

Syllabus
General Psychology
PSYC 1103, Section 204
Spring, 2020

Professor: Paul C. Guthrie, Ph.D.
Office: O-113
Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 MW
Phone: 397-4178
Class Times: 9:30 – 10:50, TR
Location: PY 101
Email: paul.guthrie@msutexas.edu

Text: King, L.A. (2017). The science of psychology: An appreciative view (4th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill

Texas Core Objectives (Competency Based)

1. Critical Thinking Skills—including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills—including effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written communication.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills—including the analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. Social Responsibility—including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

Section I

Chapters 1, 2 & 5: 1/21 – 2/18

Exam I : 2/20

Section II

Chapters 6, 9 & 11: 2/25 – 3/31

Exam II : 4/2

Section III

Chapters 12, 15, 16 & 17: 4/7 – 5/7

Final Exam: Tuesday, 5/12 at 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

An optional, take-home final exam will also be offered. This exam is designed to give students who need/want to improve their grades an opportunity to do so. This exam does not replace the Final Exam, or any other exam; everyone must take Exams 1, 2, and 3, as well as the regular final. If you take the optional final, the grade will be counted in with all the other grades but, hopefully, this represents an opportunity to get a really good test grade. The optional final exam will be comprehensive, and will consist of 100 multiple choice questions. It will be available on 5/5/20 and will have to be turned in no later than 5/12/20, at the beginning of the regular final exam. Late exams will not be accepted.

Course Requirements: Grades will be based on your performance on 3 exams, worth 100 points each. All exams consist of multiple choice questions, on Scantrons (Form 881-E). Exams are comprehensive *for that section*. Test content will be drawn from readings in the text and from lecture material. Not all lecture material will be found in the text, so regular class attendance is required.

Midterm Exam: By the midterm, you will develop a list of **three** theoretical perspectives in psychology. The purpose of this activity is to help you to ‘think psychologically’ about the world around you. You will be asked to list and describe each of these perspectives. These perspectives will then be used during the final exam to address a societal, interpersonal or personal problem. This portion of the exam will contribute **25%** toward your grade *on that exam*. Answers will be graded on (a) whether you listed three recognizable psychological perspectives, (b) the accuracy of your descriptions, and (c) the structural and grammatical adequacy of your answer.

Final Exam: A portion of your final exam will include an essay component that requires you to address an issue of social, interpersonal, or personal concern (e.g., an unproductive employee, a student who can’t control his spending, religious intolerance) from the perspective of **one** of your psychological theories or perspectives listed at the midterm. This portion of the exam will account for **25%** of your grade *on the final exam*. Answers will be graded on (a) your ability to address the problem from one of the psychological perspectives, (b) the strength and accuracy of your argument, (c) your level of empathy, ethics, and respect for diversity in your response, and (d) the structural and grammatical adequacy of your answer.

Course grades are based on the number of points accumulated over the semester. There is a total of 300 possible points, so the grade ranges are as follows:

- A = 270 - 300 points
- B = 240 - 269
- C = 210 - 239
- D = 180 - 209
- F = less than 180 points

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

It is important that students of scientific psychology learn firsthand something about the scientific nature of the discipline. Therefore, all students in PSYC 1103 and 2203 are required to participate in one of the following research-related exercises. No extra credit is given for research participation, but failure to complete the research requirement will result in a one letter grade reduction for the course. The deadline for completing the research requirement is 4/30/20.

1. Participate in one or more psychology research projects totaling at least 90 minutes. Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear at:
<http://mwsu.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research>

OR

2. Complete a research ethics essay. Participating students will read an article provided by me about research ethics. Following this, students will complete a 3 or 4 page double-spaced, typed summary and review of the information they read. Tables, figures, pictures do not count toward the minimum page requirement. Essays must be submitted no later than 4/30/20.

Attendance Policy: Students are allowed three (3) absences. Once you exceed this limit, whether the absences are excused or not, you may be dropped from the course with a grade of "F". I will not be responsible for recording attendance for students who are tardy.

Ten (10) points extra credit may be obtained by maintaining perfect attendance, defined as having no unexcused absences. Absences are excused only under the following circumstances:

1. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner 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 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 official of Midwestern State University 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.

Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile problems, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences.

Make-up Policy: You may make up **one** (1) missed exam: if you miss more than one exam, you should drop the course. A mass make-up for exams will be administered on

Tuesday, 5/12 following the final exam. No other make-ups will be allowed; if you miss an exam during this semester, you must attend this session. Failure to do so will result in a grade of “0” on the missed exam.

Cheating Policy: Any evidence of cheating on exams will result in dismissal from this class with a grade of “F”. To avoid questions of cheating, make sure you mark your Scantrons cleanly, and use a No. 2 pencil. No grade changes will be made because of “Scantron error.”

Note: Individuals requiring special accommodation may contact me after class or during office hours.

Also note: Pagers and cell phones are to be turned off during class. If you have a situation that requires you to receive calls, you need to contact me ahead of time, have your device on vibration mode, and take the call outside the classroom.

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at <https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>