

Psychology 2203
General Psychology II
(formerly Human Behavior)

fall 2019

Please forgive the absence of clear headings, bold print, and underlining in this syllabus. I know that it makes it hard to follow, but all syllabi must be ADA compliant which means that they must be readable by computer software. The use of extra spaces, underlining, and bold print apparently confuse computers. Consequently, the syllabus is devoid of those niceties.

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Textbook King, L. A. (2017). The science of psychology: An appreciative view (4th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 978-1-259-76534-6)

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What to Expect

General Psychology II is the second of two courses in the introductory psychology sequence at Midwestern State University, the first being General Psychology I. General Psychology I is aimed at a broad audience and is part of the university's core curriculum. General Psychology II, on the other hand, is designed for more committed students—typically psychology majors and minors. As such, some of the chapters that are covered in General Psychology II are a little more rigorous than those assigned in General Psychology I and there is very little “teaching to the textbook” as is typical in General Psychology I. I enjoy teaching this course because it allows me the opportunity to give you a preview of several of the advanced psychology courses that I teach: History & Systems of Psychology, Sensation & Perception, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, and Theories of Motivation.

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Topics and Reading Assignments

Historical Introduction to Psychology--Chapter 1 (especially pages 4-14)

Biological Foundations of Psychology--Chapter 3 (especially pages 61-92)

TEST 1

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Information Processing: Sensation, Perception, Memory--Chapter 4 (especially pages 101-109, 111-130), Chapter 7 (especially pages 230-242)

TEST 2
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Industrial/Organizational Psychology--Chapter 14 (especially pages 467-482, 484-488,491-494)

TEST 3

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Human Motivation--Chapter 10 (especially pages 325-339)

Social Psychology--Chapter 13 (especially pages 429-454, 461-463)

TEST 4

(We will cover as much material as time allows, but it is unlikely that we will cover all topics.)

Exams

The average of four noncumulative multiple-choice tests will form the primary basis for assigning course grades. All test items will be drawn from the textbook, with emphasis placed on the pages I've emphasized above. About a week before each test, I will announce the date of each test in class and will also send that testing date information to the class via email.

If you miss a test, makeup tests will be administered on the day/time that we are scheduled for final exams: Monday, December 9, 8:00 am. There is no grade penalty for tests missed for excused reasons. For tests missed for unexcused reasons, the test grade will be lowered by one letter grade. A test day absence is considered excused only under three circumstances: (a) you bring me a note from your medical provider stating that you could not attend class on the day of the test, (b) you bring me a note from your medical provider stating that your dependent child (or spouse) required medical attention that prevented you from attending class on the day of the test, or (c) you bring me a note from an official of Midwestern State University (such as a coach or faculty sponsor) stating that you could not attend class on the day of the test due to another university obligation.

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Attendance Policy: Attendance is not required except on days of tests.

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Other expectations:

1. Do not leave the classroom prior to dismissal. Take care of your restroom needs and social obligations prior to the beginning of the class period. Wandering in and out of class is a distraction that is disruptive to the class. Remember that university policy states that students who are disruptive may be dropped from the class by the instructor. Therefore, come to class prepared to stay for the duration and do not leave the classroom for restroom breaks, telephone calls, and the like prior to dismissal. If you have a medical condition that requires you to leave class prior to dismissal, request that the Office of Disability Services provide me with the necessary documentation.
2. Do not come to class late. Entering the classroom after we have started is distracting to both your classmates and me and is considered disruptive behavior. As noted above, students who

are disruptive may be dropped from the class by the instructor, so please make sure that you are not habitually tardy.

3. Stay actively involved in class by taking notes. One of the goals of this class is for you to learn to take notes. You will not receive copies of my notes.
4. Do not use cell phones during class. Turn them off. If you anticipate receiving an emergency call or text, please silence your telephone ringer. Cell phones must remain entirely out of sight.
5. Do not chat with your neighbor(s) during class. If you have a question, ask me, not your neighbor. You may think that your cross-talk is okay, but those seated around you find it distracting. More importantly, I find it distracting and disruptive to an effective classroom instructional environment. Recall that students who are disruptive may be dropped from the class by the instructor. I will try to remember to allow a little time at the end of each class period to take your questions. If I forget, remind me.
6. Cheating will not be allowed and will result in your being dropped from the class with a grade of F with a referral to the Dean of Students for additional corrective action by the university. Evidence of cheating includes, but is not limited to, what I see with my own eyes. No grade adjustments will be made based on answer sheet scoring errors, so be sure that your answer sheets are marked clearly and that all erasures are complete.

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Research Participation Requirement

It is important that students of scientific psychology learn firsthand something about the scientific nature of the discipline. Therefore, all students in PSYC 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 course grade reduction.

1. The students in PSYC 4703—Psychological Tests & Evaluations collect data in order to develop psychological tests—things like measures of anxiety, self-efficacy, loneliness, etc. Data collection is accomplished using a survey that is expected to become available around October 20. The survey is only available for about a week and is then closed. I will announce in class and via email to the class when that survey becomes available and I encourage you all to help your fellow students, and complete your own research participation requirement, by taking that survey.

or

2. Complete a research ethics essay. Participating students will read an assigned article on 10 psychological studies that violated one or more principles of the ethical treatment of human subjects. After reading the article, write a 10 page, double-spaced paper summarizing each study and suggesting alternative approaches to doing the research that would have been more ethically appropriate. Tables, figures, pictures do not count toward the minimum page requirement. Essays must be submitted no later than December 1, 2019.

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Grading

Each exam will be scored on a percentage-correct scale as follows:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% and lower

Course grades will be based entirely on the average of grades earned on the four exams, adjusted downward in the case of failure to complete the research requirement.

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Posting of Grades

Students' grades are posted as a convenience to students on the bulletin board directly opposite O'Donohoe 125. Information is posted by the last four digits of your student ID. If you do not want me to post your grades, please provide me with a statement to that effect with your name, signature, and date.

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Midterm Progress Report

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. Only students who are identified as being at risk for earning grades of D or F will be notified in this manner. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's 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 seek tutoring.