

Syllabus : General Psychology II (Spring 2026)

Professor:	Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #:	PSYC 2203, Sec. X10
Office:	OD 113	Time:	Asynchronous
email:	nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location:	Online
		Office Hours:	MWF: 9am – 10am; F: 2pm – 4pm

Required Texts:

Psychology, 2e (OpenStax)

Important! This text has been made freely available to you as a .pdf on D2L. If you wish to purchase a physical copy, you can do so by following the instructions on D2L. For more information, please visit: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e/>

Required Technology:

You will need a computer with internet access and a webcam. Webcams can be checked out from the university library.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you will have a greater understanding of:

1. What psychology is and how it is applicable to both the world and us.
2. How we think, learn, and remember
3. How we interact with the world around us through processes like sensation and perception
4. Other areas of psychology including social psychology, industrial organizational psychology, and real-world applications.

Attendance:

This course has been planned as an asynchronous online course for Spring 2026. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, and gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Students will complete ***four*** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of 400 points (80% of your overall course grade). Each exam will contain 50 multiple-choice questions. Exams are not cumulative and will cover information from the book, video lectures, and any supplementary material posted on D2L for each unit. Exams are closed note/book, meaning that you are expected not to use your class materials while completing the exams. As such, all exams will be administered through the Respondus Lockdown Browser (<https://msutexas.edu/distance/lockdown-browser.php>) with webcam proctor. You must install the

lockdown browser ***BEFORE*** accessing the exam. Note that lockdown browser is ***not compatible*** with chromebooks, phones or tablet! Students needing computer access are welcome to use the on-campus resources in the library or the Clark Student Center. The Psychology computer lab (OD 126) is also available during regular business hours whenever it is not being used for a class. ***Please note that a webcam is REQUIRED for taking exams***

Exam Timing: Exams will always open at 8:00am CST on the Wednesday of each Exam Week. Exams are due by 5:00pm CST each exam week. Once you open the exam, you must complete it. You will not be able to stop the exam and continue at a later time. Please ensure that you have a quite place to take your exam that is free from distractions.

Missed Exam Policy: Because students get a three-day window to complete exams, there will be ***no make-ups for missed exams.*** There will be no exceptions to this policy except for official university travel or documented illness/emergencies (these must be documented through the Dean of Students Office). Please be sure to view the exam schedule and plan accordingly!

2. **Quizzes:** Students will complete 11 online quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes count for 100 total points (20% of your final grade; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped). Quizzes will contain 10 multiple-choice questions and will be timed for 15 minutes. Students will get one attempt per quiz. Because quizzes are designed to facilitate reading, students may use their textbook and lecture materials when completing quizzes. Quizzes will always open on the Monday of each week and will be due at 11:59pm on Fridays. There will be no quizzes during exam weeks.

Missed Quiz Policy: There will be no make-up quizzes. However, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. ***Late quiz submissions will not be accepted.***

3. **Research Participation:** It is important that students of psychology experience the scientific nature of the discipline first-hand. All students in PSYC 2203 are required to participate in **ONE** of the following research related activities. ***Only choose one – You cannot receive credit for both!*** ***Failure to complete the research participation requirement will result in a one letter grade penalty.***
 - a. **Research study participation:** Participate in approved psychology research projects (**At least 120 minutes**). Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester and a link to complete the studies will be posted on D2L. The deadline for research participation is May 4th, 2026. Studies completed after this date will not be counted. ***Partial credit will NOT be awarded. You must complete the full 120 minutes of research participation to receive credit.***

All research studies contain a survey at the end that you must complete to receive credit. This is the only way to log participation. ***It is your responsibility to ensure that your participation is logged by completing the final survey!***

OR

b. Research Ethics Essay: Instead of participating in research, students may instead read an academic writing addressing research ethics in psychology. Following this, students will complete a 5 page, double-spaced, typed essay summarizing and reviewing the information. Tables, figures, and pictures do not count toward the page requirement. This essay must be submitted by May 4th, 2025. ***If you would like to complete the Research Ethics Essay instead of the participating in research studies, please email me no later than Friday, 3/6.***

Grades:

Your final grade will be calculated based on **500** total points:

500-450:	A
449-400:	B
399-350:	C
349-300:	D
< 299:	F

Email Policy:

You are required to use your MSU Texas email accounts for this class. I will not send emails to any other email accounts. I will also not send out class information to any other email address other than your university email account. **Before emailing me about your question, make sure that your question has not been answered/addressed in the syllabus or elsewhere!** When emailing me, please put the course number (PSYC 2203) AND section number (Sec. 202) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster. ***Please note that any emails sent at the end of the semester requesting that your grade be rounded up or asking for extra credit will be promptly ignored.***

I will try my best to get back to you within 48-hours (during the week). ***If you email me with no context, I will not respond*** Please keep in mind that I strive to maintain a healthy work-life balance, so I generally will not reply to emails sent after 5:00pm on weekdays or sent anytime on weekends/holidays. Any emails sent during weekends, holidays, or university breaks will be responded to during regular business hours.

All course announcements will be posted on D2L. To ensure that you do not miss any important updates, please check D2L frequently! Additionally, double-check that your primary email address is listed on Banner.

Cell Phones:

Unless you anticipate that you might receive an emergency communication, please turn off your cell phones in class. If you receive an **emergency** phone call or text in class, please excuse yourself and quietly leave the classroom to take the message.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

This course utilizes the MSU D2L program for assignment submission. Relevant course materials will also be posted on D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Cheating Policy:

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating on exams or written assignments will result in dismissal from this class with a grade of "F" and referral to the Dean of Students. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using unauthorized notes of any kind during an exam, looking on another's exam, allowing another student to look on your exam, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism. ***The use of LLM models like ChatGPT to complete assignments is not allowed and will be considered an act of academic dishonesty.*** If you aren't sure whether or not something is academic dishonesty, please ask!

Disability Services:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

General Course Schedule

A note on the schedule: This schedule represents an ideal outline of what we'll cover in the course. That being said, we may occasionally get behind (or ahead!) of it. If that happens, I will modify the schedule and any exam content accordingly. Updated schedules may be periodically posted on D2L. I will try to send out announcements, but it is important that you regularly attend class!

The Current Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Chapters	Important Dates/Notes
Week 1	1/19 – 1/23	Couse Overview/Introduction	Syllabus/Chapter 1	Syllabus Quiz AND Quiz 1 due 1/23
Week 2	1/26 – 1/30	Research in Psychology	Chapter 2	Quiz 2 due 1/30
Week 3	2/2 – 2/6	Research Ethics in Psychology	Chapters 2	Quiz 3 due 2/6

Week 4	2/9 – 2/13	Exam Week		Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 2) due 2/13
Week 5	2/16 – 2/20	Biopsychology	Chapter 3	Quiz 4 due 2/20
Week 6	2/23 – 2/27	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	Quiz 5 due 2/27
Week 7	3/2 – 3/6	Exam Week		Exam 2 (Chapters 3 & 5) due 3/6
Week 8	3/9 – 3/13	Spring Break		No Quiz!
Week 9	3/16 – 3/20	Thinking and Intelligence	Chapter 7	Quiz 6 due 3/20
Week 10	3/23 – 3/27	Memory	Chapter 8	Quiz 7 due 3/27
Week 11	3/30 – 4/3	Easter Week (No lecture video)		No Quiz
Week 12	4/6 – 4/10	Exam Week		Exam 3 (Chapters 7 & 8) due 4/10
Week 13	4/13 – 4/17	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10	Quiz 8 due 4/17
Week 14	4/20 – 4/24	Social Psychology	Chapter 12	Quiz 9 due 4/24
Week 15	4/27 – 5/1	I/O Psychology	Chapter 13	Quiz 10 due 5/1
Week 16	5/4 – 5/8	Exam Week		Exam 4 (Chapters 10, 12, & 13) due 5/8
Finals Week	5/11 – 5/15	NO FINAL!		