

Course Syllabus
Psychology 4123-X20 (Asynchronous Online)
History and Systems of Psychology
Spring 2025

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OFFICE HOURS

I will be available for virtual office hours by appointment. If you want to teleconference with me, email me at george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu to arrange an appointment. At the time of your appointment, go to <https://doxy.me/DrGeorgeDiekhoff>. Be sure to use Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari as your browser or you can download the free doxy.me app for your smart phone. Once you log in to Doxy.Me, you will be in my virtual waiting room. I will be notified that you are there and will open our conversation. I am also available for conferences in my office on MWF 10:00-12:00, but you need to email me in advance to schedule an appointment during those office hours to avoid scheduling conflicts.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Benjamin, Ludy T. (2024). *A Brief History of Modern Psychology* (4/e). Wiley. ISBN: 978-1-394-20668-1

COMMUNICATION: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Although D2L will serve as the platform to provide all pre-recorded lectures and tests in the course, all other communication with me will be via email. I do not use the messaging system within D2L; that just creates yet another place where I have to check for messages each day! Use my MSU email address (george.diekhoff@msutexas.edu) to communicate with me and I will use the "preferred" email address you have on file with MSU to communicate with you. If you do not receive an email from me that you expected to receive, check the spam/junk folder of your email software.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Video	Outline(s)	Contents
1	Introduction	syllabus, intro to his/sys, philosophy of science
2	Introduction (cont'd)	scientific method, emergence of scientific psychology, developments in philosophy
3	Introduction (cont'd)	developments in physiology, Wundt's experimental psychology, other German psychologists
4	Wundt & Early European Psychology	other German psychologists (cont'd)

(Also read Chapters 1, 2, and 3)

TEST 1 (Feb. 18)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 5 | Wundt & Early European Psychology (cont'd).
Early American Psychology | other German psychologists (cont'd), British
psychologists, early French psychologists,
early American psychology |
| 6 | Early American Psychology (cont'd) | early American psychologists (cont'd),
Functionalism |
| 7 | Early American Psychology (cont'd),
Functionalism | early American psychologists (cont'd),
Functionalism |
| 8 | Functionalism (cont'd), Early Animal
Psychology | Functionalism (cont'd), early animal research |

(Also read Chapters 4, 5, and 6)

TEST 2 (Mar. 27)

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 9 | Early Animal Research (cont'd),
S-R Behaviorism | early animal research (cont'd), S-R Behaviorism, Watson,
Guthrie |
| 10 | S-R-Behaviorism (cont'd) | Skinner |
| 11 | S-O-R Neobehaviorism | S-O-R Neobehaviorism, Lashley, Tolman, Hull |
| 12 | S-O-R Neobehaviorism (cont'd),
Gestalt Psychology | Hull (cont'd), Gestalt Psychology: antecedents, founding |

(Also read Chapter 8)

TEST 3 (Apr. 24)

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 13 | Gestalt Psychology (cont'd) | Gestalt Psychology: perception, motivation (field theory) |
| 14 | Gestalt Psychology (cont'd),
Psychoanalysis | Gestalt Psychology: motivation (field theory, cont'd),
Freud & Psychoanalysis |

(Also read Chapter 7)

TEST 4 (May 8)

LECTURES: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

This is an asynchronous online course. What that means is that I will post recorded lectures on D2L which you can view at your convenience. The lectures for this course were recorded during 2023 but the substance of the recordings remains current. Those videos contain occasional remarks that were accurate when the recordings were made, but which are incorrect for this semester. In particular, days and dates mentioned in the recorded lectures are going to be incorrect for the current semester. For example, the syllabus that I review in the first recorded lecture is the syllabus for a previous semester, not the current syllabus. Too, the course is described in the first video as a “synchronous online” course, but this semester it is an asynchronous online course. In short, you should ignore anything in the videos that talks about course policies, procedures, dates, etc. That information will be provided in emails and in the current syllabus.

In the recorded lectures you will hear me lecture and will see the detailed outline from which I’m lecturing. I’ll also send you those lecture outlines by email. Those Word document outlines are best viewed using the Web Layout view found under the View tab in Word. Although having these outlines will be helpful to you, there is a lot of research that says that note *taking* is vastly superior to note *getting* when it comes to the learning process. What I suggest you do as you listen to the recorded lectures is make your own outline from just what you hear me saying. Don’t copy the outline I provide. Instead, listen to me and make your own outline. Once you’ve created your own notes, compare your outline to the ones that I’ll send you. Blend the two to get a set of notes that is fully your own. That should prepare you very well for the exams. Your job is really pretty simple: just listen to what I have to say about a topic and remember as much of it as you can!

I have made no attempt to coordinate my lectures with the material presented in your textbook. Except by coincidence, my organization is different than the organization in your text. Moreover, while there is some overlap between the content covered in lectures and in the textbook, lectures deal with some topics that aren’t covered in the text and the text deals with some topics that aren’t covered in lectures. You should focus your study efforts on the recorded lectures and the outlines I’ll send you. Treat the textbook as a reinforcer for topics covered in lecture and as a source for additional information on the topics we cover.

EXAMS: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Testing will be handled online using D2L. Four noncumulative exams will be given throughout the semester. Tests include a true/false section, a short answer section, and a matching section in which you’ll be asked to match the names of prominent psychologists with brief descriptions or quotations that represent those individuals. Tentative testing dates, subject to change, are Feb. 18, Mar. 27, Apr. 24, and May 8. You’ll have a 24 hour period of time during which to take each exam, beginning at 8:00 am on the dates shown above and ending at 8:00 the next day. All makeup exams for this course will be available on D2L on May 13. You’ll have a 24-hour period of time to complete makeup testing, beginning at 8:00 am on May 13 and ending at 8:00 am the next day. Each exam will test your knowledge of material covered in lectures and related readings *just since the previous exam*, i.e., exams are not intentionally cumulative. Exams will cover material presented in the recorded lectures, so viewing those lectures will be essential to your performance in the course.

MISSED AND MAKEUP EXAMS

Students who miss scheduled exams will be allowed to take makeup exams on Tuesday May 13. Makeup exams will be available on D2L on that date from 8:00 am until 8:00 on Wednesday, May 14. There will be a one letter grade penalty for exams that were missed for unexcused reasons. There is no grade penalty for exams that were missed due to excused reasons. University policy dictates three types of excused absences:

- the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that the student was unable to test on the day of the test;
- the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner stating that the student's dependent child was ill on the day of the test;
- the student provides a written excuse from an official of Midwestern State University stating that the student was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day of the test.

Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences.

If you miss a test for any of the reasons listed above, I need to have documentation that an absence should be excused within one week of the absence.

GRADING

Course grades will be based on the average of your scores on four exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points (90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 or lower = F). The average of the four exams will convert to a course letter grade as follows:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = less than 60

DISABILITIES

Individuals requiring special accommodations according to the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the MSU Disability Support Services office.