



General Psychology

PSYC 1103, section 103
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D.

Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:45 am

TR 9:30-11:30am

F by appointment

Class Meets: online

Class Email: [D2L Email](#)

Office Email: [Office Email](#)

Office: O'donohoe 112

Phone: 940-397-4026

Room: D2L

Note: When emailing me, please put General Psychology as the subject.

Goals

1. 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.
6. Become proficient with taking tests online and with a LockDown browser.

2. 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.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

**Free* see Syllabus Folder*

Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., & Lovett, M. D. (2020). *Psychology 2e*. Rice University, [OpenStax](#).

Students have three options regarding the textbook. You may view it online, download a PDF, or purchase a print copy. All three options are available at the [OpenStax](#) link.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Grades will be based on your performance 2 quizzes, 3 exams, 1 final, and a research option.

(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 (this is solely based upon test grades. No other points will be considered). 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.

Note: Exams will be taken in D2L and open from 8 am till 10 pm (same hours D2L help is open). Students who do not have access to a computer/tablet and/or internet at home can take the exam at the Clark Student Center computer lab or the first floor Dillard computer lab. Lack of access to a computer/tablet and/or internet is not an excuse for failing to take an exam. Questions will be randomly chosen from the test bank. Each exam will last 60 minutes, only one test question will show on the screen, but you will be able to go back and see past questions.

(10 Points) Study Skills Quiz-15 items over the first week of study skills. Will be completed in D2L. The quiz will be open for 24+ hours and students have 10 minutes to complete it. See exams regarding access to a computer/tablet and the internet.

(15 Points) Assessment for Empirical and Quantitative Skills-15 items over research methods, sampling, and correlation vs causation. Core requirement for the State of Texas. Students will complete this independent quiz after reading Chapter 2. The quiz will be open for 24+ hours and students have 20 minutes to complete it. See exams regarding access to a computer/tablet and the internet.

(25 Points) Ethics assessment-written assessment. Core requirement for the State of Texas. A key aspect of Psychological Research is the ethical treatment of participants. Although research ethics are strongly emphasized by modern psychologists, early studies sometimes crossed ethical lines, exposing participants to risks that would be considered unacceptable today. For this assignment, you will choose one famous psychological study that raised ethical concerns and analyze it using the following guidelines.

1. Provide an overview of the study
 - a. What questions were the researchers trying to answer?
 - b. Who were the participants?
 - c. What were the procedures
 - d. Summarize the key findings
2. Analyze the ethics based on APA standards
 - a. Identify which ethical principles or standards were most relevant
 - b. Discuss any specific ethical concerns raised by the study
 - c. Clearly explain how the study violated these guidelines
3. Impact on Modern Psychological Research
 - a. How did this study influence ethical practices in modern psychology?
 - b. How would this study need to be redesigned today to meet ethical expectations?

Papers are to have an APA 7th edition title page and references page (3 peer-reviewed references, and 3 pages typed in APA 7th ed. (double spaced). Papers will be uploaded to TurnItIn.com through D2L.

Studies to Choose from: The Monster Study 1939, The Aversion Project 1970s and 1980s, The Stanford Prison Experiment 1970, The Monkey Drug Trials 1969, Landis' Facial Expressions Experiment 1924, Little Albert 1920, Learned Helplessness 1965, Milgram Study 1974, The Well of Despair 1960, David Reimer 1965-2004 (see Ethics Article Option folder under Content for brief descriptions of each study).

(10 points) Research Requirement-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 two following research-related exercises. **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 90 minutes. Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear at [Undergraduate Research](#).

OR

2. Complete a research essay (see instructor for topic). Participating students will read academic writings addressing research ethics. Following this, students will complete a 3-4 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.**

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Quizzes x2	25
Ethics Paper	25
Midterm Exam x3	150
Final Exam	50
Research Requirement	10
Total Points	260

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	234 to 260
B	208 to 233
C	182 to 207
D	156 to 181
F	155 or less

Make Up Work/Tests

University sponsored travel does allow for a student to make up missed work and/or exams. Missing an exam for non-university reasons is at the instructor's discretion. Please provide medical evidence of necessity (e.g., birth of a child). If unavoidable travel occurs (e.g., funeral), students must provide evidence of attendance

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you

experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking a college class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete tests and/or upload assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

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- a. Brightspace (maker of D2L) has tutorials available on YouTube. Please go to [Brightspace YouTube](#) for additional help.

Your exams require the LockDown Browser and a Webcam.

Most of the time you will not encounter any problems, however, listed below are some common issues.

1. Make sure you have the most recent version of the [LockDown Browser](#) on your computer.
2. The most common issue is the loss of connection during the test. If you get a blank page or a spinning wheel, you will need to exit the test, close the browser, and re-enter the test.
3. If you are taking this test at home, it is best that no other device is being used that requires the Internet while you are taking the test.
4. **Chromebook Laptops are NOT compatible with the LockDown Browser**, so you will need to locate a different device. If you have the ability to come to campus, the LockDown Browser is on the computers in the Clark Student Center lab and the first floor Dillard lab. **Note:** There are no cameras on these computers, you will need to bring your own webcam or check one out from the Library.

If you need assistance with issues, please use the Report a Problem link at the top of this page or email d2lhelp@msutexas.edu.

Always let your Instructor know that you've had a technical difficulty and have reached out to us.

Please be aware of:

1. The LockDown Browser flags problematic behavior like going off camera, talking, or even being back lit. The instructor gets an alert. All moderate and high alert notifications result in the video being watched for evidence of academic dishonesty. Please don't sit with a lamp or bright light behind you as the camera has a hard time reading your face.
2. Please do not take an exam with anyone else present. If you are in an MSU computer lab, we understand that other people may be around. Please don't have conversations with them until after you complete the exam.
3. The **environment scans are not acceptable in many cases**. Students are to show the room including the desk/table top and the wall behind the computer. Students who fail to properly scan the environment are watched very closely. Any behavior that appears like a person is looking at notes or another device may be reported as academic dishonesty.

Informed Consent: This information is to inform the student of the limits of confidentiality while enrolled at MSU Texas or any other state school. Due to federal and state law, faculty and staff working for a university are required to report any information that falls under Title IX. Any student who indicates experiencing sexual abuse/misconduct, physical/emotional abuse, domestic violence, stalking, suicidal/homicidal ideation, or related experiences will have an incident report sent to either the MSU Texas Title IX and/or the Dean of Student's office. 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: [Student Referrals and Incident Reporting Forms](#)

Report forms are:

Bias Incident Reporting Form	General Student Complaint Form
Campus Incident Report Form	Sexual Misconduct Report Form
Concerning Student Behavior Form	Student Alert Form

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

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.

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.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Important Dates

- Deadline to file for graduation: December 2025 is September 21; May 2027 is October 5. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)
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Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university

campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

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

Travel Plans

Please do not make travel plans that would hinder your access to a computer or the internet. You are responsible for maintaining electronic(s) equipment and internet access every day during this semester.

Date(s)	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Activity
August 25 – September 1	Semester Overview/Course Requirements Study Skills	Study for Quiz
September 3-4	Study Skills Quiz	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm
September 3 – September 15	Chapter 1 -Introduction to Psychology Chapter 2 -Psychological Research	Study for exam
September 17	Midterm 1	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm
September 24-25	Quiz for Empirical and Quantitative Skills	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm

Date(s)	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Activity
September 22 – October 1	Chapter 4 -States of Consciousness Chapter 11 -Personality	Study for exam
October 6	Midterm 2	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm
October 8 – October 20	Chapter 9-LifeSpan Development	Study for exam
October 22	Midterm 3	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm
October 27 – November 5	Chapter 6 -Learning Chapter 14 -Stress, Lifestyle, & Health	Study for exam
November 2	Paper Due -must be uploaded to TurnItIn.com through D2L	APA 7 th Ed Paper
November 10	Midterm 4	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm
November 12 – December 3	Chapter 15 -Psychological Disorders Chapter 16 -Therapy and Treatment	Study for exam
December 10	Final	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm

If an exam was missed due to a non-approved reason, a student may make up any exam/Quiz-no questions asked-Friday December 4. Please note that historically, students score worse on make-up exams due to the time between the section and the exam.