

SYLLABUS
PSY 180 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

- I. Course Title: General Psychology
- II. Catalogue Description: “ A basic survey course introducing the student to the methods, concepts and terminology of the field.”
- III. Course Purpose and Objective:
 1. To provide a comprehensive overview of the field of psychology with particular emphasis on methods, concepts, and terminology.
 2. To become aware of the contributions of psychology to understanding human behavior.
 3. To show the relationship of psychology to other scientific disciplines.
 4. To increase the student’s understanding and tolerance of other people’s behavior.
- IV. Instructional Activities: Lecture, experiments, and journals.
- V. Resources and Field, Clinical &/or Laboratory Experiences: None
- VI. Grading Procedures:
 1. There will be five exams, each worth 50 points and each consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. The lowest exam score will be dropped.
 2. There will be five unannounced quizzes worth 10 points each. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.
 3. There will be ten journal entries worth 5 points each.

In summary there are 200 exam points, 40 quiz points, and 50 journal points for a total of 290 available points. Final grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 261-290 total points	B = 232-260 total points
C = 203-231 total points	D = 174-202 total points
E = 173 or fewer total points	

Journal Entries For each chapter studied (except Chapter 1) students must develop a question or hypothesis about the chapter topic and develop an experiment that would answer or help us better understand the question asked. Journal entries are due the day of the exam covering the topics in question. No late journal entries will be accepted.

Make-Up Quizzes and Exam: Missed exams and quizzes will earn zero points. Because the lowest exam and quiz scores earned will be dropped from the total points, no make-up exams or quizzes will be allowed.

Extra Credit Points: You will have the opportunity to volunteer to be a subject in psychological research. As a research subject you will receive ½point per half-hour of research time, for a maximum of 10 points. Keep in mind that not everyone will be able to earn the entire 10 points. Attendance of students who sign up to be volunteer subjects

will be monitored. Students who fail to attend (no-show) three scheduled times will lose all previously earned credit.

You may not cancel your appointment to participate in an experiment by call the Psychology Department secretary. If you cancel your participation through the secretary it will count as a no-show. If you cannot attend an experiment you signed up for you must leave a note taped to the door of the room in which the experiment is scheduled to take place and you must give the professor a note explaining why you will miss the appointment. These notes must be taped to the door and turned in before the time of the scheduled experiment. If the note is turned in after the appointment was to take place, it will count as a no-show. Missing an appointment because you forgot which time or room it is in or if you cannot find the room will count as a no-show.

You, and only you, are responsible for your experiment attendance.

If you are unable to participate in research experiments because of commuting, work, or athletic schedules you may earn extra credit by reading and analyzing research articles. You must choose this option by the time of the second exam and must have permission.

VII. Attendance Policy: This course adheres to the policy published in the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin.

VIII. Academic Honest Policy: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

Note: Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any examination or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the examination has been compromised.

IX. Required Text: Zimbardo, P.G., Weber, A.L., & Johnson, R.L. (2000). *Psychology. Third Edition*. Allyn & Bacon, Needham Heights, MA.

Optional Text: Study guide to accompany text.