

General Psychology II (section 201)
Spring 2024
1/16 – 5/11
11:00 – 11:50 MWF
Prothro-Yeager Hall PY102
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Don Knox, Ph.D.

Office – OD 117 MWF – 10:30 – 11:00 or by appointment

Email: don.knox@mwsu.edu (Please put **PSYC2203** in subject heading!)

Required Text:

King LA, *The science of Psychology*, New York: McGraw-Hill.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ✓ learn about what psychology is, and how it is applicable to the world around us.
- ✓ understand how we learn, think and remember.
- ✓ gain a basic knowledge of human behavior
- ✓ learn about human characteristics such as perception, sensation, motivation and thinking
- ✓ investigate other areas of psychology (social and industrial/organizational).

Above and beyond this, we will approach the field of psychology critically as "a way of approaching and analyzing the world (Wade & Tavis, 1990, p. xvii)." This means that we will explore how to think critically about psychological phenomena and be skeptical about what we read.

As such, class discussions and projects will be designed to encourage your own exploration of psychology. Through the study of this field, you are likely to find that much of what we know in psychology directly relates to, and has the capacity to enrich, our experience of everyday life.

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES

Examinations: There are three major exams. Each of the exams will cover 3 chapters. Each of these exams is worth 25% of your grade. They are multiple-choice and each will consist of 50-60 questions.

Theme Papers: Twenty-one percent of your grade (21%) will be determined based on your completion of three Theme Papers. These papers will be no less than 500 words each and will need to be submitted electronically via D2L. The total number of points you can earn from these papers is 210, or 70 points per paper. The papers will consist of your application of concepts discussed in class, covered in your text, current events, or personal experiences. For example, you might decide to do one of your Papers on the impact of the Internet on how students learn, or the impact of teenage violence on psychological health later in life, or

the impact of memory deficits on academic achievement, or the use of principles of learning to help at-risk youth acquire positive social skills.

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 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 4/15**

- (1) participate in **60** minutes of research (**that's a reduction from the previous 90 minute requirement**), OR
 - (2) write an essay on the topic of ethics in psychological research (they can review the attached article or any other source of information of their instructor's choosing) OR
Essays must be submitted no later than 4/15. or
- or**
- (4) lose one letter grade from their final course grade at the end of the semester

Grading: Each regular exam will represent 25% of your final grade. Twenty-one percent of your grade will come from your submission of the Theme Assignments and 4% from attendance.

Breakdown of Grades

Regular Exams	3 @ 250 points each = 750	75%
Theme Papers	3 @ 70 points each = 210	21%
Attendance	40 points	4%

Then use the following scale (there is no rounding or extra credit):

Grading Scale

900– 1000	A
800– 899	B
700– 799	C
600– 699	D
Below 600	F

III. RELEVANT CLASS, PROGRAM AND SCHOOL POLICIES

Late submission of theme papers. No late assignments accepted

Academic Dishonesty: Please do not cheat or plagiarize. The MSU policy on cheating and plagiarism is in the MSU Student Handbook and Activities Calendar (Code of Student Conduct, Item 11) and I encourage you to review it. Additional information regarding the Academic Dishonesty policy is available from the Dean of Students office, in Clark Student Center. Cheating or engaging in plagiarism will result in a

grade of zero (0) and/or a letter grade of “F” for the course!!!!!! If you find yourself even *thinking about* cheating on an exam or copying someone else’s work, please *talk to me* instead of doing it!!!

Dropping the course: Please let me know if you plan on dropping the course. Often times, a student will decide to drop a course based upon their own perception of their progress. If I notice a student dropping back, I will do everything possible to bring that student up to speed. Let me help you make the decision to drop. This course is laid out so that a good portion of the grading will be completed prior to the drop date. I will have a section in the “my grades” that will indicate your progress to date to help you in your decision-making process.

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.

I will closely follow this policy in terms of your conduct in class. Anything that is disruptive to the class will result in you being Instructor Dropped from the class with a grade of F. I will enforce this policy in that my obligation is to provide the best and most informative course that I can. I cannot do that when there is behavior that disrupts the class. This also includes attempting to dominate or "teach" the class, interrupting the course frequently with stories that are not facilitative or relevant to the flow of the class, using electronics during class that are not directly related to the class material, and talking frequently to one's peers while course is being held. Any other behaviors that are deemed disruptive will also be enforced as deemed by our Code of Conduct policy. Remember that there are stories and questions that are facilitative to our class discussions, and some that are obstructive.

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 <http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/faq.asp>. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

Taping, cell phones and laptops: NOT ALLOWED

NOTE: THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE; DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY – TEST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE.

Proposed Class Schedule

Dates	Topic	Corresponding Chapter
	Start of Semester	
2/9	Theme Paper 1 due;	2, 3 or 4
~Week 5	Test 1	2-4
3/8	Theme Paper 2 due;	7 or 8
Week 10	Test 2	7 and 8
4/12	Theme Paper 3 due;	10, 13 or 14
~Week 15-16	Test 3	10, 13 -14
Week 16	Final Exam	All