

Syllabus  
General Psychology  
Fall 2024

Professor:	David Carlston, Ph.D.	Course #:	PSYC 1103, sec. 102
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OpenStax College. (2020). *Psychology 2e*. <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

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.

Course Objectives:

1. Help students to gain an overview of the fundamental principles of psychology.
2. Increase student ability to glean and retain pertinent information vis-à-vis independent study.
3. Gain a perspective of the relevance of psychological research in today's world.

Course Requirements:

1. In order to encourage students to keep current with their reading and to help students prepare for exams, fifteen quizzes will be given during the semester. These quizzes will help students identify important concepts emphasized in the exams. Quizzes may be multiple choice or short answer in format and will be worth 8 points each. Each student may drop his or her two lowest quiz scores. Students are expected to bring **small** scantron forms to each class.

(Although quiz scores will not be calculated into the final grade, students may use their quiz scores to replace their lowest exam score. *Quiz scores will not be allowed to substitute for the last exam.*)

2. Exams will be worth 100 points each. Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and one essay question. Material on the exam will include both information presented in lecture and contained in the textbook. It will not be sufficient to simply attend lecture to be successful in this course.
3. It is important that students of 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.**

Students must participate in one or more approved psychology research projects totaling at least 90 minutes **no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear on the psychology department's website.

OR

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 also be submitted **no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

Grades: Grades will be based on a 500-point scale.

- A 450-500
- B 400-449
- C 350-399
- D 300-349
- F 0-299

Note Packets:

Students may earn extra points on each exam. In order to earn the extra points, students must complete a note packet for each of the chapters covered on the exam. Note packets are structured to summarize the information presented in the textbook. Submission of lecture notes only will result in no additional points.

Note packets will include at least summary statements for each section, definitions of key terms, and a description or summary of the content presented in graphs, charts, and supplemental sections. Additional evidence of SQ3R implementation and incorporation of lecture notes into the note packet may result in additional points.

Note packets will be turned in physically. Note packets must be handwritten in red ink.

Attendance:

Attendance is required for the course. Each student will be allowed three absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a 5% reduction of the student's final grade. Students will be responsible for the information presented during the class periods for which they were absent. This information includes but is not limited to course content, syllabus changes, and information regarding the research requirement.

The only absences that will not be counted are absences for a mandatory, university-sponsored event or religious holidays. Mandatory university-sponsored events must be verified by the Dean of Students, Provost, or Athletic Director. Written notification for mandatory university-sponsored events must be provided to the professor at least two days prior to the day of the event. Absences for religious holidays must also be cleared through the Dean of Students. Students must inform the instructor of religious holiday absences by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of class.

### Cheating Policy:

Although cheating does occur on campus, any evidence of cheating (e.g., looking on another's paper, allowing someone to look on your own paper, using an unauthorized memory aide) will result in automatic dismissal from the course with a letter grade of "F" and a referral to the Dean of Students, as cheating is a violation of the university honor code.

### Disability:

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 the University's 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 the DSS has been provided.

### Mandated Reporting:

This information is to inform the student of the limits of confidentiality while enrolled at MSU Texas or any other Texas state school. Due to federal and state law, MSU Texas faculty and staff are required to report key information regarding student welfare. For example, I am required to complete a report for any student who indicates experiencing sexual abuse/misconduct, physical/emotional abuse, domestic violence, stalking, suicidal/homicidal ideation, or related experience. These reports will be sent to the MUS Texas Title IX Department and/or the Dean of Student's office (<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?MSUTexas>).

*Student disclosure may occur via a face-to-face meeting, in-class self-disclosure, email, statement made in a written assignment, etc.* If a student asks a faculty or staff person not to share the information, please note that by law, we have to report and I will report. Please note that as students, you may be aware of classmates/dormmates struggling and can make an incident report at: (<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?MSUTexas>).

### Missed Quizzes/Exams:

No make up exams will be available, unless a student misses the exam due to a mandatory, university-sponsored event or religious holidays for which appropriate notification was provided compliant with the timeline for excused absences.

### Late Work:

No late work will be accepted. Therefore, note packets must be submitted at the beginning of the class during which the exams will be taken.

Class Schedule:

Class Week	Dates	Readings	Important Dates
1	8/26-8/31	Syllabus pgs. 7-18	8/28 - Quiz #1
2	9/2-9/7	pgs. 18-41	No Class 9/2 9/4 – Quiz #2
3	9/9-9/14	pgs. 41-70	9/11 – Quiz #3
4	9/16-9/21	pgs. 109-126	<b>9/16 – Exam #1</b> 9/18– Quiz #4
5	9/23-9/28	pgs. 134-144 pgs. 485-502	9/25 – Quiz #5
6	9/30-10/5	pgs. 502-535	10/2 – Quiz #6
7	10/7-10/12	pgs. 181-201	<b>10/7 – Exam #2</b> 10/9 – Quiz #7
8	10/14-10/19	pgs. 201-211, pgs. 359-377	10/16 – Quiz #8
9	10/21-10/26	pgs. 378-398	10/23– Quiz #9
10	10/28-11/2	pgs. 279-291	<b>10/28 – Exam #3</b> 10/30 – Quiz #10
11	11/4-11/9	pgs. 291-312	11/6 – Quiz #11
12	11/11-11/16	pgs. 313-320	11/13 – Quiz #12 11/15 - Last day for Research Completion
13	11/18-11/23	pgs. 537-560	<b>11/18 – Exam #4</b> 11/20 – Quiz #13
14	11/25-11/30	pgs. 560-570 pgs. 599-617	11/25 – last day for a “W” 11/27 – Quiz #14 11/27-12/1 Thanksgiving Break
15	12/2-12/7	pgs. 617-632	12/4 – Quiz #15
16			<b>Final Exam 12/9</b> 8:00-10:00 am