

General Psychology Sample Syllabus

Instructor: **Website:** <http://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/>

Office: **Phone:**

Email:

Office Hours:

Required Text:

Schacter, D. L., Gilbert, D. T., Wegner, D. M., & Nock, M. K. (2021). *Introducing Psychology: Special Edition for PSY 1410 Middle Tennessee State University (5th ed.)*. New York: Worth.

Achieve: The textbook comes with access to the Achieve software program. **The access code is included on a card with your textbook.** [Achieve is accessed on D2L.](#)



Purpose of Course:

This course satisfies the Discovery in Social and Behavioral Sciences category of the True Blue Core. The Social and Behavioral Sciences assist students in understanding the relationships between individuals and society. This area of study is designed to enhance their knowledge of how various personal, interpersonal, and societal factors impact their ability to reach their full potential. These courses will help students think critically and examine key factors from cultural, economic, health, political, psychological, and social perspectives using methods of social scientific inquiry.

Courses in this category must meet the critical thinking outcome. Critical thinking is defined as *a habit of the mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events in the process of accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.*

The following Critical Thinking **learning outcomes** will be addressed in this course:

- (1) *Students will think critically by explaining issues/problems.* Students will be able to state problems/issues covered in the class clearly and comprehensively, including all necessary information.

- (2) *Students will demonstrate the ability to select and use evidence.* Students will exhibit an understanding of research methods, problems and ethical issues in research, and how to interpret findings.
- (3) *Students will demonstrate the ability to consider context and assumptions.* Students will be able to consider other perspectives and demonstrate an understanding of the impact of culture and society on their beliefs and expectations.
- (4) *Students will be able to represent their positions and conclusions logically and effectively.* Students will demonstrate the ability to justify their own conclusions after reviewing multiple perspectives and identifying the strongest evidence.

Course Description:

This course is designed as a broad, general introduction to the field of psychology that includes an overview of major theories in psychology and research methodology in psychology. Special topics that will be covered in this course include neuroscience and behavior, sensation and perception, memory, principles of learning, lifespan development, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders, and psychotherapy.

Course Objectives:

- (1) Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of the schools of thought in psychology.
- (2) Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principles of the scientific method and be able to critically evaluate the appropriate use of research methods used by psychologists.
- (3) Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interaction between the environment (e.g., society, family, culture) and biology in the development and functioning of individuals.
- (4) Students will demonstrate an understanding of how the field of psychology and its research have impacted our understanding of society and individuals.
- (5) Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which psychological principles relate to human behavior and thought processes.
- (6) Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues in research and applied settings as they relate to psychological aspects of human behavior.
- (7) Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret information and reach conclusions.

D2L (Desire to Learn): Course materials and grades will be posted on D2L. Announcements will also be posted. **Learning Curve assignments, Homework assignments, Critical Thinking assignments, and the True Blue Core assignment will be turned in on D2L** (Tests and Class Participation assignments will be completed and turned in during class). <https://elearn.mtsu.edu/>

Detailed Schedule: This document includes a list of the due dates for each assignment and is located under *Content* on D2L. **Check this every class period to**

stay current.

Course Requirements

Tests: There are 4 tests. Each test has 70 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each (**140 points**). Tests are not cumulative. Each test will cover only material that has been presented in the textbook and in class since the last test. The four test dates are given on the attached **Reading Assignment and Test Schedule** and on the **Detailed Schedule** on D2L (under content). **Information that is not in the book will be presented in the class lectures.** This material will also be tested.

If you miss a test you may elect to take the “Optional Final Exam” to replace the missed test. If you will miss a test due to a school function, notify me **before** the test to schedule a time to take the test.

Optional Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive (covers material from the entire semester) and is **NOT** required. The score on the final exam will be used to replace a missed test. In addition, students who wish to replace a low-test score may also take the final exam (the final exam score only replaces a test score if it is higher than the test score).

Homework: There will be 8 homework assignments worth 6 points each. The homework assignments will come from the “Handouts” section of the textbook. The 2 lowest scores will be dropped.

Experience/Critical Thinking Assignments: There will be 4 short assignments worth 6 points each based on the information covered in each of the 4 tests. **The lowest score will be dropped.** For each assignment **type 1 paragraph** describing how the information covered in this part of the course relates to your life, helps you understand a real-life situation, or helps you solve a real-life problem.

True-Blue Core Assessable Assignment: This course fulfills a True-Blue Core requirement. Thus, a True-Blue Core assignment is required. This assignment includes knowledge acquired throughout the course and is worth 25 points. You will read information about a disorder and a study and then answer questions.

Achieve/LearningCurve Assignments: On a card with your textbook, you will find a code to access the website (Achieve) that accompanies your textbook.

The LearningCurve assignments are found on Achieve. There will be 40 very short (10 minute) LearningCurve assignments. You should read the section of the textbook first and then complete LearningCurve assignment. The Completion of each assignment is worth 1 point. **The lowest 4 assignments will be dropped.** These assignments are worth a total of 36 points.

Research Participation Requirement: The research participation requirement is worth 35 points. All students must participate in psychology experiments **or** complete the written report alternative to participation. To sign up for experiments, go to: <http://mtsu.sona-systems.com> . A description of how to create an account can be found at this link: Creating an Account <https://youtu.be/E8-IXF-0HCk> Information about how to participate in experiments can be found using this link https://www.mtsu.edu/psychology/research_pool/research_pool_participation.php Information on how to complete the written report alternative to participation can be found on D2L under *Content*. **IMPORTANT: You must complete 5 credits of experiments (or do a written report) to earn the 35 points.**

Class Participation Assignments: Students may earn up to 14 points of class participation by completing in-class exercises. The class participation exercises will come from the *Handouts* section of the textbook (not all the handouts will be used).

Extra Credit: Any class participation points earned over 14 will count as extra credit points. Thus, you will have the option of earning 6 extra credit points by participating in all the class participation assignments.

Classroom Policies

Academic Integrity/Misconduct: Please review the [information on Academic Integrity and Misconduct](#). Academic integrity is a hallmark of Middle Tennessee State University. We expect students to complete academic exercises, (i.e., assignments turned in for credit), that are original and appropriately credit all sources used.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
2. **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. It also includes purchasing assignments or paying another person to complete a course for you.
3. **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Going online and using information without proper citation, copying parts of other students' work, creating information to establish credibility, or using someone else's thoughts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is academic misconduct. Turning in AI generated work is also considered academic misconduct. If you have a

question about an assignment, please ask me to clarify. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Director of Student Academic Ethics and may result in failure on the test/assignment or for the course.

Attendance: Please plan to attend every class. It is very difficult to pass this class if you have poor attendance. **In addition, Class Participation assignments will be completed during class.** In emergency situations, students can watch the prerecorded YouTube video for the class lecture (on D2L under *Content*) or the live streamed version of the lecture in Panopto on D2L (click videos at the top). In the case of extreme circumstances such as prolonged illness or COVID related absences, please contact me.

Reasonable Accommodation For Students With Disabilities: Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can contact the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\)](#) for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu ADA accommodation requests (temporary or permanent) are determined only by the Disability & Access Center (DAC) Students are responsible for contacting the Disability & Access Center Office to obtain ADA accommodations and for providing the instructor with the Accommodation Letter from the Disability & Access Center.

Grades

Grades will be based on the total points earned on the 4 tests (possible 560 points), the 6 highest homework assignments (possible 36 points), the 3 highest Experience/Critical Thinking assignments (possible 18 points), the research participation requirement (possible 35 points), Achieve/LearningCurve assignments (possible 36 points), True-Blue Core assignment (25 points), class participation points (possible 14 points), plus any extra credit (total possible: 724 points). Standard percentages will be used to determine grades.

Points	Percentages	Grade
651 - 724	(90% - 100%)	A
630 - 650	(87.0% - 89.99%)	B+
594 - 629	(82.0% - 86.99%)	B
579 - 593	(80% - 81.99%)	B-
558 - 578	(77.0% - 79.99%)	C+
521 - 557	(72.0% - 76.99%)	C
507 - 520	(70% - 71.99%)	C-
486 - 506	(67.0% - 69.99%)	D+
449 - 485	(62.0% - 66.99%)	D
435 - 448	(60% - 61.99%)	D-
<435	(0.00%-59.99%)	F

Dropping a Course

Sunday _____ is the last day you can drop a course and receive a "W". You must use Pipeline to drop a course.

Attention: Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarships

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor](#).

Title IX Statement

MTSU **faculty are** concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are **legally obligated** to share reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking with the University's Title IX coordinator to help ensure student's safety and welfare. Please refer to [MTSU's Title IX website](#) for contact information and details. <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>

Technical Support

Students who experience technical problems including, but not limited to, logging into their course, timing out of their course, using the course web site tools, should contact the [MTSU Help Desk](#) online (24/7) or at 1-615-898-5345.

Writing Center

The Margaret H. Ordoubadian University Writing Center is located in LIB 362 and online at www.mtsu.edu/writing-center. Here, students can receive valuable (and FREE!) one-to-one assistance in person or online on writing projects for any course. Please make your appointment by stopping by LIB 362, calling 615-904-8237, or visiting the UWC website. Visit early and often!

Regarding Pre-Recorded/Panopto Lectures: Students have a responsibility:

- To use recorded materials as intended and to review recorded classes or alternative materials in case of absence and in order to complete class assignments.
- To respect the privacy of the instructor and students and comply with FERPA, which means:

- To not create personal video or audio recordings of the class session without advance written permission from the professor or the appropriate DAC accommodation.
- To use recordings for course purposes only.
- **To not distribute any recorded material to any person not enrolled in the class.**
- If given permission to make a personal video of a class session, to destroy said recordings at the end of the course term. [\[i\]](#)
- To recognize the potential consequences both academic and legal for violating the privacy of the instructor or fellow students.[\[ii\]](#)*

Reading Assignment and Test Schedule

PSY 1410

(See the Detailed Schedule on D2L under *Content* for Other Assignment Dates)

Topics

Psychology: Evolution of a Science	Chapter 1
Methods in Psychology	Chapter 2
Neuroscience and Behavior	Chapter 3

*******Test 1: Date*******

Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
Memory and Study Skills	Chapter 6
Consciousness	Chapter 5

*******Test 2: Date*******

Learning	Chapter 7
Development	Chapter 10
Psychological Disorders	Chapter 14
Treatment of Psychological Disorders	Chapter 15

*******Test 3: Date*******

Personality	Chapter 11
Social Psychology	Chapter 12
Stress, Health, and Coping	Chapter 13

*******Test 4: Tues. April 23rd*******

*******Optional Final Exam*******

Date and Time for Final

Note: The Optional Final Exam can be used to replace a missed test or a low-test score.