

General Psychology
PSYC 1103, Spring 2021
Sections: 207/208 TR: 12:30pm-1:50pm
Prothro-Yeager 101, 3 credit hours.

Instructor Information:

Zachary Zoet

Email: zachary.zoet@msutexas.edu

Office Hours: MW 12:00pm-1:00pm. TR 5:00pm-6:00pm. Appointments for zoom office visits made via email. If you can't make those times we can try and schedule something that works for both of us.

Course Description:

This course will focus on providing an introduction to the science of mental processes and behaviors – psychology. The course format will follow closely with the course text. It will communicate the nature and breadth of psychology, its role in advancing society through informing our understanding of ourselves and others, and its scientific nature.

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.

Nature of Course:

This course has been planned as a split students course for Spring 2021. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room all scheduled days, but only some of the students can be physically in the class every class day to allow sufficient social distancing. You will be assigned to one physical class day/week and will access course materials virtually on the other days. I will notify you of your assigned day for your physical class meeting. When we meet face to face we will utilize social distancing and an assigned seating chart. Attendance checks will be used for all classes. Attendance policy will credit physical classroom presence and online attendance equally. If a student is approved by Disability Support Services to limit or eliminate their physical class attendance due to an underlying condition, they will be moved to attending virtually. Students will not attend class if they are experiencing illness or any signs/symptoms of COVID-19. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information. I also recommend downloading the Brightspace Pulse app in your smartphone's app store to help you keep track of assignments/dates. In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.

Required Texts:

King, L. (2020). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View, 5th Edition*. McGraw-Hill Publishers.
ISBN-13: 978-1260500523

Required Technology:

PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specification	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4th generation or newer• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended• 256 GB SSD Storage• Dual Band spectrum (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz) with 802.11ac or 802.11n• Use Windows' Operating System and PC Info to find your hardware information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4th generation or newer• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended• 256 GB SSD Storage• Dual Band spectrum (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz) with 802.11ac or 802.11n• Use Apple's About this Mac feature to find your hardware information

Chromebooks are not recommended, as they will not work with D2L.

Are you looking to purchase a computer? MSU has negotiated [purchase options with vendors](#) to help you make a technology purchase if you are looking into a computer for fall.

Students may access Microsoft Office 365 for free through the Microsoft website at the [Office 365 for Students site](#).

Computer labs

For students who rely on campus technology we will continue to allow access to campus computer labs, with appropriate capacity and time limits for social distancing. A listing of the computer labs and hours is found at [Information Technology](#). Some departments have designated computer labs and will provide hours and other information on the door of each lab.

Library technology resources

[Moffett Library](#) will have webcams available to borrow in the event one is needed for an exam. To see what technology the library has available, visit [Borrow Items from Moffett Library](#).

LockDown Browser + Webcam Requirement:

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The webcam can be the type that's built into your computer or one that plugs in with a USB cable.

Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature.

<https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

Download Instructions:

- Select the quiz in the course
- Under Quiz Requirements you will see "To take this quiz you must use the Respondus LockDown Browser"
- Below this will appear: "You can use the button below if you have not already downloaded LockDown Browser". Click the button to go to the download page and then follow the instructions
- Use the link to download Respondus LockDown Browser to your computer; follow the installation instructions
- Return to the Quiz page in Brightspace (it may still be open in another tab) and select the quiz
- Select "Launch LockDown Browser"
- The quiz will now start

Note: LockDown Browser only needs to be installed once to a computer or device. It will start automatically from that point forward when a quiz requires it.

Guidelines:

When taking an online quiz, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the exam
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
 - Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete
 - Take the exam in a well-lit room, but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window)
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Getting Help:

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- **[As applicable, insert information about your institution's help desk, including details about how to contact them. Some help desks want students to run the "System & Network Check" and the "Webcam Check" before they are contacted - and even, to forward the results of these checks at the time of opening a ticket.]**
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

Course Participation:

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn. Students will engage with the instructor, peers, and the physical/digital space in a respectful manner at all times. Attendance/tardiness issues (in-person or online), disruptive electronic device use, disruptive communication, etc. are behaviors that disrupt the learning process. Such behaviors are grounds for dismissal at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be required to wear a mask in accordance with campus policy or they will be asked to leave the class. Students will be expected to secure the safety of themselves and others via cleaning/disinfecting their assigned seats using supplies provided in the classroom. Failure to comply with this or any other MSU Texas policy is also grounds for possible dismissal from the course.

Grading Scale:

A	90.00-100%	360-400 pts
B	80.00-89.99%	320-359.9 pts
C	70.00-79.99%	280-319.9 pts
D	60.00-69.99%	240-279.9 pts
F	0-59.99%	0-239.9 pts

Grading Procedures:

Quizzes: There will be a short quiz on most Thursdays covering the chapter we most recently discussed in lecture. The questions for this quiz may come from your textbook or from in-class content. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. It will be unlocked for your completion via D2L on the date we have class and will be open for that date only.

Missed/Late Arrival Policy for Quizzes: Any quiz that is missed may be made up with instructor approval. There will be a 50% PENALTY deducted from any quiz for which a student does not have an excused absence for date of quiz. There is no grade penalty for quizzes missed due to an excused absence. An excused absence is an official MSU function (band, football, etc.) with corroborating documentation, a note from your doctor, a note from the Dean of Students, or a note from the Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Exams: There will be a total of 3 exams throughout the semester. Each of the exams will consist of multiple-choice and free-response questions from the textbook, additional readings, and class notes. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exam will be unlocked for your completion via D2L (through lockdown browser plus respondus monitor) on the date we have class and will be open for that date only.

Missed/Late Arrival Policy for Exams: Any exam that is missed may be made up with instructor approval. There will be a A LETTER GRADE PENALTY deducted from any make-up exam for which a student does not have an excused absence for date of test. There is no grade penalty for exams missed due to an excused absence. An excused absence is an official MSU function (band, football, etc.) with corroborating documentation, a note from your doctor, a note from the Dean of Students, or a note from the Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Research Participation:

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 April 23, 2021.

Participate in one or more approved psychology research projects totaling at least 90 minutes no later than April 23, 2021. Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear on the psychology department's website at

<https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php>

OR

Complete a research ethics essay. Participating students will read academic writings addressing research ethics. Following this, students will complete a 3-4 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 April 23, 2021.

University Policies:

“As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.”

As a Midwestern State University student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, and Student Honor Creed. For information regarding Midwestern State University's policies about academic dishonesty, please refer to the current Midwestern State University Student Handbook. The Handbook is also available online. Go to <http://students.msutexas.edu/studentaffairs> and then click the Student Handbook link. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Violation of the academic honesty policy will result in a failing grade and being reported to the Dean of Students.

If you have a disability and require reasonable classroom accommodations please register with Disability Support Services within two weeks of the semester beginning. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained through the Director of Disability Support Services, the ADA Coordinator, at <http://students.msutexas.edu/disability/> or may be contacted at (940)397-4140, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center Room 168, or email debra.higginbotham@msutexas.edu. If you require new accommodations at any point throughout the semester, they must be approved by DSS and the instructor must be notified at least one week prior to an exam for new accommodations to be made for that exam.

Tentative Schedule of Course Topics

Week #	Date	Course
1	Tuesday, January 12 Thursday, January 14	Syllabus Chapter 1 / Syllabus Quiz
2	Tuesday, January 19 Thursday, January 21	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 / Chapter 1 Quiz
3	Tuesday, January 26 Thursday, January 28	Chapter 2 Chapter 2 / Chapter 2 Quiz
4	Tuesday, February 2 Thursday, February 4	Chapter 5 Chapter 5 / Chapter 5 Quiz
5	Tuesday, February 9 Thursday, February 11	Chapter 5 <u>Test One (Ch. 1, 2, 5)</u>
6	Tuesday, February 16 Thursday, February 18	Chapter 6 Chapter 6
7	Tuesday, February 23 Thursday, February 25	Chapter 6 Chapter 9 / Chapter 6 Quiz
8	Tuesday, March 2 Thursday, March 4	Chapter 9 Chapter 9 / Chapter 9 Quiz
9	Tuesday, March 9 Thursday, March 11	Chapter 11 Chapter 11 / Chapter 11 Quiz
10	Tuesday, March 16 Thursday, March 18	<u>Test Two (Ch. 6, 9, 11)</u> Chapter 12
11	Tuesday, March 23 Thursday, March 25	Chapter 12 Chapter 12 / Chapter 12 Quiz
12	Tuesday, March 30 Thursday, April 1	Chapter 15 <i>No Class</i>
13	Tuesday, April 6 Thursday, April 8	Chapter 15 Chapter 16 / Chapter 15 Quiz
14	Tuesday, April 13 Thursday, April 15	Chapter 16 Chapter 16 / Chapter 16 Quiz
15	Tuesday, April 20 Thursday, April 22	Chapter 17 Chapter 17
16	<u>Thursday, April 29</u> <u>10:30am-12:30pm</u>	<u>Test Three (Ch. 12, 15, 16, 17)</u>

Disclaimer:

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may (and will likely) be necessary. The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule of topics as deemed necessary to maintain the quality and integrity of the course.

Assignment Tracker:

Assignment	Date Due	Points Available	Points Earned
Exam #1	Thursday, February 11	Out of 100 pts	
Exam #2	Tuesday, March 16	Out of 100 pts	
Exam #3	Thursday, April 29	Out of 100 pts	
Quiz #1	Thursday, January 14	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #2	Thursday, January 21	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #3	Thursday, January 28	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #4	Thursday, February 4	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #5	Thursday, February 25	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #6	Thursday, March 4	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #7	Thursday, March 11	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #8	Thursday, March 25	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #9	Thursday, April 8	Out of 10 pts	
Quiz #10	Thursday, April 15	Out of 10 pts	
			Total: