

Psy 113 General Psychology
Fall 2025 Course Syllabus & Schedule
Course ID 000286—M W 1:30-2:45 pm

Professor: Christine Malone, Ph.D.	Email: malonech@mnstate.edu
Office: Bridges Hall 360G	Online course materials: D2L Brightspace
Office Hours: M W Th 9 -11:50 am T 1:30-2:30	Classroom: Bridges 162
I will monitor email closely during office hours and respond ASAP. I will also be in my office for most of these hours if you would like to stop by. If you wish to schedule an appointment, use the Bookings link to the right. When it is time for the meeting, you may join on Zoom or come to my office.	<p>Schedule an appointment in Bookings: https://outlook.office365.com/book/DrChristineMalone@MinnState.edu/s/ysMV3d0VVEyict9qFGq8jg2</p> <p>To join the appointment in Zoom: https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/2090651983 Passcode: 360</p>

MW Course Schedule

Date	Topic
M 8/25	Introduction
W 8/27 – W 9/3	Chapter 1—Foundations of Psychological Science <i>No classes M 9/1--Labor Day holiday</i>
M 9/8 – W 9/10	Chapter 2—Brain & Behavior
M 9/15 – W 9/17	Chapter 3—Human Development
M 9/22	Exam 1
W 9/24 – M 9/29	Chapter 4— Sensation, Attention, and Perception
W 10/1 – M 10/6	Chapter 5—States of Consciousness
W 10/8 – M 10/20	Chapter 6—Conditioning and Learning <i>No classes M 10/13--Faculty Development Day</i> <i>No class meeting M 10/20—See D2L for assignment</i>
W 10/22	Exam 2
M 10/27 – W 10/27	Chapter 7—Memory

M 11/3 – W 11/5	Chapter 10—Motivation & Emotion
M 11/10 – W 11/12	Chapter 12—Personality & Individual Differences
M 11/17	Exam 3
W 11/19 – M 12/1	Chapter 14—Psychological Disorders <i>No classes W 11/26 – F 11/28—Fall Break</i>
W 12/3 – M 12/8	Chapter 16—Social Thinking & Social Influence
W 12/10	Exam 4
Friday, 12/12 @ 9:45-11:45 am Note special day & time mandated by final exam schedule	Required Cumulative Make-up Exam for anyone missing regularly scheduled exam <i>(optional for students who have already completed the 4 regularly scheduled exams...will drop lowest if you take all 5 exams)</i>

Course Information

Required Text: *Introduction to Psychology: Gateways to Mind & Behavior* (16th Edition, 2022) by Dennis Coon, John Mitterer, & Tanya Martini. ISBN: 978-0-357-37139-8 . Publisher: Cengage. Paperback or e-book versions available.

Note: If any of your other courses use Cengage materials, consider paying the Cengage Unlimited fee. This fee will cover access to the e-book for this class, too. Additional Cengage products (i.e., MindTap, Aplia) will NOT be used for this course.

Course Description and Goals: This course is a survey of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The scientific approach is emphasized as a means to gain a basic understanding of psychology on several levels – biological, behavioral, cognitive, affective, and social. Students will gain a basic knowledge of the principles of psychology as developed by major theorists. This background will help students gain an appreciation for the scientific nature of psychology while also developing an awareness of historical, moral, and ethical issues in contemporary psychology. In addition, this information will serve as a foundation for students planning to pursue future study in psychology and the social sciences.

In-Class Activities (80 points): This is an in-person course, so coming to class is essential. Ten in-class activities will be presented for opportunities to apply and discuss course material. Your grade will be based on 8 activities (worth 10 points each).

- Activities will be unannounced; therefore, regular attendance is crucial to gain these points.
- Missing two activities for any reason will not negatively impact your grade.
- All in-class activities will be due to the D2L assignment folder at the end of the class period in which they are presented, **so bring your laptop/tablet to each class**. A few hard copies will be available as back-up...
- There will be no make-ups for class activities without relevant official documentation (MSUM Athletics or Dean of Students Office). There will be no exceptions. See the Absences section below if you need to pursue documentation from the Dean of Students Office. Remember that two activities are automatically dropped from your score. Also, extra credit is available (see below).

- Students participating in more than the required 8 activities will have those points added to their final grade as activity extra credit (see extra credit section below).

Writing Assignments (60 points): Two short writing assignments (30 points each) will be required. Specific due dates and instructions will be posted on D2L and discussed in class. Unexcused late assignments will receive one letter-grade deduction for each school day past the due date before being graded.

Regular Unit Exams (240 points): Four in-class exams will be scheduled during the regular semester (60 points each). We will not have enough time to cover all the information in each chapter. The notes provided in D2L indicate which sections of the text will NOT be covered/tested on the exam. All other material is fair game.

Each exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions; each question will be worth 1 point. Exams may cover any of the materials presented in lecture, the text, or discussed in classroom demonstrations, videos, and activities.

- **Students must bring their own laptop/iPad on exam days. Students are not allowed to take exams on their phones.** A few paper copies will be available for back-up...
- **Respondus Lock-Down Browser (LDB) must be installed on the device and tested beforehand. Installation instructions and a very short practice quiz will be posted to help students ensure LDB is working properly before the exam class period. Respondus Lock-Down Monitor is NOT required.**
- **Without official documentation of an excused absence (see below), students will not be allowed to make-up a missed exam after it has been administered in class. Instead, you will take the Cumulative Make-Up Exam (see below).**
- **If you anticipate missing an exam due to an excused reason, contact the professor about 1.5 weeks beforehand to arrange an early exam.**

Cumulative Make- Up Exam: Students missing an exam will be allowed to make up the test points by taking the 60-point cumulative multiple-choice exam on the scheduled final exam date. Students missing more than one exam due to unexcused reasons will receive a score of zero for the remaining missing test grades.

Grade-Boosting Opportunity--*Students who have taken all four unit exams are not required to take the final exam. However, these students may opt to take the final exam to replace their lowest test score. Students taking all five exams will automatically have their lowest test score dropped (even if the lowest turns out to be the final).*

Absences: For a one-day, unexcused absence, it is the student's responsibility to check the D2L course and make progress on the reading/notes or upcoming due dates. Students are also encouraged to check with a classmate. Please do not email the professor to ask what you missed for one class period, as that information is contained within D2L. See the syllabus/course schedule document, notes, and due dates. Unexcused absences are not make-up-able. Multiple extra credit opportunities exist. See below.

For MSUM Athletics, present the official memo to the professor in advance of the absence and discuss a make-up plan with the professor.

For an excused and/or extended absence, complete the [intake form from the Dean of Students Office](#). If the excused absence is granted, a memo will be sent to the professor. Upon return, it is the student's responsibility to promptly connect with the professor and arrange a make-up plan for any missed work.

Extra Credit—There will be three ways to earn extra credit points in this course: 1) Activity Extra Credit, 2) Research Extra Credit, and 3) Other Extra Credit opportunities that arise from coming to class.

- 1) **Activity Extra Credit:** If you participate in more than 8 activities, you will keep the extra points as extra credit. Points from extra activities will be transferred to the Activity Extra Credit column of the gradebook at the end of the semester.
- 2) **Research Extra Credit:** The main way to earn extra credit in this course is by serving as a participant in experiments conducted by MSUM psychology faculty and students.

The website to view opportunities to participate in MSUM Psychology Department research:

<https://sites.google.com/view/msumpsiologystudysignup/home>

You will need this link; you will not be able to Google it. This link displays all of the studies currently available for your participation.

The studies are either *online* or *in-person* (on the 3rd floor of Bridges Hall). For *online* studies, be sure you have enough time and are ready to focus for the time indicated before clicking on the link for the online experiment. DO NOT merely click through the study without following the instructions and focusing on the task at hand. This ruins the results for our student researchers.

For the *in-person* studies, the sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board across from the Psychology Department office (Bridges 360 on the 3rd floor of Bridges Hall) You may also email the experimenter or click the scheduling link (if available). If you sign up for a time, keep your appointment! A senior psychology major is relying on you...

Most psychology professors accept research participation for extra credit. Check your syllabus or with your professor(s) to find out their extra credit policy.

Details:

1. To make sure you receive extra credit at the end of an *online* study, participants will complete a short exit survey with their name, class, instructor and title of the study they participated in. Be sure you write down the exact title of the study as you begin participating. That way you will have the correct title when you need it at the end of the study. The information collected for extra credit purposes will not be associated with your research answers in any way.
2. To receive extra credit at the end of an *in-person* study, be sure the researcher records your name, class, and instructor on their extra credit spreadsheet as proof of your participation.
3. At the end of the semester, professors allowing extra credit will receive a list of their students that participated in online studies and in-person studies, along with each of the study names and lengths.
4. **Research extra credit for this course will be assigned as follows--For each 15 minutes of research you complete, I will award 2 points of extra credit for online studies and 3 points of extra credit for in-person studies. It "pays more" to participate in in-person studies on the third floor of Bridges Hall. Each student may have a mixture of online and in-person studies. You may earn up to 21 extra credit points doing research in this class.** Your other professors will have their own extra credit policies; be sure to check with them. Each study you complete may be used for only one class.
5. Students may participate in a study only one time. Please keep an informal list of the study names in which you participate to help you avoid duplicating your efforts.
6. Check the Psychology Department Research Studies link regularly, as it will be updated with new studies.

Important: Students under the age of 18 are not eligible for Research Extra Credit due to federal law. See the professor for an alternate form of extra credit.

- 3) **Other Extra Credit**--There will be a couple of other opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester; it is essential to come to class to find out and have access to these opportunities.

Grading: 380 total points are available in this class--Exams: 240 pts., Activities: 80 pts., and Writing Assignments: 60 pts. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 340 - 380 points (90-100%)

D = 226 - 263 (60-69%)

B = 302 - 339 points (80-89%)

F = 225 points or less (59% or less)

C = 264 - 301 points (70-79%)

IMPORTANT: These grade cut-offs are fixed. The borders have already been relaxed as much as possible, so monitor your progress and earn any necessary extra credit points to secure your grade category. I will not award the higher grade if you are 1 or 2 points short; I need to be fair and consistent for all students. Watch your grade in D2L and earn extra credit points to secure your grade category.

Student Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of all information in the syllabus, including dates and procedures for assignments and grading; to frequently check the D2L course site for class announcements or changes or added materials; to complete the reading assignments before each class, to take an active role in learning the material; to communicate with the professor and seek proper documentation in case of an extended absence; to seek out help from the professor or tutor as needed in a timely fashion; use resources to work through problems and gain independence; monitor your performance in this class, including keeping track of your grades; and to inform the professor ahead of time in the case of special needs (as documented by Accessibility Resources). Please arrive and leave class on time, so as not to disturb other students or the professor. Students displaying disrespectful or disruptive behavior will be given one warning by the professor. Subsequent issues will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Continuity of Instruction: MSUM is committed to the continuity of instruction in the event of an emergency disruption that may result in the suspension of activities, including face-to-face classes on MSUM's campus. MSUM is committed to preparing for any significant disruption in classes, whether it's from closure due to flooding, weather, medical emergency, campus evacuation or other emergencies.

Incompletes: No grades of Incomplete will be given unless official documentation from the Dean of Students Office is provided and other means of completing the work are not possible.

Academic honesty: Copying test answers or papers from classmates or other sources (including the web) is considered plagiarism and is the equivalent of scholarly or "literary" stealing. Such activities reflect shabby standards of personal integrity and such conduct is professionally unethical. If you are caught plagiarizing, copying, or using AI generated answers, you will fail the course, regardless of the level of work on other class activities. For more information, see the MSUM Student Handbook. (<https://www.mnstate.edu/about/policies-procedures/student-handbook/>)

Accessibility Statement: Minnesota State University Moorhead is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students and strives to make courses inclusive and accessible in accordance with sections 508, 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The University will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Accessibility Resources (AR) is the campus office that collaborates with students in need of accommodations and assists in arranging reasonable accommodations. If you have or think you may have a disability or are currently registered and have questions/concerns, please contact the Director of Accessibility Resources at: Charles.Eade@mnstate.edu. Additional information is available on the AR website: <http://www.mnstate.edu/accessibility> . The ADA Coordinator for students and ADA compliance issues is Chuck Eade, Director of Accessibility Resources; charles.eade@mnstate.edu.

Sexual Violence: Acts of sexual violence are intolerable. MSUM expects all members of the campus community to act in a manner that does not infringe on the rights of others. We are committed to eliminating all acts of sexual violence.

MSUM faculty and staff are concerned about the well-being and development of our students. We are obligated to share information with the MSUM Title IX Coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the students' safety and welfare are being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking.

If you have experienced or know someone who has experienced sexual violence, services and resources are available. You may also choose to file a report. For further information, contact Lynn Peterson, Title IX Coordinator, petrsnly@mnstate.edu; 218-477-2967, or Ashley Atteberry, Director of Student Conduct & Resolution.

Safety/Emergency Plans: Building emergency floor plans showing exit routes, severe weather safe areas, shelter in place locations and areas of refuge are conspicuously located in classrooms, labs, conference rooms, departmental main offices, and residence halls. The Emergency Preparedness Guides (flip style booklets) are located in the same areas and available on the [MSUM Public Safety Website](#). Please review the emergency plans and guide so you know how to respond in an emergency to help protect yourself and others. If you have questions, please contact Ryan Nelson, Director of Public Safety, at ryan.nelson@mnstate.edu or 218-477-5869. <https://www.mnstate.edu/public-safety/>

Anti-bias Statement: Minnesota State University Moorhead has an enduring commitment to enhancing Minnesota's quality of life by developing and fostering understanding and appreciation of a free and diverse society and providing equal opportunity for all its students and employees. Incidents of hate and bias are inconsistent with the mission and values of MSUM.

MSUM acknowledges that it occupies the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Dakota (Sisseton, Wahpeton) and Yanktonai Dakota First Nations. We will strive to build toward better relationship between our university and the indigenous people still present with us.

A bias incident is an act of bigotry, harassment, or intimidation that is motivated in whole or in part by bias based on an individual's or group's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, or familial status.

If you are a student who has experienced or witnessed a hate or bias incident, we want to address the incident and provide you with resources. Contact the Campus Diversity Officer, Jered Pigeon at jered.pigeon@mnstate.edu, 218-477-2047, 114 CMU or the Dean of Students, Kara Gravley-Stack at kara.gravleystack@mnstate.edu, 218-477-4222, 153 Flora Frick Hall. Additional information is available at: <https://www2.mnstate.edu/oscar/>