

PSYCHOLOGY 2203-X20
General Psychology II
Spring 2024

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Text: King, L. A. (2017). *The science of psychology: An appreciative view* (6th ed.), McGraw-Hill.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS COURSE

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 I is the only college level psychology course that most students will ever take and it is designed for that audience. General Psychology II, on the other hand, is designed for more committed students—almost all are psychology majors or minors. As such, some of the topics that are covered in General Psychology II are a little more rigorous than those assigned in General Psychology I and there is virtually no “teaching to the textbook” as is common in General Psychology I. The purpose of the course, then, is to round out your introductory exposure to the breadth of psychology and to provide a preview of several of the advanced psychology courses that are taught at MSU: History & Systems of Psychology, Information Processing, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, and Theories of Motivation. General Psychology II also covers Biological Foundations of Psychology, which is no longer taught at MSU as a stand-alone course, but bits and pieces of which are incorporated into our other courses.

This is an asynchronous online course. In other words, it is a collection of 34 prerecorded lecture videos averaging about 40 minutes each. The videos were recorded in face-to-face classes taught during the fall 2023 semester. Keep that fact in mind as you listen to the videos. Any references made in the recorded lectures to testing dates or other such specific class business may not be valid for the spring 2024 semester. Testing dates and the details of class business for the current semester will be presented in this syllabus and in my email communications with you.

Instructional videos will be available to you on D2L and you will be able to view them at your convenience. If you have questions about using D2L, I'd be the worst possible person to ask! Seriously! However, we've got a very responsive

distance education staff that can be reached by email: D2Lhelp@msutexas.edu. They'll be able to answer all of your questions about the mechanics of using D2L. As I post instructional videos to D2L I'll send notifications by email. Of course you can always just look to see if there's something new. It's easy to fall behind in a course like this one. Don't let that happen. Try to develop a regular viewing schedule. Otherwise you may put things off and find yourself viewing a dozen videos the night before a test. The following section, Topics, Tests, and Reading Assignments lists the topics that we'll cover in the course, the corresponding instructional videos that cover those topics, reading assignments in your textbook, and dates of the five tests.

TOPICS, TESTS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Historical Introduction to Psychology--Chapter 1 (especially pp. 8-10)

TEST 1 (February 9, 8:00 am to February 10, 8:00 am)

Biological Foundations of Psychology--Chapter 3 (especially pp. 60-87, 88-89)

TEST 2 (February 26, 8:00 am to February 27, 8:00 am)

Information Processing: Sensation, Perception, and Memory--Chapter 4
(especially pp. 100-130) and Chapter 7 (especially pp. 212-242)

TEST 3 (April 1, 8:00 am to April 2, 8:00 am)

Human Motivation--Chapter 10 (especially pp. 326-337)

TEST4 (April 19, 8:00 am to April 20, 8:00 am)

Industrial-Organizational Psychology—Chapter 14 (especially pp. 476-497)

TEST 5 (May 3, 8:00 am to May 4, 8:00 am)

EXAMS

Course grades will be determined by the average of five noncumulative true/false tests. Testing dates are shown in the preceding section of this syllabus. Tests will be available on D2L, each for 24 hours. Once you open a test to begin taking it, you will have 50 minutes in which to complete it.

If you miss a test, makeup tests will be administered on D2L on May 6 from 8:00 am to May 7 8:00 am. There is no grade penalty for tests missed for excused reasons (see attendance policy below). For tests missed for unexcused reasons, the test grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Failing to take a test during the 24-hour period of time during which it is offered is considered an "absence" in this online course. Absences on days of tests will result in a one letter grade reduction of the test grade unless the test was missed for reasons of an excused absence.

University policy calls for absences to be excused under the following circumstances:

1. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner or MSU official stating that the student was unable to test on the day(s) of the absence;
2. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner or MSU official stating that the student's dependent child was ill on the day(s) of the absence;
3. the student provides a written excuse from an MSU official stating that the student was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day(s) of the absence.

In order for an absence to be excused, the written excuse must be provided within one week of the absence. If this is not possible, the student must at least contact me with an explanation within one week of the absence to let me know when I can expect to receive documentation that the absence should be excused.

Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences under university policy. If you are unable to take a test for a good reason that isn't covered by the university's list and you can document your excuse, let me know what happened and I'll consider it.

GRADING

Each test 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 on the average of the five test scores using the same grading scale shown above.

DISABILITIES

Individuals requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Midwestern State University Office of Disabilities Services.

MIDTERM PROGRESS REPORT

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide the university with a Midterm Progress Report for each student. Only students who are identified as being at risk for earning course grades of D or F will then be notified by the university. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student' 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 might want to consider seeking tutoring or making other adjustments to their study strategies.

OFFICE HOURS FOR SPRING 2024 SEMESTER

MW 11-12
TR 8-9:30

Please email me to schedule an appointment during these times to make sure I don't have a scheduling conflict