

Psychology 2203: Sections 101 (MWF 9-9:50) and 102 (MWF 11-11:50)
General Psychology II
(formerly Human Behavior)

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Textbook King, L. A. (2017). *The science of psychology: An appreciative view* (6th ed.).
McGraw-Hill.

What to Expect

General Psychology II is the second of two courses in the introductory psychology sequence at Midwestern State University, the first being General Psychology I. General Psychology I is aimed at a broad audience and is part of the university's core curriculum. General Psychology I is the only college level psychology course that most students take. General Psychology II, on the other hand, is designed for more committed students—almost all are psychology majors and minors. As such, some of the topics that are covered in General Psychology II are a little more rigorous than those assigned in General Psychology I and there is virtually no “teaching to the textbook” as is common in General Psychology I. The purpose of the course, then, is to round out your introductory exposure to the breadth of psychology and to provide a preview of several of the advanced psychology courses that are taught at MSU: History & Systems of Psychology, Information Processing, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, and Theories of Motivation. General Psychology II also covers Biological Foundations of Psychology, which is no longer taught at MSU as a stand-alone course, but bits and pieces of which are incorporated into our other courses.

Topics and Reading Assignments

Historical Introduction to Psychology--Chapter 1 (especially pp. 8-10)

TEST 1

Biological Foundations of Psychology--Chapter 3 (especially pp. 60-87, 88-89)

TEST 2

Information Processing: Sensation & Perception and Memory--Chapter 4 (especially pp. 100-130) and
Chapter 7 (especially pp. 212-242)

TEST 3

Human Motivation--Chapter 10 (especially pp. 326-337)

TEST4

TEST 5

Exams

Course grades will be determined by the average of five noncumulative true/false tests. I will announce dates of tests at least one week before each test, both in class and via email.

If you miss a test, makeup tests will be administered on Monday Dec. 11 at 8:00 am (for section 101) and on Monday Dec. 11 at 10:30 am (for section 102). There is no grade penalty for tests missed for excused reasons (see attendance policy below). For tests missed for unexcused reasons, the test grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

Attendance Policy

Because tests will be based on material delivered in face-to-face lectures, it will be important that you attend classes regularly. To encourage regular attendance, I am limiting the number of unexcused absences that you can accumulate to six. Each additional unexcused absence beyond six will result in a one-half letter grade penalty. There is no limit on how many excused absences you can accumulate. Absences are excused only under the following circumstances:

1. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner or MSU official stating that the student was unable to attend class on the day(s) of the absence;
2. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner or MSU official stating that the student's dependent child was ill on the day(s) of the absence;
3. the student provides a written excuse from an MSU official stating that the student was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day(s) of the absence.

In order for an absence to be excused, the written excuse must be provided within one week of the absence. If this is not possible, the student must at least contact me with an explanation within one week of the absence.

Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences and are considered unexcused absences. Please reserve your six allowed unexcused absences to cover these situations.

Other Expectations:

1. Please do not leave the classroom prior to dismissal. Wandering in and out of class is a distraction that is disruptive to the class. Remember that university policy states that students who are disruptive may be dropped from the class by the instructor. If you have a medical condition that often requires you to leave class prior to dismissal, please have the Office of Disability Services send me the necessary documentation or bring me a note from your physician.

2. Please do not come to class late. Entering the classroom after we have started is distracting to both your classmates and me and is considered disruptive behavior.
3. Please be prepared to take notes. Research suggests that handwritten notes are more effective in the learning process than are typewritten notes, but only if you're able to read your handwriting!
4. Please do not use cell phones during class. If you anticipate receiving an emergency call or text, please silence your telephone ringer. Cell phones must remain entirely out of sight.
5. Do not chat with your neighbor(s) during class. If you have a question, ask me, not your neighbor. You may think that your cross-talk is okay, but those seated around you find it distracting. More importantly, I find it distracting and disruptive to an effective classroom instructional environment. I will try to remember to allow a little time at the end of each class period to take your questions. If I forget, remind me.
6. Cheating will not be allowed and will result in your being dropped from the class with a grade of F with a referral to the Dean of Students for additional corrective action by the university. Evidence of cheating includes highly similar patterns of errors on answer sheets of students who sit in close proximity and what I can see with my own eyes.

Grading

Each exam will be scored on a percentage-correct scale as follows:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% and lower

Course grades will be based on the average of grades earned on the five exams.

Midterm Progress Report

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Only students who are identified as being at risk for earning grades of D or F will be notified in this manner. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should seek tutoring.