions**.
  + **You must use your MSU email address to register for Packback.** Once you click the link, follow the steps and you will have access to your Packback community!
  + **Clear your cookies and make sure cookies are enabled before you attempt to register for Packback. D2L has strict security protocols that can give you an error if you do not do this.**
  + **Also, try using a different browser if you are getting an error code.**
  + If you are not sure how to do this, contact the MSU IT helpdesk and select help with D2L.
  + Please **see your assigned TA in office hours** if you are still having problems, and they will help you.
  + **How to Get Help From the Packback Team:** If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, visit <https://help.packback.co/hc/en-us>
  + If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.com).
  + Unit Content Weeks have a Packback assignment worth 10 points (11 Packbacks in total). Your **lowest five Packback scores of the semester will be dropped**. Only your **top six Packback scores** will be counted towards your final grade for a maximum **total of 60 points** (15% of your total grade).
    1. **You must join and participate in the Packback group that matches your Packback/TA group number in D2L.**
    2. The prompt/guide for each Packback will be available in a PDF version, along with that week’s content, at 7pm on the Friday before the week is set to begin. The actual Packback post will open at 7am Monday during the start of the week and close at 4pm on Friday to end the week.
    3. In the spirit of **consciousness raising**, we are looking for you to find real-world examples of the issues raised in the discussion readings to raise consciousness about these issues.
    4. In order to earn credit for your Packback posts, you should submit the following per each deadline period. Note that you can earn 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10 points for each Packback depending on how many posts you make successfully. Each component of the Packback assignment listed below is all or nothing for its points. Specifically, **partial credit for individual Packback weekly components (e.g., 2 out of 4 points for a response to Dr. Thompson) is not given.**
       - 1 response to Dr. Thompson’s pinned Packback post with a minimum Curiosity Score of 75, worth 4 points.
       - 1 open-ended Question posted in your group with a minimum Curiosity Score of 50, worth 2 points.
       - 1 response to another student’s Question with a minimum Curiosity Score of 75, worth 4 points.
  + Because the Packback assignments are worth 10 points each, and only 6 count toward your final grade, **we expect you to put effort into these assignments**. **If a post does not meet the assignment criteria provided in the prompt, your TA will moderate it.** **Your post could be moderated any time until end of day Monday after the deadline.** This is because your TA needs time to look at posts submitted at the last minute on the Friday deadline, and they are not expected to work during weekends.
    - * **Moderated posts do not earn credit. It is your responsibility to check and make sure your posts have not been moderated.**
      * More about moderation here:
        + <https://help.packback.co/hc/en-us/articles/360054366631-Introduction-to-Packback-s-Auto-Flagging-Moderation>)
      * If one of your posts has been moderated, **you have until 7am on Wednesday following each deadline to fix your post and get it unmoderated.** Once grades have been posted, you will not be allowed to fix moderated posts or earn credit for them.
  + **Packback grades will be posted to D2L by the Friday following each deadline. This is to give you time to fix any moderated posts and give your TA’s time to review your work.**
  + **Makeup Packbacks:** **There are no makeup Packbacks.** This is because of the large number of drops (5) and the extended time that each assignment is open (7 days).
    1. **This is capped at five total drops with no makeups because any further drops mean you have not had the opportunity to demonstrate a sufficient level of mastery consistent with the course goals.**
    2. **Use your drops wisely! Look at over the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for due dates and plan accordingly. For example, a common strategy is to save one or two Packback drops for the end of the semester when you are juggling more course work.**
* **Quizzes:** Each Unit content week has a quiz worth 10 points. There are a total of eleven quizzes. Your 3 lowest scoring quizzes will be dropped. Specifically, your top 8 quiz scores will be counted towards your final grade for a total of 80 points (20% of your total grade).
  + See the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for due dates.
  + Guidance for the Quizzes is as follows:
    - Each quiz will open at 7am on Monday and will close at 4pm on Friday the week it is due. Note that is East Lansing, MI time. Make sure to adjust if you are in a different time zone.
    - To access each quiz, go to the activities page for that week or click directly on "Assessments" then "Quizzes".
    - **You can take the quizzes as many times as you like throughout the week they are open.**
    - These quizzes are designed to take 10 minutes to complete 10 questions. Each quiz question is worth 1 point each. To adjust for students with extended time via their VISAs, once you start each quiz you will have 30 minutes to complete the questions.
    - Each quiz will close at 4pm on the Friday it is due (again, East Lansing, MI time), so if you start at 3:55pm on the Friday due date you will only have 5 minutes to take the quiz.
    - Quizzes will be graded automatically by D2L and you will be able to see the questions to help you study and potentially re-take the quiz if you would like to obtain a higher score. Again, you can take the quizzes as many times as you like throughout the week they are open.
  + **Makeup Quizzes:** **There are no makeup Quizzes.** This is because of the large number of drops (3) and the extended time that each assignment is open (7 days).
    - **This is capped at three total drops with no makeups because any further drops mean you have not had the opportunity to demonstrate a sufficient level of mastery consistent with the course goals.**
    - **Use your drops wisely! Look at over the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for due dates and plan accordingly. For example, a common strategy is to save one or two Packback drops for the end of the semester when you are juggling more course work.**
* **Unit Mini Exams:** Unit Mini Exams will be given in person. Unit Mini Exams are given in the consolidation week at the end of each Unit of the course. See the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for dates and times. Any material from lectures, readings, videos, and related materials are fair game for exam questions. Each Mini Exam will consist of **20 multiple-choice questions worth 1.5 points each**. Therefore, **each Mini Exam is worth 30 points** (7.5% of your final grade). Mini Exams are designed to take **25 minutes** to complete. Each Mini Exam covers a different topic from each unit. There are 11 topics covered during the semester, so there will be 11 Mini Exams in total across all three units. **Your three lowest scoring Mini Exams will be dropped.** Therefore, **your eight highest scores** for the Mini Exams across the semester will account for a **maximum of 240 points** (60% of your final grade).
* The Mini Exams will be distributed as follows:
  + **Unit 1 Mini Exams will be in Week 6 and are divided into Mini Exams 1, 2, 3, & 4.**
    - Mini Exam 1 will cover Week 2/Chapter 1.
    - Mini Exam 2 will cover Week 3/Chapter 2.
    - Mini Exam 3 will cover Week 4/Chapter 3.
    - Mini Exam 4 will cover Week 5/Chapter 4.
  + **Unit 2 Mini Exams will be in Week 11 and are divided into Mini Exams 5, 6, 7, & 8.**
    - Mini Exam 5 will cover Week 7/Chapter 5.
    - Mini Exam 6 will cover Week 8/Chapter 6.
    - Mini Exam 7 will cover Week 9/Chapter 7.
    - Mini Exam 8 will cover Week 10/Chapter 8.
  + **Unit 3 Mini Exams will be in Week 15 and are divided into Mini Exams 9, 10, & 11.**
    - Mini Exam 9 will cover Week 12/Chapter 9.
    - Mini Exam 10 will cover Week 13/Chapter 10.
    - Mini Exam 11 will cover Week 14/Chapter 12.
* **Mini Exam guidance is as follows:**
  + Mini Exams are **shorter** than regular exams. They essentially constitute **one large exam broken into smaller parts** to allow you to choose which topics you would like to focus on.
    - This helps you, because it **removes the mental work** of figuring out which topic each question relates to (as would be the case if all topics were included in one large exam).
  + All Mini Exam sessions will begin in our classroom at **3:00 p.m. and end at 4:20 p.m. on the specified date.**
  + Exam sessions will begin with **detailed instructions**. Arrive on time and do not miss these.
  + Each mini exam is designed to take **25 minutes** to complete, and students will be given the **whole 80-minute exam session** to complete these:
    - In Units 1 & 2, we cannot fit all 4 Mini Exams into one 80-minute exam session, so these are split across 2 days.
    - Therefore, **you technically get extra time** for the first 8 Mini Exams by having them split across 2 sessions.
    - In **Units 1 and 2**, the first two Mini Exams will be given on Monday and the second two will be given on Wednesday:
      * **Unit 1:**
        + **Monday** = Mini Exams 1 & 2
        + **Wednesday** = Mini Exams 3 & 4
      * **Unit 2:**
        + **Monday** = Mini Exams 5 & 6
        + **Wednesday** = Mini Exams 7 & 8
    - In **Unit 3**, there will be 3 Mini Exams given on Wednesday.
      * + **Wednesday** = Mini Exams 9, 10 & 11
        + Note that many students drop at least one of the Unit 3 Mini Exams
    - Again, **see the schedule at the end of the syllabus for all dates and times**.
  + The Mini Exams for each session will be given in **one exam booklet**, and questions will be numbered **continuously**:
    - E.g. If there are two Mini Exams with 20 questions each, the first Mini Exam will be **questions 1 – 20** and the second Mini Exam will be **questions 21 – 40**.
    - If there are three Mini Exams with 20 questions each, the first Mini Exam will be **questions 1 – 20**, the second Mini Exam will be **questions 21 – 40**, and the third Mini Exam will the **questions 41 – 60**.
    - Question numbers will be clearly labelled in the exam booklet. Make sure you answer the corresponding question numbers on the scantron form.
  + Due to the drops, **you may not wish to complete all the mini exams in each exam session**. This is fine. You should simply skip to the Mini Exam you plan on taking:
    - E.g. If you are taking Mini Exam #2 but dropping Mini Exam #1, you should skip to Mini Exam 2 and complete only these questions on the Scantron. Simply fill out the corresponding question numbers on the scantron form.
  + A **study guide** will be posted for the mini exams.
  + **BRING PENCILS AND AN ERASER!** Exams are completed on paper using a Scantron form. Make sure you bring sharp pencils and an eraser to correct any errors.
  + 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 smart watches**.
  + 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 do this once the first student has completed and turned in their exam(s).
    - Wait at the entrance of the room to see Dr. Thompson for instructions if you arrive late for the Exam.
  + You need to show your MSU ID in order to turn in your exams. Make sure you remember this.
  + See the course schedule at the end of syllabus for dates and times. Please note that all times are East Lansing, MI time.
  + For those of you with **extended time via your RCPD accommodations**, please email Dr. Thompson a week before each exam to work out the appropriate accommodations.
  + Exam **grades will be posted online** once they are available from the scoring office and Dr. Thompson has reviewed and corrected any potential scoring errors.
  + Exam questions will not be posted after, but you may review your exams with Dr. Thompson during office hours. **However, Mini Exams for each Unit must be reviewed before the next Unit’s Mini Exams are given. For example, after the Unit 2 Mini Exams have been given, you are no longer permitted to review the Unit 1 Mini Exams.**
  + **Makeup Mini Exams:** Plan to complete your Mini Exams during the day and time they are given. No makeup Mini 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 grief absence). **If you have a valid reason or approved absence, you must notify Dr. Thompson via email with supporting documentation within 24 hours of the closure of the given Mini Exam. You must include supporting documentation with any request for a makeup or extension for this to be considered.** **Failure to do so will result in you not being allowed to take the exam.**
    - **If your request is approved, your instructor will send you the arrangements, including exam time and location. You must attend at the specified time in order to complete the makeup mini exam.**
    - Also, keep in mind the drops that are already built into the course for unexpected situations that are not considered valid reasons for an approved absence (for example, forgetting about an exam, car trouble, or vacations).
    - If you cannot take an exam because of a religious holiday, you must notify Dr. Thompson **by 9/5/25**.
    - If you cannot take an exam because of required participation in a university-sanctioned event (e.g., a commitment for a sports **team** - club sports are not included), or some other acceptable University-sanctioned event, you must provide official documentation and notify Dr. Thompson at **least 2 weeks prior to the event**.
* **Final Packback Discussion:** The Final Packback Discussion Assignment is worth 10 points (2.5% of your final grade). This will be different to the Packbacks completed during the semester. See the Final Packback Discussion guidelines posted in the D2L course for instructions and expectations. The Final Packback Discussion is due at the end of your Unit 3 Consolidation Week. See the course schedule at the end of the syllabus for due dates.
  + **Makeup Final Packback Discussion:** No makeup will be given for the Final Packback assignment unless you have a valid reason **and** supporting documentation (such as a doctor’s note), or other type of MSU-approved absence (such as grief absence). **If you have a valid reason or approved absence, you must notify Dr. Thompson via email with supporting documentation before 5pm on the due date of the Final Packback. You must include supporting documentation with any request for an extension for this to be considered.** **Failure to do so will result in you not being permitted to complete the Final Packback assignment.**
    - **Approved extensions will be set for 48 hours after the due date of the Final Packback due to grading turnaround times**, so you need to be prepared to complete the assignment within this timeframe.
* **Extra Credit:** You may accumulate an additional 1% extra course points by participating in ongoing research. All such participation will be through the Department of Psychology’s HPR (Human Participation in Research) / SONA program. You will receive 0.5 extra-credit points for each half-hour that you spend participating in an experiment or study, up to a maximum of 4 extra-credit points (or, 4 total hours = 8 half-hours). The SONA system will close on December 5th, 2025, at 5pm. You must complete your hours before the system closes. **More detailed information for setting up your HPR / SONA account and how to sign up for research hours is provided in the D2L course under ‘Research Experience/SONA Info’.**
  + **Alternative to research participation:** If you do not wish to participate in psychological research for extra credit, you may write a research-based paper that is designed for this situation. More details about the paper requirements will be posted on D2L under ‘Research Experience/SONA Info’. **All papers are due by November 21st, 2025, at 4pm**. The assignment folder will close promptly at 4pm, and no papers will be accepted after this. **There will be no exceptions to this rule.**
  + Turnitin will be used. Please see the **‘Use of Turnitin’** section of this syllabus for more information.

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

| **Requirement** | **Points** | **% of final grade** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Orientation Quiz | 10 | 2.5% |
| Top 6 (out of 11) Packback Discussion Posts | 60 | 15% |
| Top 8 (out of 11) Quizzes | 80 | 20% |
| Top 8 (out of 11) Mini-Exams 1-11 | 240 | 60% |
| Final Packback Discussion Post | 10 | 2.5% |
| **Total** | **400** | **100%** |
| **Extra Credit** | **4** | **+1% potentially** |
|  |  |  |

**The grading scale is as follows:**

| **Total Points** | **Grade** |
| --- | --- |
| 358 – 400 | 4.0 |
| 338 – 357.99 | 3.5 |
| 318 – 337.99 | 3.0 |
| 298 – 317.99 | 2.5 |
| 278 – 297.99 | 2.0 |
| 258 – 277.99 | 1.5 |
| 238 – 257.99 | 1.0 |
| 0 – 237.99 | 0.0 |

Policy on grade changes: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 an **error** was made in calculating your grade, please let Dr. Thompson know. Your grade will be checked and changed if an error was made. **This is the only circumstance under which your grade will change.** Under no circumstance will your grade be “bumped”, or a special extra credit opportunity be given. Please don’t ask. **There will be no exceptions.**

Cheating: Any student caught cheating on an exam, cheating on a quiz, plagiarizing within their paper, or plagiarizing within a discussion post will **receive a zero for the course, and be reported to the University. This includes sharing answers in any form via group messaging applications like GroupMe.**

Academic Honesty:Any and all forms of cheating are unacceptable. Students are expected to complete quizzes, exams, and written assignments individually and without outside help. Any student caught cheating on quizzes, exams, or written 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](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities/article-two-academic-rights-and-responsibilities.html)) 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](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/regulations/general-student-regulations.html); [the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/regulations/student-group-regs-rulings-policies-ordinances/integrity-of-scholarship-and-grades.html); and [Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](https://trustees.msu.edu/bylaws-ordinances-policies/ordinances/ordinance-17.00.html). 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. Thompson 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>

**Policy on Use of A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) Tools:** The policy of this class is that **you** must be the creator of all work you submit for a grade. Because **‘Writing is Thinking’**, and we are all here to think, this is particularly important for written assignments. Assistive A.I. tools are integrated ethically and fairly into this course via the Packback discussion platform to provide you with writing support as you create your work. This assistive A.I. tool is therefore considered an authorized A.I. tool in this course. The use of other/generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not authorized or permitted for any work submitted for a grade in this class; therefore, any use of unauthorized A.I. tools for work submitted for a grade in this class will 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 A.I. 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. Thompson, via email, by **9/5/25.**

Note taking and recording: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.

Privacy: It is important to promote a vibrant exchange of ideas while respecting the privacy of students taking this class. Comments taken out of context are often misleading and undercut the environment of trust and respect that is essential for learning. Given these factors and the importance of supporting one another, recordings of the class, lecture notes, other materials created by the instructor, and screenshots of the class (including online discussions) should not be uploaded to other online environments. Impermissible use of class recordings and lecture notes or other material may violate the rights of other students and the MSU Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (<https://ossa.msu.edu/srr>).

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](https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued an Accommodations Letter. Please email this letter to Dr. Thompson at the start of the term and/or three weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.  If you require testing accommodations (e.g., additional time.) you must contact Dr. Thompson and present your Accommodations Letter **at least two weeks before the test date.**

Academic Assistance:This is a university, and you are expected to produce college level work. If you have any trouble with the material covered in class, please make an appointment to speak with Dr. Thompson, or one of the course assistants. Additionally, the university has resources to assist students, such as the Campus Tutorial Center, the Campus Writing Center, Adult Student Services, and more. A lot is expected of you, but the university wants to help you to produce your best work.

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

This is an MSU mandate that Dr. Thompson and the Graduate TA for this course 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 these University Offices.** That being said, Dr. Thompson does not want to further the culture of silence surrounding abuse and sexual violence in this class. The resources listed below can be accessed for free should you need them and are not mandated university reporters:

MSU Safe Place <http://safeplace.msu.edu/> MSU Center for Survivors <https://centerforsurvivors.msu.edu/>

NRCDV <http://www.nrcdv.org/> NNEVD <http://www.nnedv.org/>

NCDSV <http://www.ncdsv.org/> MCEDSV <http://www.mcedsv.org/>

RAINN <https://rainn.org/> The Joyful Heart Foundation <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/>

Futures Without Violence <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/> No More <http://nomore.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 all 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>) 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 or reader (depending on the course modality), being supportive and empathetic, and providing constructive feedback. We will focus on these characteristics throughout the semester.
* **Student-instructor interactions:** As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Dr. Thompson views all students as colleagues and collaborators and approaches all interactions this way. If you need support with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you contact Dr. Thompson as soon as possible so she can work with you on this.
* **Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities/article-two-academic-rights-and-responsibilities.html) 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](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities/article-two-academic-rights-and-responsibilities.html) 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](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/regulations/general-student-regulations.html) 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. 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. Thompson reserves 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 Dr. Thompson 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 notice of any changes. Also, please know that you are responsible for keeping track of all due dates.**

**We look forward to learning with you this semester!**

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| **PSY 339 (Section 001) Course Schedule for Fall 2025** | | | |
| **Week #: Dates** | **Topic(s)** | **Readings** | **Activities: Due Dates** |
| **Unit 1 Content** | **Unit 1 Content** | **Unit 1 Content** | **Unit 1 Content** |
| 1: 8/25 (Monday) | Syllabus; Getting to know the course | Syllabus; D2L Course Information Module | **Register for Packback** |
| 1: 8/27 (Wednesday) | Introduction – A Feminist Psychology Part 1\*\*  \*\*Due to the Labor Day holiday in Week 2, we will cover the first part of Week 2’s content in Wednesday’s lecture. | Chapter 1 (Week 2) and any posted readings on D2L  (Week 2 Content will open early) |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2: 9/1 (Monday) | Labor Day – **No Class** | Chapter 1 and any posted readings on D2L | **Labor day on 9/1 - No work due this week (Week 2 assignments due in Week 3)** |
| 2: 9/3 (Wednesday) | Introduction – A Feminist Psychology Part 2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 3: 9/8 (Monday) | Power and Privilege | Chapter 2 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #1 & Quiz #2: Friday 9/12, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packbacks #1 & #2: Friday 9/12, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 3: 9/10 (Wednesday) | Power and Privilege |
|  |  |  |  |
| 4: 9/15 (Monday) | Research Methods: The Case of Gender Similarities and Differences | Chapter 3 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #3: Friday 9/19, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #3: Friday 9/19, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 4: 9/17 (Wednesday) | Research Methods: The Case of Gender Similarities and Differences |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5: 9/22 (Monday) | Beyond Binaries | Chapter 4 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #4: Friday 9/26, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #4: Friday 9/26, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 5: 9/24 (Wednesday) | Beyond Binaries |
| **Unit 1 Consolidation** | | | |
| 6: 9/29 (Monday) | **Mini Exams #1 & #2** | Mini Exams #1, #2, #3, & #4 cover material (readings & lectures) for chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 | **Mini Exams #1 & #2: Monday 9/29, 3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.**  **Mini Exams #3 & #4: Wednesday 10/1, 3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.**  **Orientation Quiz: Friday 10/3, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 6: 10/1 (Wednesday) | **Mini Exams #3 & #4** |
| **Week #: Dates** | **Topic(s)** | **Readings** | **Activities: Due Dates** |
| **Unit 2 Content** | **Unit 2 Content** | **Unit 2 Content** | **Unit 2 Content** |
| 7: 10/6 (Monday) | Gender Socialization | Chapter 5 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #5: Friday 10/10, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #5: Friday 10/10, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 7: 10/8 (Wednesday) | Gender Socialization |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8: 10/13 (Monday) | Women’s Bodies | Chapter 6 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #6: Friday 10/17, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #6: Friday 10/17, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 8: 10/15 (Wednesday) | Women’s Bodies |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9: 10/20 (Monday) | Break Day: **No Class!** | Chapter 7 and any posted readings on D2L | **Break days on 10/20 & 10/21 - No work due this week (Week 9 assignments due in Week 10)** |
| 9: 10/22 (Wednesday) | Sexuality and Sexualization |
|  |  |  |  |
| 10: 10/27 (Monday) | Relationships | Chapter 8 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #7 & #8: Friday 10/31, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packbacks #7 & #8: Friday 10/31, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 10: 10/29 (Wednesday) | Relationships |
| **Unit 2 Consolidation** |  |  |  |
| 11: 11/3 (Monday) | **Mini Exams #5 & #6** | Mini Exams #5, #6, #7, & #8 cover material (readings & lectures) for chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8 | **Mini Exams #5 & #6: Monday 11/3, 3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.**  **Mini Exams #7 & #8: Wednesday 11/5, 3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.** |
| 11: 11/5 (Wednesday) | **Mini Exams #7 & #8** |
| **Week #: Dates** | **Topic(s)** | **Readings** | **Activities: Due Dates** |
| **Unit 3 Content** | **Unit 3 Content** | **Unit 3 Content** | **Unit 3 Content** |
| 12: 11/10 (Monday) | Reproduction and Parenting | Chapter 9 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #9: Friday 11/14, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #9: Friday 11/14, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 12: 11/12 (Wednesday) | Reproduction and Parenting |
|  |  |  |  |
| 13: 11/17 (Monday) | Work | Chapter 10 and any posted readings on D2L | **Quiz #10: Friday 11/21, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #10: Friday 11/21, 4:00 p.m.**  **Alternative to SONA extra credit: Friday 11/21, 4:00 p.m.** |
| 13: 11/19 (Wednesday) | Work |
|  |  |  |  |
| 14: 11/24 (Monday) | Gender-Based Violence | Chapter 12 and any posted readings on D2L | **Thanksgiving on 11/27 & 11/28 - No work due this week (Week 14 assignments due in Week 15)** |
| 14: 11/26 (Wednesday) | Gender-Based Violence |
| **Unit 3 Consolidation** |  |  |  |
| 15: 12/1 (Monday) | **No Class:** Study time for Week 15 Assignments | Mini Exams #9, #10, & #11, which cover material (readings & lectures) for chapters 9, 10, & 12 | **Mini Exams #9, #10, & #11: Wednesday 12/3, 3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.**  **Quiz #11: Friday 12/5, 4:00 p.m.**  **Packback #11: Friday 12/5, 4:00 p.m.**  **Final Packback Discussion: Friday 12/5, 4:00 p.m.**  **SONA System closes at 5pm on 12/5** |
| 15: 12/3 (Wednesday) | **Mini Exams #9, #10, #11** |
| **FINALS** |  |  |  |
| 16: 12/8 (Monday) | **No class** | **NO FINAL EXAM** | **NO FINAL EXAM** |
| 16: 12/10 (Wednesday) | **No class** |