

**Introduction to Psychology**  
**PSY 101-001**  
**1281 Anthony Hall**  
**Monday & Wednesday 10:20 – 12:10**

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**Instructor**

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**Course Description**

This course is designed to give you a broad overview of the field of psychology. Psychology as a field has had a rather short history. However, its impact on our current understanding of the human experience is quite significant. In this course we will review the basic methodology, theories, and findings in the field. Psychology contains several different subfields, such as sensation and perception, memory, neuroscience, social psychology, and biological psychology. This course will survey both seminal findings and current research in many of the subfields of psychology. Because this is an introductory course, it is designed to provide a basic understanding of the principles of the field but will not go into great depth on any of them. If you become interested in a given area, the instructor and graduate teaching assistant can recommend future classes to take or faculty with whom to work.

## Readings

The textbook for this course is *Psychological Science*, by Gazzaniga, Heatherton & Halpern, Fifth Edition. The textbook is available at the bookstore and online retailers. There are also several different versions of the book (hardcover, paperback, loose-leaf, and E-book). Any of these are acceptable.

## Exams

There will be four exams in this course. You will be responsible for all material associated with the course on the exams. This includes material presented in lecture, class discussions, and information from the book. Note that the lectures and book readings will not be entirely redundant. Some material will be presented in lecture that is not covered in the book and likewise, some material from the book will not be covered in lecture. The exams will focus primarily on material covered in lecture, but you are responsible for all of this information. All exams will consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions.

**Guidelines for the day of the exam:** You must be on time. After the first student completes the exam, no more exams will be handed out. This means that you will not be permitted to take the exam and will be given a zero for that exam. 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 and please do not wear hats. If you are wearing a baseball cap, you will be required to turn it backward. Once the exam has begun, there will be no talking or disruptions. Leaving the room is reserved for emergency bathroom breaks only.

**Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will only be given in case of: 1) a documented medical or family emergency, or 2) a documented scheduled conflict, such as a religious holiday or required participation in a university-sanctioned event. In either case, you must send an email to the professor as soon as you are aware of this conflict. In case of a scheduled conflict, you must send this email at least a week in advance of exam day. Absence from an exam for any other reason will result in a grade of 0 for that exam.

## Attendance and Top Hat Quizzes

It is assumed that you will attend and actively participate during all class sessions. If you must miss class you are responsible for what transpires during class sessions whether you are there or not.

This class will employ active learning strategies via the use of in-class quizzes. These questions may be used to assess your understanding of material presented on that day of class or your memory for information presented in previous classes. In addition, these questions may be used to generate discussion during class.

You will **not be graded** on these questions. However, you will receive feedback on your performance. This will be a good way to assess your mastery of the material. If you participate in 70% or more of the questions, you will receive full credit for this portion of your grade. Grades will be scaled such that for each 5% less than 70%, there will be a 10% grade reduction (i.e. 65% of questions = grade 90, 60% = 80, 55% = 70, 50% = 60, etc.).

**You must register an account with Top Hat.**

Before you can use the Top Hat technology, you must register an account. An invitation has been sent to your MSU email address (unless you are not yet registered for the class). Please check your email (and spam folder) for this email invitation. The invitation will also include a link with video tutorials and information on how to register and use the software. The software is run online and you may use either a laptop, smart phone, or tablet. If you did not receive an email, please refer to the Top Hat document on D2L. Our course code is **088826**.

There is a pdf file on the D2L page that contains information and common questions about Top Hat. **If you have any questions that are not answered by this document, you can contact Top Hat support at [support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com) or 888.663.5491 from 9:00am to 9:00pm.**

It is expected that you will attend class each day and that you will participate. **If you forget your phone, laptop, or tablet, you cannot obtain credit for that day of class.** Please understand that in a class of over 500 students, there will be at least one person who forgets their phone each day and the instructor simply cannot give credit in these circumstances.

You only need to complete 70% of the questions. Therefore, you will not receive credit in case of minor illness or other life events. The only way that you can receive credit for a day that you are not in class is for the following:

1. Documented medical emergency
2. Religious holiday
3. University sanctioned event (e.g. travel for a sports team, band, etc.)
4. Death of a first-degree relative

**Important Note:** Logging in and participating as another student is a form of academic dishonesty and is a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught participating for another student or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all points and face additional disciplinary action.

**Research Participation**

One fundamental way of learning firsthand about psychological research is to participate in research studies. You can register an account and sign up for studies here: <https://msu-psychology.sona-systems.com>. There is a detailed document on the D2L website that provides all of the information that you need to use the system. You can also watch a short, online tutorial here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_1OnT2ZU6QQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1OnT2ZU6QQ) .

Note: Make sure that you are on the psychology Sona site. The Department of Communication Arts and Sciences also has a Sona site. We do not have access to this data and cannot grant participation credit for experiments done under the other site.

You will be required to earn 7 hours of research participation credits. Details regarding this element of the course are posted on D2L. Any questions, inaccuracies, or problems should be directed to: Audra Jeffrey, the Human Subject Pool Administrator, Room 100, Psychology Building, [jeffre22@msu.edu](mailto:jeffre22@msu.edu). It is your responsibility to sign up, participate in the experiments, and to track your personal history on the computer. Neither the instructor nor the course

assistants have a record of your research participation until the end of the course. We do not know how many credits you have or if you have penalty points. **ALL questions regarding research participation should be directed to Audra Jeffrey.**

***Restrictions:*** In-person experiments provide a much richer educational experience than online experiments. Therefore, a minimum of 3 hours must be from in-person experiments. No more than 4 hours from online courses may be used to fulfill your research requirements or for your extra credit. **Online research in excess of 4 hours will not count toward your research participation grade or toward extra credit.**

***Deadline:*** Research participation should be completed by the last day of classes, December 8, 2017 at 5:00 pm. There will not be any experiments conducted after this time.

***Alternative to research participation:*** If you do not wish to participate in psychology experiments, you may fulfill this requirement by writing a one-page paper for every hour of research participation for a total of seven one-page papers. Detailed explanation of the paper requirements is posted on D2L. All papers are due by the last day of classes, December 8, 2017 at 5:00 pm. The drop box will close promptly at 5:00 and no papers will not be accepted after this. There will be **no exceptions** to this rule.

***Extra credit:*** In addition to the assigned research participation, you may participate in additional experiments and earn 3 extra points added to your final percentage grade. For extra credit, each research hour is worth 0.5% of a percentage point on your final grade. Therefore, to receive one additional point, you must complete 2 hours of experiments. To receive the full 3 extra credit points, you must complete an additional 6 hours of experiments.

## Grading

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- Exam 1: 22%
- Exam 2: 22%
- Exam 3: 22%
- Exam 4: 22%
- Top Hat Questions: 6%
- Research Participation: 6%

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

90-100% = 4.0	75-79% = 2.5	60-64% = 1.0
85-89% = 3.5	70-74% = 2.0	< 60% = 0
80-84% = 3.0	65-69% = 1.5	

Your total percentage will be rounded to the nearest whole number. Scores cannot be “on the border”. They are one grade or the next. There will be no adjustments because your score is close to the cutoff. Extra credit is the only way to increase your grade. 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.**

There is a grade calculator available for download on the course website. You can use it to keep track of your grades in the course. To calculate your grade, you can use this formula:

$$(E1*.22) + (E2*.22) + (E3*.22) + (E4*.22) + (\text{Clicker}*.06) + (\text{Research}*.06) = \text{Final Percentage}$$

### **Academic Honesty**

All students are responsible for knowing and following the university policy on academic integrity and plagiarism. Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states, "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the College of Social Sciences adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 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 website [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu)).

You are expected to complete all course assignments without improper assistance from any source. Specifically, you may not assist anyone or be assisted by anyone on an exam, and you may not use the text or any notes during an exam. In addition, your written work must be your own, and you must cite sources appropriately. 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. The course will be run according to these rules without exception. Any student caught cheating or otherwise violating the MSU academic integrity policy may receive the maximum punishment, including a grade of 0.0 in the course. Visit the following websites for more details about MSU's Academic Integrity policies:

<https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>

<https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/academic-integrity/student-faq.html>

When in doubt, students are urged to ask the instructor about the appropriateness of any practice.

**Academic honesty is expected in all facets of this course.** This includes not only performance on examinations but also on in-class participation and use of clickers. Any student who is found to be using another student’s clicker will automatically receive a grade of 0 for that portion of his/her grade.

### **Turnitin Policy**

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, I have chosen to use a tool called Turnitin to compare your papers with multiple sources. The tool will compare each paper you submit to 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, I will make a complete assessment and judge the originality of your work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool. You should submit papers to Turnitin **without identifying information included in the paper** (e.g., name or student number), the D2L will automatically show this

information to me when I view the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin. If you forget and submit your paper with your identifying information on it, it will be retained in the Turnitin repository.

### **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 <http://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 me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and present your VISA **at least two weeks before the exam date** to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, I will schedule for you to take the exam during a special exam session offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Wednesday and Thursday at 3:00pm in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two week prior notification requirement.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 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 2.3.10 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 Faculty Judiciary process.

**Respect and Technology in the Classroom:** Please respect your instructors and fellow students by turning off your cell phone ringer and/or other electronic communication devices during class. Laptop use is permitted. However, distracting activities such as instant messaging, writing e-mail, social networking (myspace, facebook, etc.), or playing games is strictly prohibited.

**Getting Help:** The best way to get help is to come to office hours. The instructor, the graduate teaching assistant, and the undergraduate course assistants will all hold regular office hours and are also be available at other times, by appointment. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours, you may simply contact any of the assistants or instructor to make an appointment for a different time. You may also ask questions via e-mail.

**E-Mail Policy:** E-mail is the best way to get a hold of us (Dr. Fenn and TAs). However, please use the following guidelines when e-mailing one of us:

- **First, ask yourself this question: “Can this question be answered by looking in the syllabus or looking on the D2L course site?” If the answer is yes, then you should not send an email!**
- Use PSY 101 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.
- Please address the e-mail properly (i.e., Hello Andrew; Hello Dr. Fenn).
- Proof read your e-mail. Is your question conveyed clearly with correct grammar and spelling? Did autocorrect make it sound super weird?
- Please sign your e-mail with your full name, so we know who you are. We can’t wait to get to know all of you, but [maizeandbluearetheworst@gmail.com](mailto:maizeandbluearetheworst@gmail.com) makes it hard for us to know who you are.
- Be polite.
- **Check your e-mail regularly!** During the course, we will e-mail you from time to time with announcements and reminders. Please read these e-mails as soon as you receive them, and please check your e-mail regularly.

Date	Schedule of Topics	Readings
Wed August 30	Class Orientation	
Mon September 4	<i>No class: Labor Day</i>	
Wed September 6	Course Introduction Research Methodology	Chapter 2
Mon September 11	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 3 Pages 89-129
Wed September 13	Biology and Behavior	Chapter 3 Pages 76-88
Mon September 17	Consciousness	Chapter 4 Pages: 137-154; 160-171
Wed September 20	Consciousness	Chapter 4 Pages: 137-154; 160-171
Mon September 25	Exam Review: Andrew Defever	
Wed September 27	Exam 1	
Mon October 2	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5 Pages 173-197
Wed October 4	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5 Pages 173-197
Mon October 9	Learning	Chapter 6
Wed October 11	Memory	Chapter 7 Pages 267-284
Mon October 16	Memory	Chapter 7 Pages 285-307
Mon October 16	<b>Optional Exam Review</b> Andrew, Emily, Megan	6:00-7:00pm 118 Psychology
Wed October 18	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Mon October 23	Thinking and Intelligence	Chapter 8 Pages 309-327; 338-355
Wed October 25	Human Development	Chapter 9 Pages 357-383

Mon October 30	Emotion and Motivation	Chapter 10
Wed November 1	Emotion and Motivation	Chapter 10
Mon November 6	Personality	Chapter 13 Pages 547-583
Mon November 6	<b>Optional Exam Review</b> Dr. Fenn, Rachael, Emily	6:00-7:00pm 118 Psychology
Wed November 8	Exam 3	
Mon November 13	Health and Well-Being	Chapter 11 Pages 451-482
Wed November 15	Health and Well-Being	Chapter 11 Pages 451-482
Mon November 20	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	Chapter 14 Pages 599-641
Wed November 21	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	Chapter 14 Pages 599-641
Mon November 27	Psychological Disorders and Treatment	Chapter 14 Pages 599-641
Wed November 29	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
Mon December 4	Social Psychology	Chapter 12
Mon December 4	<b>Optional Exam Review</b> Dr. Fenn, Megan, Rachael	6:00-7:00pm 118 Psychology
Wed December 6	<b>Exam 4</b>	
Fri December 15	Optional meetings with Dr. Fenn	9:00 – 11:00am