

Syllabus
General Psychology
Fall 2020

Professor:	Scott Frankowski, Ph.D.	Course #:	PSYC 1103 – Sec. 102, 105
Office:	118 O’Donohoe	Time (in-person):	10-10:50 Monday or Wednesday 11-12:20 Tuesday or Thursday
Phone:	940-397-4347	Location:	PY 101
e-mail:	scott.frankowski@msutexas.edu	Student Meeting Hours:	Virtual by appointment only – best between 2-4:30pm MW

Required text: King, L. A. (2019). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View* (5th ed.). New York, New York: McGraw Hill.

Face masks: Face masks will be required of all students at all times. There will be no exceptions to this policy and students who do not wear a face mask will be asked to leave. I’ll reserve the right to drop students from class who are not wearing a face mask.

Contacting me: I try to respond to emails within 24 hours. I typically won’t respond to emails on the weekend. In general, if you’re just emailing to tell me you won’t make it to class, I won’t respond because I get many of those emails every day. If you miss class, it’s your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. While attendance in in-person classes is optional this semester, you can always post questions in a discussion thread on D2L if you did not come to in-person class meetings. **When you email me, please include the course and section in the subject of the email. Please do not email me through D2L because I don’t get notifications about those emails and tend to miss them.**

In-person class meetings: We will not be meeting in-person for every class. We will meet once per week and I will post lectures and/or activities two other times per week on D2L. Thus, this course will have more of a hybrid format than a traditional course. This is being done in order to minimize our time in proximity with others to protect each other from COVID-19. With the current pandemic, attendance for in-class meetings are optional as I would prefer to reduce the number of students in a closed space together. I don’t plan on live-streaming in-person classes but may record them to post later on D2L – assuming the tech in place and can be worked with efficiently.

Importantly: To maintain proper physical distancing, I will need to split up each section of each course. The classroom capacity with proper physical distancing is 30 students. I will post on D2L and email everyone prior to the start of the semester with which class meeting you will be in. In the once-weekly class meetings, I’ll cover the same material for each section and sub-section. Because some students will not get this lecture until Thursday of the week, these lectures will be more tangential to the main course content – they may take the form of discussion of the psychology involved in current events, review sessions, or specific and more in-depth looks into facets of the course content.

Student Meetings (office hours): Unfortunately, this semester, there will be no in person office hours. This is to protect myself and my students. I will be available for Zoom meetings, however. I posted suggested times at the top of the syllabus but please email me to schedule a meeting time if you need to meet outside of these times.

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.

Course Objectives:

1. Help students to gain an overview of the fundamental principles of psychology – overarching approaches, theories, and the scientific method as applied to human cognition and behavior.
2. Increase student ability to glean and retain pertinent information through independent study.
3. Gain a perspective of the relevance of psychological research in today's world.

How you are evaluated:

Exams (75% of grade):

Until this pandemic is over, exams will likely be completed on D2L. I will make the exam available for three days, and you will have two hours to complete each exam. Exams will be open-note/open-book but because of this format, the questions will likely be harder than they would be if you were taking a closed-book exam in the class. If we manage to reign in this pandemic, exams might switch to being in-person. There will be four exams in this course. Your lowest exam score is dropped – thus, three exams will count for 25% each of your final grade. If you need to miss an exam, that exam will count as your lowest exam score and will be dropped. Exams are not cumulative although some material covered is bound to rely on knowledge of previously learned material. Exam questions will be multiple choice and may include an essay component. Exam material will come from both lectures and the textbook. Each exam may include a short essay component based on the material covered up to that point.

Quizzes (15% of your grade):

There will typically be one quiz for each chapter or two in the book that we cover (usually I fit in 7-8 quizzes in a semester). Quiz items will be a mix of material covered in lecture and material presented in the book but not necessarily covered during lecture. Like exams, quizzes will be done on D2L this semester. You'll have an hour or so to complete the quiz once you start and the quiz will be available for a few days. Your two lowest quiz grades will be converted to 100%. ***There will be no make-ups on quizzes – no exceptions to this rule.*** If you miss a quiz or two quizzes, those two will be converted to 100%.

Make-Up Exams:

Because I drop your lowest exam grade, you will not be able to make up a missed exam. If you know ahead of time you will not be attending class on an exam date, **you need to let me know prior to the exam**. This shouldn't be an issue with the format of the exams being on D2L this semester. But I'll leave it here in the syllabus in case we end up doing any in-class exams.

Research participation (10% of grade):

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. The deadline for completing the research requirement is November 19, 2020.

1. Participate in one or more approved psychology research projects totaling at least 90 minutes no later than **November 19, 2020**. Note that if there is not 90 minutes of available research posted, I will make adjustments to this requirement. In a typical non-pandemic semester, there would be a variety of in-lab or online studies available to participate in. Given our current situation, however, any research available will be online surveys/experiments.

Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear at: <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php>

OR

2. Complete a research ethics essay. Participating students will read academic writings addressing 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 **November 19, 2020**.

Grading:

- ≥ 90% = A
- ≥ 80% = B
- ≥ 70% = C
- ≥ 60% = D
- < 60% = F

Midterm progress:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account for students who are at risk of not passing the course. Students who are below a C will receive a midterm progress report between weeks 5-8 of the semester. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' 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 schedule a meeting with me.

Cheating Policy:

Although cheating does occur on campus, any evidence of cheating (e.g., looking on another's paper, allowing someone to look on your own paper, using an unauthorized memory aide) will result in automatic dismissal from the course with a letter grade of "F" and a referral to the Dean of Students, as cheating is a violation of the university honor code. Each semester I have to fail a few students from my classes for cheating. It is very easy to spot, and it will have a lasting impact on your academic record. Again, this part of the syllabus is more applicable in a traditional semester.

I do have the expectation, however, that quizzes and exams are not collaborative efforts. D2L offers instructors a lot of tools to easily spot such efforts so if I suspect you are engaging in academically dishonest behaviors based on overwhelming evidence from D2L logs, I will zero out your quiz/exam and possibly issue an F in the course and/or report you to the Dean of Students.

Disability:

Please let me know how I can make the course more accessible. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

General Expectations:

If you choose to come to class, please don't come in late. If it's a problem this semester, I will start locking the doors at the start of class because it is very distracting to me and your classmates. Don't talk when I'm talking. Be respectful to me and your classmates. Don't be on your phone. Silence your phone. Bring a *pencil* and scantron to exams (if we end up having in-class exams - doesn't really apply, though, this semester). If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate, or to post questions on D2L. While I usually enjoy chatting with students around the podium after lecture, this semester with the pandemic, I will not be doing that. If you fail to meet these general expectations and I have to warn you about the expectations more than once, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

Tentative Class Schedule – subject to change:

Class	Dates	Topics
Week 1	8/24-8/28	Chapter 1 – What is Psychology?
Week 2	8/31– 9/4	Chapter 2 – Psychology’s Scientific Method
Week 3	9/7 – 9/11	Chapter 2 – Psychology’s Scientific Method
Week 4	9/14 – 9/18	Exam 1 Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness
Week 5	9/21 – 9/25	Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness
Week 6	9/28 – 10/2	Chapter 6 – Learning
Week 7	10/5 – 10-9	Chapter 6 – Learning
Week 8	10/12 – 10/16	Exam 2 Chapter 9 – Human Development
Week 9	10/19 – 10/23	Chapter 9 – Human Development
Week 10	10/26 – 10/30	Chapter 12 – Personality
Week 11	11/2 – 11/6	Exam 3 Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders
Week 12	11/9 - 11/13	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders
Week 13	11/16 – 11/20	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders
Week 14	11/23 – 11/27	Thanksgiving break – because I wouldn’t be able to meet with each section, we won’t have in-person content this week – only D2L materials Chapter 16 - Therapies
Week 15	11/30 – 12/4	No more in-person classes: Online only content Chapter 17 – Health psychology / Ch. 11 Sexuality
Week 16	Finals Week	Exam 4