



Learning

PSYC 4003, Section X10
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 Learning as the subject.

Goals

To become knowledgeable in the application of learning principles to humans (behavioral modification).

- a. I will draw additional material from Baldwin & Baldwin (2000) and Chance (2013). The material will be applied to intra- and interpersonal contexts.

Expand information manipulation and prepare for graduate coursework.

- a. Tests will be over approximately 7 chapters and additional material.
- b. Tests will be multiple choice and have a time limit.
- c. Having to choose between the "best" and "almost best" answer.

Improve on APA 7th Edition writing skills and library search skills.

- a. Title page
- b. Headings
- c. In-text citations
- d. Reference page(s).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Miltenberger, R. G. (2024). *Behavior Modification: Principles & Procedures* (7th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.). (2020). Washington D. C.: American Psychological Association.

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

This course is asynchronous allowing students flexibility to work around other courses, clinical placements, and work. Students are responsible for reading the assigned chapters and watching Loom videos posted by the instructor. Please read below regarding the graded tasks for the course.

Loom lectures are for enrolled students only. Permission to post any audio/visual recording of the instructor on social media (e.g., TikTok, YouTube) IS NOT granted and a violation of the instructor's privacy. Any student caught posting a video(s) of the instructor will be dropped from the course and receive a grade of "F." In addition, the behavior will be reported to the proper university authorities for discipline.

Grades will be based on your performance on Introduce Yourself, 1 midterm, 1 paper, and the final.

There will be 1 midterm and 1 final. Each exam will be worth 150 points. Tests will be multiple choice (available through D2L, LockDown Browser required) and essay (completed in class). For the multiple-choice exam, the test will cover the text, have a strict time limit, and only one question will be shown at a time. For the essay, questions over major concepts from the lecture (the PowerPoints will be very important) will be the sole focus.

The **5-page**, APA paper will be conducted over an applied chapter in the book. The paper will be worth 100 points.

1. Use a title page, headings, and reference page to organize reader
2. Have four additional sources beyond the chapter. **Only one source may from .edu, .gov, or .com. All other sources should be from peer reviewed journals or academic books (not text books from other classes).**

*All papers must be turned in electronically to TurnItIn.com through D2L. Go to Assessments: (a) choose Assignments, and (b) choose Term Paper. You will upload your paper and can view a similarity rating. If green (under 25% or so), no worries. If yellow, possible rewrite. Check to see if your sources are artificially raising your percent (if yes, no worries). If orange, definitely rewrite!

In addition, TurnITIn.com will give me an AI estimate. If AI is indicated for a significant portion of one's paper, I will check it through 2 more AI checkers. **Warning:** Overuse of grammar checkers (e.g., Grammarly, Quillbot) has resulted in papers coming back 60-100% likely AI generated. Please use these checkers minimally.

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes.

Student Paper Topics:

2-Observing and Recording Behavior; 3-Graphing Behavior and Measuring Change; 12-Behavioral Skills Training Procedures; 13-Understanding Problem Behaviors through Functional Assessment; 20-Self Management; 21-Habit Reversal Procedures; 22-The Token Economy; 23-Behavioral Contracts; 24-Fear and Anxiety Reduction Procedures; 25-Cognitive Behavior Modification

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Discussion Post	5
Midterm Exam	150
Final Exam	150
Paper	100
Total Points	405

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	365 to 405
B	324 to 364
C	284 to 323
D	243 to 283
F	242 or less

Make Up Work/Tests

University sponsored travel does allow for a student to make up missed work and/or exams. Do note that students have 7 days per exam. Missing an exam should rarely if ever happen-and 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 an online 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 that 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. You can install the latest version at the link above or here: <https://msutexas.edu/distance/lockdown-browser.php>
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) exist 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 24 – August 30	Post a greeting in the discussion	August 30 by 10 pm
August 24 – October 9	Semester Overview/Course Requirements Chapter 4: Reinforcement Chapter 5: Extinction Chapter 6: Punishment Chapter 18: Positive Punishment Procedures and the Ethics of Punishment Chapter 7: Stimulus Control: Discrimination and Generalization Chapter 8: Respondent Conditioning	Study for exam
October 10 – October 16	Midterm	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm
October 17 – December 4	Chapter 10: Prompting and Transfer of Stimulus Control Chapter 9: Shaping Chapter 11: Chaining Chapter 14: Applying Extinction Chapter 15: Differential Reinforcement Chapter 16: Antecedent Control Procedures Chapter 17: Using Punishment: Time-Out and Response Cost	Study for exam
November 24	Paper Due -must be uploaded to TurnItIn.com through D2L	APA 7 th Ed Paper
December 2 – December 8	Final	Test opens 8 am and closes 10 pm