

PSYC 410

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Communicating Psychological Science –Section 01

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TIME: M/W 10-11:45
LOCATION: AH 29
OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 11-12:45
W 1:00-5:00 & by Appointment
Schedule at:
<https://www.mnsu.edu/mavconnect/>

COURSE INFORMATION

Rationale: Think of when you have learned something for the 1st time! This class emphasizes your passion for Psychology and will best prepare you to communicate Psychology. The work we do in this course will challenge most of you and it may be the 1st time you try things like: blogging, refining your speaking skills in front of others, talking often in class. I too will be challenged as this is the 1st time I'm teaching this course! I have a big vision though for the work we will do. I'm so glad you are with me in this journey to create a new and important course for the future of our major!

Course Description: This course will provide you with knowledge and strategies to describe, identify, and write about Psychological Science. This course will reinforce the science of Psychology through the teaching of successful communication strategies of psychological concepts. You will complete the course demonstrating how to successfully communicate the discipline to the public.

Course Objectives: After completing this course you will be able to:

- 1.) Identify facts vs. misconceptions in Psychological Science
- 2.) Develop critical thinking skills on issues in Psychological Science
- 3.) Evaluate academic and non-academic writings of Psychological Science
- 4.) Communicate topics in Psychological Science to the public.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1.) Texts:

Alda, A. (2018). **If I understood you would I Have This Look on My Face?** Random House Publishers, New York, NY.

Green, A. E. (2013). **Writing Science in Plain English.** University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL.

Dean, C. (2017). **Making Sense of Science.** The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

**These texts are available at the bookstores and can be purchased on any online book retailer.*

2.) Desire 2 Learn: D2L will be used for out-of-class communication, and for posting course material. You should check our site several times a week. Grades will be updated often on D2L. Please keep up with your grades. If you have a question or you think something is wrong, please contact me. Do not wait until the end of the semester.

LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

1.) Attendance: I expect that you will attend class and arrive and leave on time.

Attendance will directly influence your overall grade. You may miss up to 3 classes throughout the semester without absences affecting your grade.

Here are circumstances that will lead to an ABSENCE:

- Missing class due to colds or minor illness (e.g., not under care of a doctor).
- Scheduling conflict (work, appointments, vacations, or similar reasons life gets in the way).
- Missing class for personal reasons.
- Arriving late or leaving early.

Here are circumstances that will lead to an EXCUSED absence:

- A doctor's note from illness or injury.
- A documented absence for an academic event or activity (*must communicate the event in writing ahead of time).
- A family emergency (*written documentation must be received promptly).

2.) Participation: Class participation IS CONSISTENT WITH ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

Having good eye contact, following along and listening with complete attention, and consistently answering questions in large and small groups is expected. *Being a good class participant makes you a stronger student and is the #1 aspect I think of when I consider your success.*

- Attendance will be taken during each class.
- Next to your attendance for each day I will record one of the following:
 - **PLUS** – your performance is consistent with academic success and you have made an extra effort to contribute.
 - **CHECK** – your performance is consistent with academic success.
 - **MINUS** – your performance is inconsistent with academic success.
- Participation will be graded based on your which type of record you have the most of.

3.) Written Assignments: Writing is essential to effective communication. We will complete a variety of assignments that assist you in refining your psychological writing.

- **Academic writing** – you will be introduced to strategies that improve traditional academic writing (e.g., abstracts, journal articles, research papers). Due dates can be found in the course outline.
- **In-class writing activities** – you will be asked to complete short writing activities to support learning experiences. These will accompany readings and in-class work.

These will be scheduled by me during class periods and will not be announced ahead of time.

- **Blogging** – you will be introduced to effective blogging strategies. We will be completing several preparatory activities so that you can draft, edit, and publish blogs. Due dates can be found in the course outline.

4.) Speaking Assignments: Clear and engaging speech is essential to effective communication. We will complete a variety of assignments that assist you in refining your communication of psychology.

- **In-class activities** – you will be asked to complete short activities to support learning experiences. These will accompany readings and in-class work. These will be scheduled by me during class periods and will not be announced ahead of time.
- **Public speaking** – you will be required to communicate information at different time-lengths: 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 30 seconds AND for a variety of audiences.

5.) Extra Credit: Participation in Research: Participation in Research: You may earn up to **16** extra credit points toward your exam point total by participating psychology research. A few weeks into the school year, you will receive an email with your user ID and password. If you forget your password or username, there is a link on the bottom of the screen you can click to have it emailed to you. Please check the site often, as new research opportunities will appear throughout the semester. Do NOT wait until the last few weeks of the semester to participate, as experiments tend to fill up quickly at the end of the semester. You are responsible for signing up for research and showing up on time for appointments, or letting the researchers know if you need to cancel—if you miss more than 4 appointments, you will no longer be eligible to participate in research studies for the current semester. You will earn 1 point of SONA credit for each 15 minutes of online research you complete, and 2 points of SONA credit for each 15 minutes of in-person research you complete.

Opportunities for participation are posted at <http://mnsu.sona-systems.com/>

Grading Procedures:

1.) Attendance Outcomes:

- Missing 3 or fewer classes will lead to your retaining the grade you receive based on all other learning assessments. For example, if you have a “B” “B+” or “B-” based on total course assessments, you will earn that grade.
- Missing either 4, 5, or 6 classes will lead to you earning a full letter grade lower than your total course assessment. For example, if you have a “B” you will earn a “C”. If you have an “A-”, you will earn a B.
- Missing 6 or more classes will lead to you earning two full letter grades lower than your total course assessment.

2.) Participation Outcomes:

- Majority of record PLUS = 25% of course grade (5% will be added as BONUS)
- Majority of record CHECK = 20% of course grade
- Majority of record MINUS = 10% of course grade

3.) Written Assignments = 40% of course grade

4.) Speaking Assignments = 40% of course grade

CLASS PROCEDURES

- 1.) **Participation:** If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get the notes and keep up with assignments. *Please do not email and ask "what did I miss?" You will always miss something.*
- 2.) **Electronics:** Electronics such as laptops can be used during class. If any device becomes a distraction in class, you will receive a MINUS in participation on those occasions.
- 3.) **Arrivals/Departures:** Please arrive on time and expect to be here for the entire class. Not meeting these expectations (certainly there are extenuating circumstances) will lead to a MINUS in participation.
- 4.) **Email:** Please put **PSYC: 410** in the subject of your email. I welcome questions/comments from you; however, please do not email me late in the evening and expect I will be able to reply to you then. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours. Consult your syllabus and D2L for information before you email me. Chances are you can find what you need there. **DO NOT EMAIL ABOUT GRADES.** Grades will only be discussed by scheduling an office hour appointment.
- 5.) **Accessibility Resources:** Every effort will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability and you will require special accommodations in this course, please contact the Accessibility Resource Office at <http://www.mnsu.edu/access> (507) 389-2825 or 1-800-627-3529 for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.
- 6.) **Other Academic Support Agencies:** There are a number of organizations on campus that can help you with academic and non-academic related needs. If you have a problem that you would like to discuss at any point in the course, please come and talk to me and I can point you in the direction of a suitable resource.
- 7.) **Academic Honesty:** I expect that you will conduct yourselves with honesty and academic integrity while in this class. MSU, Mankato students are obligated to adhere to the [Statement of Student Responsibilities](#). Students caught cheating will fail that specific assignment and may be turned over to student affairs for formal discipline.