



## **Course Syllabus: General Psychology**

PSYC 1103 Section X11

Fall 2026

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Tyler Overstreet

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Office hours: M-F, 1-2pm

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### **Course Goals**

1. To increase multiple-choice test-taking skills and improve study skills/time management. This will be accomplished by:
  1. Taking 4 tests.
  2. Completing 9 Personal Application Assignments
  3. State mandated Assessment
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. Complete brief paper on research ethics.
  3. Participate in real psychology research.

### **Course Format**

This course is delivered fully online through D2L. Students will complete assigned readings, lectures, assignments, and exams according to the course schedule. I generally plan to post an audio lecture covering the week's material each Monday in D2L. Students are responsible for regularly checking D2L for course materials, announcements, assignments, and due dates.

### **Textbook & Instructional Materials**

\*FREE\*

Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W. J., & Lovett, M. D. (2020). *Psychology 2e*. Rice University, OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology-2e>

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

*Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment*

| Assignments                    | Points |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Exams (4 at 50 pts each)       | 200    |
| Personal Application Questions | 90     |
| Research Participation         | 30     |
| State Mandated Assessment      | 15     |
| Ethics Paper                   | 25     |
| Total Points                   | 360    |
|                                |        |

*Table 2: Total points for final grade.*

| Grade | Points       |
|-------|--------------|
| A     | 360-324      |
| B     | 323-288      |
| C     | 287-252      |
| D     | 251-216      |
| F     | 215 or lower |

## Homework

**Personal Application Assignments-** Answer **2** or more personal application questions from the textbook at the end of each chapter. Will be submitted in D2L as word documents.

## Quizzes

**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.

## Exams

Each **exam** will be worth 50 points. Tests will be multiple choice and taken online. I reserve the right to add essay questions at any point during the semester.

**Note: Exams will be taken in D2L** and open for 24 hours. 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.

## Research Participation

**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 <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php>

OR

2. Complete alternative 4-page paper assignment. See me for details.

## Ethics Paper

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. You have 50 minutes to answer this question and in your essay you should:

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?

### **Late Work**

Late assignments will be accepted with a 5-point deduction for each day they are submitted past the deadline, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

Missed exams will be made up during the last week of class and will be docked one letter grade, unless prior arrangements have been made.

### **Important Dates**

- Last day for term schedule changes: 8/27/26
- Deadline to file for graduation: 9/21/26
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"10/7/26
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### **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. Weekly audio lectures and other instructional materials will also be made available through D2L.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your 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](#).

### **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**

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)-** Written assignments will be run through a plagiarism and AI checker called Turn It In. If at any point Turn It In identifies that a student used AI to complete an assignment (such as ChatGPT), an automatic grade of zero will be given to the assignment.

### **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).

## **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](mailto:student.affairs@mstuexas.edu).

## **College Policies**

### *Campus Carry Rules/Policies*

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and 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 new 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."](#)

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

### **Course Schedule:**

\*Unless otherwise announced, weekly audio lectures will generally be posted in D2L on Mondays\*

| <b>Week or Module</b> | <b>Activities/Assignments/Exams</b> | <b>Due Date</b>                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8/24 - 8/28           | Introduction/Chapter 1              | Chap 1 HW                           |
| 8/31 - 9/4            | Chapter 2                           | Chap 2 HW                           |
| 9/7 - 9/11            | <b>*Labor Day*</b>                  |                                     |
| 9/14 - 9/18           | Exam 1                              | Exam 1                              |
| 9/21 - 9/25           | Chapter 4                           | Chap 4 HW/State Mandated Assessment |
| 9/28 - 10/2           | Chapter 6                           | Chap 6 HW                           |
| 10/5 - 10/9           | Exam 2                              | Exam 2                              |
| 10/12 - 10/16         | Chapter 9                           | Chap 9 HW                           |
| 10/19 - 10/23         | Chapter 11                          | Chap 11 HW                          |
| 10/26 - 10/30         | Exam 3                              | Exam 3                              |
| 11/2 - 11/6           | Chapter 14                          | Chap 14 HW                          |

| <b>Week or Module</b> | <b>Activities/Assignments/Exams</b> | <b>Due Date</b>                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11/9 - 11/13          | Chapter 15                          | Chap 15 HW                           |
| 11/16 - 11/20         | Chapter 16                          | Chap 16 HW                           |
| 11/23 - 11/27         | <b>*Thanksgiving*</b>               |                                      |
| 11/30 - 12/4          | Catch Up                            | Last Day for Research Studies - 12/4 |
| 12/5 - 12/11          | Exam 4                              | Exam 4/Ethics Paper                  |