

Syllabus
General Psychology-Honors
PSYC 1103, section 1H1
Fall 2019

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D. Office: O'donohoe 112
Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:00 & 11:00-11:30; TR 2-2:55 pm
Class Time: MWF 10:00-10:50 Location: PY 102
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Phone: 397-4026

Goals:

1. Engage in weekly discussions about historical and current topics as related to the chapters.
 1. Write 5 reaction papers taking a stand on the issue.
 2. Apply psychological knowledge to the topic.
 3. Engage in public discourse about a variety of topics.

2. To increase multiple-choice test-taking skills and improve study skills/time management. This will be accomplished by:
 1. Taking 5 tests.
 2. Instruction on study and test-taking skills.
 3. Having questions over sections of the chapter that are not discussed in class.
 4. Having to decipher ambiguously written questions.
 5. Having to choose between the "best" and "almost best" answer.

3. Be introduced to the exciting field of psychology.
 1. Each chapter is a survey of a major area of study within the field.
 2. In-class group exercises.

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.

Begin drafting papers as early as possible and take advantage of the [MSU Writing Center](https://msutexas.edu/writing-center/index.php) (<https://msutexas.edu/writing-center/index.php>). Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm; you can also find a tutor at the Clark Student Commuter Lounge, Sunday and Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they will provide support and feedback at every stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

Text: King, L. A. (2017). *The science of psychology: An appreciative view* (4th Ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill

Note: Connect: Psychology can be found at www.mcgrawhillconnect.com

From the Publisher: This online, interactive program focuses on building students' 21st Century skills through interactions, project-based learning, listening, journaling, and self-evaluation. This anytime, anywhere program prepares students academically, socially, and cognitively for college and career. It addresses all aspects of college and career readiness, including areas in which students report needing help, such as personal and life skills, like time management and self-motivation; 21st Century skills like lateral thinking and problem solving; exploring careers against lifestyle choices, wants, and needs; and the relevancy of academic skills.

Stapler: papers must be stapled and will not be accepted unless stapled.

Course Requirements: Grades will be based on five reaction papers, performance on 3 out of 4 exams, **and** a final.

(50 points-10 points each) Reaction papers are to be two double-spaced pages and include two peer-reviewed references (Wikipedia and .com-web-pages do not count as a reference). Papers are to take a side and argue for it. Personal opinion is appropriate as long as there is support for it in the literature. Feedback will be provided over the semester to aid with academic growth. Some students may be asked to read their papers to the group. Topics are negotiable. If something occurs during the semester, we may replace a listed topic with an emerging one (e.g., arming teachers). In addition, students may suggest topics, and if time permits, additional topics will be added.

(200 points-50 points each) Each exam will be worth 50 points and the lowest score will be dropped. This means a student who has earned an "A" average on the first 4 exams does not have to attend the final (those students will be notified after the 4th exam). Students with a "B+" or lower must attend the final. Tests will be multiple choice and answers will be marked on Scantrons. I reserve the right to add essay questions at any point during the semester.

Texas Core Objectives (Competency Based)

Midterm Exam I (15 points): Being a good consumer of research is essential in the global economy. A 15-item additional test will be administered at the end of the first exam. These questions will directly measure your understanding of psychological research design and entry-level statistics.

Midterm Exam II (10 points): By the midterm, you will develop a list of your **three** favorite theoretical perspectives in psychology. The purpose of this activity is to help you to 'think psychologically' about the world around you. You will be asked to list and describe each of these perspectives. These perspectives will then be used during the final exam to address a societal, interpersonal or personal problem. This portion of the exam will contribute **25%** toward your grade *on that exam*. Answers will be graded on (a) whether you listed three recognizable psychological perspectives, (b) the accuracy of your descriptions, and (c) the structural and grammatical adequacy of your answer.

Final Exam (25 points): A portion of your final exam will include an essay component that requires you to address an issue of social, interpersonal, or personal concern (e.g., an unproductive employee, a student who can't control his spending, religious intolerance) from the perspective of **one** of your psychological theories or perspectives listed at the midterm. This portion of the exam will account for **25%** of your grade *on the final exam*. Answers will be graded on (a) your ability to address the problem from one of the psychological perspectives, (b) the strength and accuracy of your argument, (c) your level of empathy, ethics, and respect for diversity in your response, and (d) the structural and grammatical adequacy of your answer.

Research Requirement

(10 points) 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 2 weeks before finals week.**

1. Participate in one or more psychology research projects totaling at least 60 minutes. [Research opportunities](https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php) will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php>
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 the second to last week of class.**

300 points are possible and grade ranges are as follows:

A = 300-270

B = 269-240

C = 239-210

D = 209-180

F = 179 or lower

Note: Students with disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before accommodations can be provided. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact me and must provide documentation by Disability Support Services. The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

A copy of "A Guide for Faculty and Staff Working with Students with Disabilities" is available online at [Faculty Guide](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications. Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Support Services before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained at [Accommodation Request](#). See also: [Student Life](#)

Make-up Policy: Make-up exams will be essay in nature and can be scheduled with me. I need one week to prepare the exam; thus, the earliest a make-up exam can be taken is one week after the initial exam. See the 2018-2019 Student Handbook on Class Attendance Policy (page 43). [Student Handbook](#)

Electronic Contact: I require 5 working days to be able to read and respond to all email. Please note that my spam filter does keep some emails from getting to me. In addition, I do not check email after 5 pm nor on weekends/holidays. My cell phone is to be used only by students who have been given it by me (e.g., honor society officers, graduate students). Please do not text me on my cell unless I have personally given you my cell number.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Please turn all cell phones and pagers off (no sound) during class. DO NOT text message during class. DO NOT answer your cell phone in class. Exceptions include emergency calls (e.g., birth of child, family member in hospital). Students who are unable to comply will not be allowed to attend class.

College Policies and Procedures

Can be found at the bottom of the MSU home page or at [Human Resources Policy](#).

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: 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 individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of "F" and being reported to the [Dean of Students](#).

Student Code of Conduct:

MWSU's official policy in the University's Code of Student Conduct on page 52, states:

Instructor Drop An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar as the official drop date. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Student Conduct office.

I will closely follow this policy in terms of your conduct in class. Anything that is disruptive to the class will result in you being Instructor Dropped from the class with a grade of F. I will enforce this policy in that my obligation is to provide the best and most informative course that I can. I cannot do that when there is behavior that disrupts the class. This also includes attempting to dominate or "teach" the class, interrupting the course frequently with stories that are not facilitative or relevant to the flow of the class, using

electronics during class that are not directly related to the class material, and talking frequently to one's peers while course is being held. Any other behaviors that are deemed disruptive will also be enforced as deemed by our Code of Conduct policy. Remember that there are stories and questions that are facilitative to our class discussions, and some that are obstructive.

Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

Midterm Grade 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 for all at-risk students. 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 seek out tutoring. The psychology department has 2 tutors available at the Tutoring and Academic Support Program. In addition, students may schedule an appointment with the instructor to review past tests.

Travel Plans: Please do not make travel plans during finals week. The final will be given when the university has scheduled it as per the schedule of classes.

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
8/26-9/13	Semester Overview/Course Requirements Study and test taking skills Chapter 1-What is Psychology? Chapter 2-Psychology's Scientific Method Chapter 5-States of Consciousness Topics: 1. The benefits of medical marijuana. 2. The clinical research behind medical marijuana.
9/2	<i>Labor Day, no classes</i>
Monday 9/16:	Exam I
9/18-9/30	Chapter 11-Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Chapter 12-Personality Topics: 3. The actual costs of living in Wichita Falls for a single mother of 2 (entire class project).
9/30 10/7	<i>Last day for December graduates to file</i> <i>Last day for May graduates to file</i>
Wednesday: 10/2	Exam II *First two papers must be turned in by Exam II
10/4-10/18	Chapter 9-Human Development Topics: 4. Should we require a license to be a parent? 5. Adolescent sexual behavior 6. Impact of Social Media on Adolescence
Monday 10/21:	Exam III *all corrections from first two papers due.

10/23-11/6 Chapter 6-Learning
Chapter 17-Health Psychology

Topics: 7. Immigration pros and cons
8. Use of learning in advertising

10/28 *Last day for "W"*

Friday 11/8: Exam IV

***Third and fourth papers must be turned in by Exam IV**

11/11-12/6 Chapter 15-Psychological disorders
Chapter 16-Therapies

Topics: 9. Uniform Crime Report-police shootings and who dies.
10. Mental Health and our prison system

11/27-11/29 *Thanksgiving break, no classes*

***Last paper must be turned in by 11/25 as well as all corrections from the third and fourth papers.**

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11th 10:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.