Welcome to Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychological Science

This is your official course information (syllabus) for PSY 101. Please note that by taking this course you are agreeing to the rules described on these pages and we expect that you will familiarize yourself with them. Feel free to ask your professor about anything you are unsure of pertaining to this syllabus.

Students are required to read and acknowledge College-wide policies each term. They are found in “College-Wide Policies” on Blackboard under Student/Courses.

Course Description: An introductory survey of the scientific study of human behavior and cognitive functions, including developmental psychology, neuroscience, learning, personality, memory, perception, psychopathology, and social behavior. Emphasis is on understanding psychological concepts, the integration and application of psychology to real life, and theoretical and methodological issues in scientific psychology. Opportunities for studying, tutoring, and supplemental testing will be made available to students outside of class time in the Psychology Learning Center.

Course Learning Outcomes:
- Differentiate between the numerous areas of specialization within the broader field of psychology.
- Identify the major research methods used in psychology.
- Apply the basic principles of scientific thinking to the various subfields of psychology.
- Identify the important concepts in the various sub-disciplines of psychology (which could include biological, behavioral, clinical, cognitive, developmental, or social psychology).
- Identify the important theories in the various sub-disciplines of psychology (which could include biological, behavioral, clinical, cognitive, developmental, or social psychology).
- Identify applications of scientific psychology in real-world situations.


Structure and Organization: Intro to Psychological Science at MCC (PSY 101) is standardized across sections, so all faculty teaching 101 (except the honors section) are following an identical schedule, textbook, syllabus, set of detailed learning objectives with study guide, and grading system. A class schedule and an abridged syllabus will be handed out during the first week of class. The complete syllabus is the online version (or this copy). The textbook should be purchased on or before the beginning of the semester. PSY 101 at MCC uses a custom MCC edition of the textbook. This version is available at the MCC bookstore. The book is packaged to fit into a 3-ring binder, which is not included at the time of your purchase. If the bookstore makes used copies available, beware: USED
The many tests of PSY 101: Your mastery of the material in each unit is measured by multiple-choice tests. Each test has 20 questions (one question for each of the 20 learning objectives, but in random order). In most cases you will have three opportunities to take unit tests, which we call the "A test," the "B test," and the "C test" (except Intersession and Summer sessions, which have only two), each with randomly generated questions on the same 20 learning objectives. You must take one test, but we strongly recommend you take all three tests on each unit. The highest score you earn among the three is the score counted for that unit.

You can find more information about the tests through the Tests & Grading page online.

Tests are generally taken in their alphabetic order (A, then B, then C), but no test is a prerequisite for another test; as scheduling permits, you may take them in any order. The B test is only given in class (except for the hybrid section). Your professor will distribute a calendar showing when each unit B test will be administered. It is the only test given during class time, and it is given only when scheduled (you cannot take a make-up B test). The other two tests, A and C, are given in the Psychology Learning Center on the Brighton Campus and the Testing Center in the Learning Commons at the Downtown Campus. These tests are administered by computer only in those locations.

In order to take a test in the Psychology Learning Center on the Brighton Campus and the Testing Center in the Learning Commons at the Downtown Campus you MUST have a photo ID. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.

The A test is generally made available starting on the first Wednesday of the new unit, with the exception of Unit 1. The deadline for this test is the (end of day) Thursday of the week in which the in-class test is given. Late-start classes are on a slightly different schedule.

Test deadlines are listed in your course calendar and posted on the Psychology Learning Center website.

The C test is also given in the Learning Center/Testing Center, but it is available starting the Friday of the week in which the in-class test is given, until the (end of) Tuesday of the following week. The C test is not a "make-up" test, but is usually your last chance at improving your test score for a particular unit.

No test is inherently harder than another. Each test is constructed from the same large test bank,
randomly including questions pertaining to each learning objective. Some individual tests, therefore, might be easier or harder than others, but there is no pattern with respect to difficulty of A, B, or C tests.

Optional MyPsychLab Resources: A MyPsychLab access code from the publisher is required to access additional study materials including practice tests, videos, an e-book, and an e-reader. The access code comes with the purchase of a new textbook. Used copies of the textbook will not have an access code.

Grading: Only the highest score of whichever tests you take for each unit is the one that counts. There are no other graded assignments: no homework, no midterm, no final, no papers. Your success in the course, therefore, is determined by your averaged degree of mastery of each of the units.

We do not drop any entire unit's score; if you only take one test for a particular unit, and you get a low score on it, then that score will become part of your overall grade. If you take two or three tests for a particular unit, and the scores differ, only the highest score of those will become part of your overall grade; the others are dropped.

This average is then converted into a letter grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>67% - 71%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87% - 89%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>64% - 66%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83% - 86%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>60% - 63%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79% - 82%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>56% - 59%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% - 78%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>51% - 55%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72% - 74%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Below 51%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Psychology Learning Center: There is a Psychology Learning Center location for tutoring and testing at the Brighton campus (room 11-110, inside the Electronic Learning Center). Tutoring is available on the tutoring side of the Learning Commons and testing is available at the Testing Center in the Learning Commons at the Downtown Campus. Their rules and hours of operation are found online (www.monroec.edu/depts/psych-learning-center), as is this course information, the study guide, and other information pertinent to PSY 101. The Psychology Learning Center is typically used for three different activities:

- Taking the A and C tests on each unit;
- Tutoring, including going over tests you have taken and questions about course concepts;
- Studying, including taking practice tests and checking out copies of the book or study guide (you will need a photo ID to access hard copy materials).

Class Calendar: A calendar for your section of the course is handed out in class and is also available online. The calendar shows when the A and C tests will be available in the Psychology Learning Center and when the B test on each unit will be given in class.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken and recorded for the duration of the semester. It is to your benefit to attend every class.

In accordance with MCC policy, attendance is expected in class and for tests. Beginning with the 2017-2019 academic year, MCC will not process a faculty-initiated withdrawal. If you wish to be withdrawn from the course, it is your responsibility to withdraw yourself before the withdrawal deadline. Instructors cannot issue a withdrawal for students who stop attending.
Regular class attendance is one of the most important contributing factors to your academic success. Missing classes may have an academic consequence as outlined here. In addition, failure to attend class may impact scholarships, grants, loans, veteran affairs status, satisfactory academic progress (SAP), participation on athletic teams, eligibility to live in campus housing, and, most significantly, financial aid assistance. If you determine that you will be unable to complete courses in which you are currently enrolled, it is your responsibility to initiate procedures leading to a formal withdrawal (“W”) in order to avoid a failing (“F”) grade. Students who need assistance in completing this process may contact the Registration and Records Office.

Additionally, if you arrive late to class you may be marked absent, and you may forfeit the opportunity to take the in-class B test if you arrive late on a test day. If there is lecture following your in-class B test, you may be marked absent for the day if you leave class following the test.

**Recording Class Lecture:** Neither audio nor video recordings of the instructor or the class can be made without the explicit prior written permission of the instructor.

**Students with Special Needs:** Students with physical disabilities or learning disabilities, or who speak English as a second language, should contact their instructors immediately to identify needed instructional support. It is our intention to make every effort to have the course material accessible to every student. Dealing with special needs generally requires extra effort on the part of both student and instructor, so it is crucial that you work closely with your instructor from the beginning of the semester. If eligible, you should make arrangements for appropriate accommodations through the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (Room 1-231 at Brighton) or the Student Engagement Center (Room 310) at the Downtown Campus. The office requests validation or confirmation of your disability before accommodations can be made. Typically, on the Brighton campus, students with disabilities can take tests directly in the Psychology Learning Center. On the Downtown Campus, students with disabilities usually take tests in the Student Engagement Center, and will need to make an appointment for each test. Appointments can be made in advance for the entire semester. During tests, translation dictionaries are prohibited.

**Military Service:** This information is in “College-Wide Policies” on Blackboard under Student/Courses.

**Emergency Information:** This information is in “College-Wide Policies” on Blackboard under Student/Courses.

**Class Cancellation:** Every effort will be made to maintain scheduled class and Learning Center hours. On an occasion that class is cancelled, you may be obligated to make up work on your own time. If the cancelled class was on a scheduled B test day, you should be prepared to take the test on the next scheduled class day. Making up missed B tests due to class cancellations is at the discretion of the instructor. See more information on class cancellations in “College-Wide Policies” on Blackboard under Student/Courses.

**Academic Honesty:** Put very simply, cheating will not be tolerated, and this pertains to cheating in class, in the Psychology Learning Center, or in any manner related to testing and attendance. According to the MCC Catalog & Student Handbook, cheating includes any activity which gives a student an unfair advantage in the classroom or on a test. It does not matter whether you actually used this advantage or whether or not it actually made a difference in your grade. Students who provide information to others are just as guilty as students who receive that information.
Any cheating in the Learning Center will be reported to your course instructor, and all instances of cheating that affect your grade will be reported in writing to the Vice President for Student Services and will be included in your permanent file. Further disciplinary action, such as receiving a failing grade in the course, may also be taken. Any use of an electronic device during a test, whether in class or in the learning center, will result in a zero for that test.

Because attendance in PSY 101 may positively benefit your grade score, it is expressly forbidden to misrepresent your attendance in class, for example, by signing in for another student.

Students should read and understand the college policy on Civility, Honor Code, and Grievance Procedures as published in the college catalog. As students, you will be expected to uphold these standards.

Student Conduct in the Psychology Learning Center

1. **Come in and come in often.** The Psychology Learning Center is here to help you succeed in PSY-101, but it can't help if you don't show up. Feel free to use the learning center for tutoring and studying, or just getting questions answered about PSY-101. You can also borrow a textbook (with a photo ID) and a Study Guide for use on the tutor/study side.

2. **Sign in.** When you first enter the Electronic Learning Center (at Brighton) there is a sign-in procedure that you should follow.

3. **Sign out.** When you leave, don't forget to sign out. And PLEASE indicate that you received assistance if you got any help from a professor, tutor, or staff member (that is, if you reviewed a test, got explanations for any concepts, had help logging in or taking a test, or otherwise had anyone help you while in the learning center). Funding of the learning center is partially influenced by your sign-out procedure, and we'd like to keep the learning center in operation in the future.

4. **Follow instructions from learning center staff.** Be respectful of staff in the learning center. Learning center staff, professors, and tutors are legitimate authorities of the college. In case of conflict, you may appeal their decisions through the contacts noted in the course information pages, but disobedient or disrespectful behavior may result in a call to campus security.

5. **Know how to log in to Blackboard.**

6. **Use of our computers in the Learning Center:** Computers are available for taking PSY-101 practice tests on the tutoring/study side of the learning center. (Printers, however, are not available.)

7. **You should be logged in to your test before published closing time,** and you must finish testing within 30 minutes after closing time.

8. **Please be respectful of your fellow students who are studying or testing.**

**IMPORTANT RULES FOR PSY-101 TESTING**

1. **Don't cheat while taking a test.** Cheating will be addressed per the MCC Code of Conduct.

2. **All electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, “smart watches,” and tablets, must be put in your bag BEFORE you enter the testing room and remain in your bag until YOU ARE OUT the door of the testing room.** All devices must be turned off or muted completely. Any cell phone or other electronic device that is VISIBLE at any time, for any reason, in the testing room may earn you a zero for that test. Similarly, no electronic device may be accessed during an in-class paper test.

3. **Bring a photo ID to take a test.** You will not be able to take any test in the learning center without a photo ID, and there are no exceptions to this rule. The photo ID does not have to be an MCC ID, although those are preferred (and available through the Photo ID Office). We only accept original photo IDs, not photocopies or pictures on your cell phone. We are not responsible for lost
IDs, including driver’s licenses and passports.

4. **You may not leave the testing room for any reason and then come back to finish your test.** (Exception: Fire drill or other emergency situation.) If you are expecting a phone call you should either postpone taking your test, or let it go to voicemail and call them back.

5. **Nothing can be on your desktop** – that includes clothing and hats, all pens and pencils, books, purses, etc. Put all your belongings on the floor near your feet.

6. **No talking** during your test. **No translation dictionaries** are allowed. **No writing anything down** during your test (because it is a secure question bank).

7. **Do not bring children.** Children are never allowed in the testing area, and we will not supervise them for you, so please make arrangements beforehand. Children in the study area must be under your supervision and control at all times.

8. **Consequences of disrespectful behavior:** Depending upon the severity of the disrespectful behavior, consequences range from notifying your professor (who has the right to impose reasonable sanctions concerning the classroom and your test scores), to loss of learning center privileges, to actions at the college level taken by the office of the Vice President of Student Services.

If you have a concern regarding the Psychology Learning Center operations or staff, contact: (1) your instructor, (2) the Psychology Learning Center Administrator, whose office is in the Brighton learning center; or contact the Downtown Campus PSY 101 Coordinator, (3) Psychology Learning Center Coordinator, and (4) the Department Chairperson, whose office is in the psychology department, in that order, to address the situation. See the Psychology Learning Center website for details.

**MCC’s Tobacco-Free Policy:** MCC’s tobacco-free policy prohibits the use, distribution or sale of tobacco in all college owned, leased or controlled buildings, property and vehicles and at all MCC-sponsored events. **This policy includes e-cigarettes.** This policy applies to everyone on campus. We appreciate your cooperation in MCC’s commitment to being a tobacco-free campus.