

Syllabus  
General Psychology  
Spring 2020

Professor:	Scott Frankowski, Ph.D.	Course #:	PSYC 1103 – Sec. 202, 203
Office:	118 O'Donohoe	Time:	11-11:50 or 1pm – 1:50
Phone:	940-397-4347	Location:	PY 101
e-mail:	<a href="mailto:scott.frankowski@msutexas.edu">scott.frankowski@msutexas.edu</a>	Office	Mon/Wed: 2PM-4PM
	(please contact me through email)	Hours:	Thur: 3:30PM-4:30PM

King, L. A. (2014). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, New York: McGraw Hill.

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. **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.**

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 (60% of grade):

There will be four exams in this course. Your lowest exam score is dropped – thus, three exams will count for 20% each of your final grade. Generally, a missed exam will not be able to be made up except under the most extreme and documented circumstances. 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 will include an essay component. Exam material will come from both lectures and the textbook. Each exam will 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 (between 5 and 8 quizzes total). Quiz items will be a mix of material covered in lecture and material presented in the book but not necessarily covered during lecture. Quizzes will *only* be given in class. Your two lowest quiz grade will be converted to 100%. ***There will be no make-ups on quizzes – no exceptions to this rule.*** I try to schedule quizzes on Wednesdays so that they do not fall on days that student athletes will be out of town. If you miss a quiz or two quizzes, those two will be converted to 100%. Quizzes may be announced in the class prior to quiz, or may be unannounced. Therefore, staying current on the chapters in the textbook should be a priority.

#### Attendance (15% of grade):

Attendance is required for the course. If you are late, you will not be able to be counted for attendance. I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester, usually in the form of quizzes or class activities. Participation in these quizzes or activities will count toward your attendance grade. (Quizzes will be graded separately – see ‘Quizzes’ section of syllabus above. Simply being present for a quiz, however, will earn you attendance points). These activities will be given at the beginning of class and students who are late will not be able to get credit for the activity. Students will be responsible for the information presented during the class periods for which they were absent. This information includes but is not limited to course content, syllabus changes, and information regarding the research requirement. I understand that things come up that are out of your control. Therefore, everyone gets 2 freebies for the semester. If you are missing more than two classes, I will need documentation filed with the Office of Student Affairs as to the reason why you were unable to attend. **I reserve the right to make determinations on excused vs unexcused absences.**

#### 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.**

#### 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 May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

1. Participate in one or more approved psychology research projects totaling at least 90 minutes no later than **May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**. Note that if there is not 90 minutes of available research posted, I will make adjustments to this requirement.

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 **May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

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:

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 you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. 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	1/21-1/24	Chapter 1 – What is Psychology?
Week 2	1/27 – 1/31	Chapter 2 – Psychology's Scientific Method
Week 3	2/3 – 2/7	Chapter 2 – Psychology's Scientific Method
Week 4	2/10 -2/14	<b>Exam 1 (tentatively 2/12)</b> Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness
Week 5	2/17 – 2/21	Chapter 5 – States of Consciousness
Week 6	2/24 – 2/28	Chapter 6 – Learning
Week 7	3/2 – 3/6	Chapter 6 – Learning
Week 8	3/9 – 3/13	<b>Exam 2 (tentatively 3/11)</b> Chapter 9 – Human Development
Week 9	3/16 – 3/20	SPRING BREAK
Week 10	3/23 – 3/27	Chapter 9 – Human Development
Week 11	3/30 – 4/3	Chapter 12 – Personality
Week 12	4/6 – 4/10	<b>Exam 3 (tentatively 4/8)</b> Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders <b>No Class on 4/10</b>
Week 13	4/13 – 4/17	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders
Week 14	4/20 – 4/24	Chapter 15 – Psychological Disorders
Week 15	4/27 – 5/1	Chapter 16 - Therapies
Week 16	5/4 – 5/8	Chapter 17 – Health psychology / Ch. 11 Sexuality
Week 17	Finals Week	<b>Exam 4</b> <b>Section 202: Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am</b> <b>Section 203: Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm</b> <b>Exam will take place in PY101</b>