



# MIDWESTERN

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## STATE UNIVERSITY

Syllabus  
General Psychology-Honors  
PSYC 1103, section 1H1  
Fall 2020

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D.

Office: O'Donohoe 112

Phone: 397-4026

Office Hours: By appointment only.

*Due to the pandemic, I will interact with individuals via email, phone, or Zoom. No in-person meetings due to a family member with risk factors.*

Class Time: N/A

Location: Online

**Goals:** 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.

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.

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.

**Text:** King, L. A. (2020). *The science of psychology: An appreciative view* (5th Ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill

**Note:** Connect: Psychology can be found at [www.mcgrawhillconnect.com](http://www.mcgrawhillconnect.com)

*From the Publisher:* This online, interactive program focuses on building students' 21st Century skills through interactions, project-based learning, listening, journaling, and self-evaluation. This anytime, anywhere program prepares students academically, socially, and cognitively for college and career. It addresses all aspects of college and career readiness, including areas in which students report needing help, such as personal and life skills, like time management and self-motivation; 21st Century skills like lateral thinking and problem solving; exploring careers against lifestyle choices, wants, and needs; and the relevancy of academic skills.

**Course Requirements:** Grades will be based on your performance 5 exams, 2 quizzes, 2 writing assignments, and a historical post.

Each exam will be worth 50 points and taken through D2L. The 2 quizzes are worth 10 and 15 points respectively. The writing portion is worth 20 points total. Finally, the historical post is worth 20 points and 3 responses are worth 10 points.

**Study Skills Quiz (10 Points):** Read the three packets regarding studying skills and complete the quiz.

**Midterm/Final (250 points):** 50 multiple choice items will be taken directly from the text book per midterm. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the test. One question per screen. Students cannot go backwards.

**Historical Post (20 points):** In teams of two, students will prepare a written narrative on their topic. The narrative will be posted in the discussion section and students will post reactions.

**Reacting to a Post (10 points):** Each student is to respond to three different topics.

**Topics:** 1. Osage Murders; 2. U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee and Birth Control Pill Used Puerto Rican Women was a Placebo; 3. Wilmington Insurrection of 1898; 4. Black Wall Street Massacre of 1921; 5. Rosewood Massacre (1923); 6. James Baldwin vs William F. Buckley 1965 Debate: "The American Dream is at the Expense of the American Negro;" 7. Freedom Riders; 8. Little Rock Nine; 9. Bloody Sunday Selma to Montgomery March

*Texas Core Objectives (Competency Based)*

**Midterm Exam I (15 points):** Being a good consumer of research is essential in the global economy. A 15-item additional test will be administered at the end of the first exam. These questions will directly

measure your understanding of psychological research design and entry-level statistics.

**Midterm Exam II (10 points):** By the midterm, you will develop a list of your **three** favorite theoretical perspectives in psychology. The purpose of this activity is to help you to 'think psychologically' about the world around you. You will be asked to list and describe each of these perspectives. These perspectives will then be used during the final exam to address a societal, interpersonal or personal problem. This portion of the exam will contribute **25%** toward your grade *on that exam*. Answers will be graded on: (a) whether you listed three recognizable psychological perspectives, (b) the accuracy of your descriptions, and (c) the structural and grammatical adequacy of your answer.

**Final Exam (10 points):** A portion of your final exam will include an essay component that requires you to address an issue of social, interpersonal, or personal concern (e.g., an unproductive employee, a student who can't control his spending, religious intolerance) from the perspective of **one** of your psychological theories or perspectives listed at the midterm. This portion of the exam will account for **25%** of your grade *on the final exam*. Answers will be graded on: (a) your ability to address the problem from one of the psychological perspectives, (b) the strength and accuracy of your argument, (c) your level of empathy, ethics, and respect for diversity in your response, and (d) the structural and grammatical adequacy of your answer.

### *Research Requirement*

**(10 points)** 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 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. 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 60 minutes. Research opportunities will be announced throughout the semester in postings that appear at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/libarts/psychology/undergraduate-research.php>
2. 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 be submitted no later than the second to last week of class.**

235 points are possible and grade ranges are as follows:

A = 335-301

B = 300-268

C = 267-234

D = 233-201

F = 200 or lower

**Note:** Students with disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before accommodations can be provided. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact me and must provide documentation by Disability Support Services. The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

A copy of the ADA Compliance Document is available online at [disability faq](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications. Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Support Services before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained at [Accommodation Request](#).

**Make-up Policy:** If an make-up exam is granted (instructor discretion), it will be essay in nature and can be scheduled with me. I need one week to prepare the exam; thus, the earliest a make-up exam can be taken is one week after the initial exam. See the 2019-2020 Student Handbook on Class Attendance Policy. [Student Handbook](#)

### **Computer Requirements**

Taking an online/Zoom class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. Since there is a possibility of universities being closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic, 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](#).

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course, especially for students attending Zoom lectures. 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.

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

### **College Policies and Procedures**

Can be found at the bottom of the MSU home page or at [Human Resources Policy](#)

#### 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. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of "F" and being reported to the [Dean of Students](#).

### **Student Code of Conduct**

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.

### **Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed**

*"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."*

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

**Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.**

**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 including finals week.

## **Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule**

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

<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
8/24-9/13	Semester Overview/Course Requirements Study and test taking skills Chapter 1-What is Psychology? Chapter 2-Psychology's Scientific Method Chapter 5-States of Consciousness
9/7	<i>Labor Day, no classes</i>
<b>Week 9/7-13</b>	<b>Study Skills Quiz</b>
<b>Week 9/14-20</b>	<b>Exam I + 15-item research exam</b>
9/14-10/4	Chapter 11-Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Chapter 12-Personality
9/28 10/5	<i>Last day to file for December graduation Last day to file for May graduation</i>
<b>Week 10/5-11</b>	<b>Exam II + 3 theoretical perspectives</b>
10/5-10/25	Chapter 9-Human Development
<b>Week 10/26-11/1</b>	<b>Exam III</b>
10/26-11/15	Chapter 6-Learning Chapter 17-Health Psychology
<b>Week 11/16-22</b>	<b>Exam IV</b>
11/16-12/4	Chapter 15-Psychological disorders Chapter 16-Therapies
12/4 12/5-10	<i>Last day to file for a "W" Finals Week</i>
<b>Week 12/5-10</b>	<b>Exam V + Essay question</b>

**Class ends on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00 p.m.  
No exceptions!**