

**Syllabus  
General Psychology II  
Fall 2025**

Professor:	Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #:	PSYC 2203, Sec. 201
Office:	OD 118	Time:	9:30am – 10:50am; TR
email:	nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location:	PY 101
		Office Hours:	MWF: 11am – 12pm; F: 2pm – 4pm

**Required Texts:**

*Psychology, 2e* (OpenStax)

Important! This text has been made freely available to you as a .pdf on D2L. If you wish to purchase a physical copy, you can do so by following the instructions on D2L. For more information, please visit: <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e/>

**Course Objectives:**

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

1. What psychology is and how it is applicable to both the world and us.
2. How we think, learn, and remember
3. How we interact with the world around us through processes like sensation and perception
4. Other areas of psychology including social psychology, industrial organizational psychology, and real-world applications.

**Attendance:**

This course has been planned as a face-to-face course for Fall 2024. 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.

Class attendance is **required**. If you do miss class, you will be responsible for the material you missed when absent. 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. *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. Students with more than four absences will be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Exams:** Students will complete **three** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of 300 points (60% of your overall course grade). Exams will contain a mix of multiple choice and short response questions.
2. **Quizzes:** Students will complete 9 online quizzes throughout the semester. **\*No-make up quizzes will be given.\*** However, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will be worth

12.5 points each for a total of **\*100 points\*** toward your final grade. (20% of your final grade). Quizzes are open-book and are designed to encourage you to read each chapter. As such, quizzes may sometimes cover material that we are unable to fully discuss in class.

Quizzes are due Sundays by 11:59pm (see the course schedule below for due dates). **\*If you submit a late quiz within 5 days of the due date (i.e., by the Friday after the quiz is due), I will assign partial credit (10% off per day late). YOU MUST EMAIL ME TO REQUEST PARTIAL CREDIT. Failure to email will result in a grade of 0 for the quiz.\***

3. **Class participation/Attendance:** Students get the most out of their college experience when they show up to class and actively participate. To facilitate class participation, we will randomly complete activities and/or discussions in class. Your participation grade will be based on your **\*participation in class discussions, general attendance, and completion of in-class activities\***. Attendance AND participation is worth a combined **\*50 points\*** towards your final grade (10% of your final grade). **\*YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE FULL CREDIT IN THIS CATEGORY IF YOU ATTEND CLASS BUT DO NOT PARTICIPATE!\***
4. **Research Participation:** It is important that students of psychology experience the scientific nature of the discipline first-hand. All students in PSYC 2203 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 approved psychology research projects (**At least 90 minutes**). Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester and are available at: <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php>. The deadline for research participation is May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Studies completed after this date will not be counted. Successfully completing 90 minutes will be worth **\*50 points\***. Partial credit will be awarded (i.e., 45 minutes of research == 25 points). Research participation will account for 10% of your final grade.

**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 May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This essay will be worth 50 points.

### **Grades:**

Your final grade in the course will be calculated based on **500** total points:

500-450:	A
449-400:	B
399-350:	C
349-300:	D
< 299:	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 2203) AND section number (Sec. 201) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster. **\*Please note that any emails sent at the end of the semester requesting that your grade be rounded up will be promptly ignored.\***

I will try my best to get back to you within 48-hours (during the week). **\*If you email me with no context, I will not respond\*** Please keep in mind that I strive to maintain a healthy work-life, so I generally will not reply to emails after 5:00pm on weekdays or anytime on weekends/holidays.

All course announcements will be posted on D2L. To ensure that you do not miss any important updates, please check D2L frequently! Additionally, double-check that your primary email address is listed on Banner.

### **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.

### **Cheating Policy:**

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.

### **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.

## General Course Schedule

A note on the schedule: This schedule represents an ideal outline of what we'll cover in the course. That being said, we may occasionally get behind (or ahead!) of it. If that happens, I will modify the schedule and any exam content accordingly. Updated schedules may be periodically posted on D2L. I will try to send out announcements, but it is important that you regularly attend class!

## The Current Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Important Dates/Notes</b>
Week 1	1/20 – 1/24	Couse Overview/Introduction	Syllabus/Chapter 1	Chapter 1 quiz due 1/26
Week 2	1/27 – 1/31	Research in Psychology	Chapter 2	
Week 3	2/3 – 2/7	Research in Psychology	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 quiz due 2/9
Week 4	2/10 – 2/14	Biopsychology	Chapter 3	<b>*No Class Tuesday 2/11*</b>
Week 5	2/17 – 2/21	Biopsychology	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 quiz due 2/27  <b>Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 3 (in class 2/20)</b>
Week 6	2/24 – 2/28	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 5	
Week 7	3/3 – 3/7	Sensation and Perception/Thinking and Intelligence	Chapters 5 & 7	Chapter 5 quiz due 3/9
Week 8	3/10 – 3/14	<b>*Spring Break*</b>		<b>*No class this week*</b>
Week 9	3/17 – 3/21	Thinking and Intelligence	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 quiz due 3/23
Week 10	3/24 – 3/28	Memory	Chapter 8	<b>*No Class Thursday 3/27 (Maxwell at SWPA)*</b>
Week 11	3/31 – 4/4	Memory	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 quiz due 4/6

				<b>Exam 2:</b> Chapters 5, 7, & 8 (in class 4/3)
Week 12	4/7 – 4/11	Motivation and Emotion	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 quiz due 4/13
Week 13	4/14 – 4/18	Social Psychology	Chapter 12	
Week 14	4/21 – 4/25	Social Psychology / I/O Psychology	Chapters 12 and 13	Chapter 12 quiz due 4/27
Week 15	4/28 – 5/2	I/O Psychology	Chapter 13	
Week 16	5/5 – 5/9	Exam		<b>*No Class Thursday 5/8*</b>  Chapter 13 quiz due 5/11  <b>Exam 3:</b> Chapters 10, 12, & 13 (in class 5/6)
Finals Week		<b>NO FINAL!</b>		