



# MIDWESTERN

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## STATE UNIVERSITY

Syllabus  
General Psychology-Honors  
PSYC 1103, section 1H1  
Fall 2021

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D.

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Due to the pandemic, I prefer to interact with individuals via email, phone, or Zoom. I have a family member with risk factors.

Class Time: 9:00-9:50

Office: O'Donohoe 112

Phone: 397-4026

Location: DB 328

### **Goals:**

1. Engage in weekly discussions about historical and current topics to understand the human experience in current and past contexts.
  1. Write 5 reaction papers taking a stand on the issue.
  2. Apply psychological knowledge to the topic.
  3. Engage in public discourse about sensitive topics.
2. 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.
3. 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.

**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, 1-2 historical presentations, and 4 reaction papers.

(50 points-10 points each) The presentation will count for 10 points. Reaction papers are to be two double-spaced pages and include two peer-reviewed references (Wikipedia and .com-web-pages do not count as a reference). Papers are to take a side and argue for it-they are a reaction to another group's presentation. Personal opinion is appropriate as long as there is support for it in the literature (that is, the opinion is an educated one). Feedback will be provided over the semester to aid with academic growth. Some students may be asked to read their papers to the group. If something occurs during the semester, we may replace a listed topic with an emerging one (e.g., arming teachers). In addition, students may suggest topics, and if time permits, additional topics will be added.

**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; 10. Freedom Summer

(200 points-50 points each) Each exam will be worth 50 points and the lowest score will be dropped. This means a student who has earned an "A" average on the first 4 exams does not have to attend the final (those students will be notified after the 4<sup>th</sup> exam). Students with a "B+" or lower must attend the final. Tests will be multiple choice and answers will be marked on Scantrons. I reserve the right to add essay questions at any point during the semester.

**(10 points) 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. **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 = 260-234

B = 233-208

C = 207-182

D = 181-156

F = 155 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](#)

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

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.

- 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>
8/23-9/10	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
9/6	<i>Labor Day, no classes</i>
<b>Monday 9/13</b>	<b>Exam I</b>
9/15-10/1	Chapter 11-Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Chapter 12-Personality
9/27 10/4	<i>Last day to file for December graduation Last day to file for May graduation</i>
<b>Monday 10/4</b>	<b>Exam II</b>
10/6-10/22	Chapter 9-Human Development
<b>Monday 10/25</b>	<b>Exam III</b>
10/25	<i>Last day to file for a "W"</i>
10/27-11/12	Chapter 6-Learning Chapter 17-Health Psychology
<b>Monday 11/15</b>	<b>Exam IV</b>
11/17-12/3	Chapter 15-Psychological disorders Chapter 16-Therapies
11/24-11/26	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday-no classes</i>
12/6-10	<i>Finals Week</i>
<b>Final is on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.</b>	