

Syllabus
General Psychology
Fall 2022

Professor Info		Course Info	
Professor:	Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #:	PSYC 1103, Sec. 104
Office:	OD 118	Time:	11:00am – 12:20pm; TR
email:	nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location:	PY 101
		Office Hours:	2:00pm – 4:00pm, MW; 2:00pm – 3:00pm, F

Required Texts:

The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View, 5th edition by Laura A. King (2020)

Course Objectives:

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

1. The fundamental principles of psychology as a science.
2. The history of psychology, from its origins in philosophy to current research trends.
3. The relevance of psychology in today's world

Attendance and Make-Up Exam Policy:

If you do miss class, you will be responsible for the material you missed when absent. Class attendance is ***required***. Each student is allowed ***four*** absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a 10% reduction in the students' final grade. Students will be responsible for the material they miss when absent. Students with ***more than five absences*** will be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

Excused-Absences: The only absences that will not be counted are absences for a mandatory, university-sponsored event or religious holiday. Written notification must be provided to the professor at least two days prior to the day of the event. Absences for religious holidays must be cleared through the Dean of Students. Students must inform the instructor of religious holiday absences by the 15th day of class.

No make-up exams will be given ***except in the case of an emergency***, such as a serious illness, a serious accident, or a death in the family ***OR*** in the case of a previously excused absence (see *Attendance* section above for what qualifies as an *excused absence*).

*You must verify your emergency with documentation. *You must contact me via email no later than 24 hours after the missed exam!** If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Students will complete ***five*** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Your final course grade will reflect your ***four*** highest exam scores (lowest score will be dropped). The final exam will be a cumulative review of the course.

2. **Quizzes:** Students will complete ***11 quizzes*** throughout the semester. The goal of these quizzes is to prepare you for the exam. Quizzes will be conducted online using D2L. Quizzes must be submitted by 11:59pm the day they are due (see course schedule for all quiz due dates). Each quiz will be worth ten points, and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes count 100 points towards your final grade.

3. **Research Participation:** It is important that students of psychology experience the scientific nature of the discipline first-hand. All students in PSYC 1103 are required to participate in ***ONE*** of the following research related activities. Only choose one – You cannot receive credit for both!
 - a. **Research study participation:** Participate in one or more approved psychology research projects (**At least 90 minutes**). Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester. The deadline for research participation is November 18th, 2022. Studies completed after this date will not count. Successfully completing 90 minutes will be worth 100 points. Partial credit will be awarded (i.e., 45 minutes of research == 50 points).

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 4 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 November 18th, 2022. This essay will be worth 100 points.

Grades:

Your final grade in the course will be calculated based on **600** total points (100 from quizzes, 100 from research participation, 400 from exams)

600-540:	A
539-480:	B
479-420:	C
419-360:	D
< 359:	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 1103) AND section number (Sec. 104) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster.

I will try my best to get back to you within 24-hours (during the week) or within 3 days (weekends, holidays, if you decide to email me at 10:00pm on Friday...)

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.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Dishonesty is defined as cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct: [Office of Student Conduct](#)

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.

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.

Midterm Grade Reports:

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. ***Midterm progress reports will only be provided for students with a grade of C or less in the course.*** Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts, 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.

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.

Important Dates

Last day for Fall 22 schedule changes: **8/25**

Deadline to file for ***DECEMBER*** graduation: **9/26**

Deadline to file for ***MAY*** graduation: **10/3**

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W”: **10/24**

Refer to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Course Schedule

Important! The Book Chapter for each day is what’s expected to have been read *prior* to that date. Please note that this schedule represents *the ideal semester!* Any deviations from this schedule (particularly as they pertain to assignment deadlines and exam dates) will be announced in class **AND** posted on D2L.

Quizzes are due by 11:59pm on the day they are listed (e.g., Quiz 1 is due @ 11:59pm on 8/25)

The Current Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Book Chapter	Quiz
Week 1	8/23	Course Overview/What is Psychology?	Chapter 1	
	8/25	What is Psychology?	Chapter 1	Quiz 1 (What is Psychology?)
Week 2	8/30	A Brief History of Psychology		
	9/1	A Brief History of Psychology		Quiz 2 (History of Psychology)
Week 3	9/6	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2	
	9/8	Research Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2	Quiz 3 (Research Methods)
Week 4	9/13	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, and History of Psychology Slides	
	9/15	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5	
Week 5	9/20	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5	Quiz 4 (Consciousness)
	9/22	States of Consciousness/Learning	Chapters 5 & 6	
Week 6	9/27	Learning	Chapter 6	
	9/29	Learning	Chapter 6	Quiz 5 (Learning)
Week 7	10/4	Exam 2	Chapters 5 and 6	
	10/6	Human Development	Chapter 9	

Week 8	10/11	Human Development	Chapter 9	Quiz 6 (Human Development)
	10/13	Gender and Sex	Chapter 11	
Week 9	10/18	Gender and Sex	Chapter 11	Quiz 7 (Gender and Sex)
	10/20	Personality	Chapter 12	
Week 10	10/25	Personality	Chapter 12	
	10/27	Personality	Chapter 12	Quiz 8 (Personality)
Week 11	11/1	Exam 3	Chapters 9, 11, and 12	
	11/3	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	
Week 12	11/8	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15	Quiz 9 (Psychological Disorders)
	11/10	Therapies	Chapter 16	
Week 13	11/15	Therapies	Chapter 16	Quiz 10 (Therapies)
	11/17	NO CLASS!	11/18 -- Last day for research completion	
Week 14	11/22	Health Psychology	Chapter 17	
	11/24	Thanksgiving (No Class!)		
Week 15	11/29	Health Psychology	Chapter 17	Quiz 11 (Health Psychology)
	12/1	Exam 4	Chapters 15, 16, and 17	
Final	12/6 @ 1:00pm		Topics: Comprehensive	