

# PSYC550

## TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY Spring 2025

MF 12:00-1:15pm; 3 credits; SH 216

### Instructor

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This course serves new and experienced teachers in any discipline. It will help new teachers design and conduct a successful course and help experienced teachers improve their teaching. The course focuses on developing and conducting an introductory course in your discipline in a face-to-face format.

My goal is to model the principles of a student-centered classroom. By the end of the semester, you will have created via a series of products that will facilitate and demonstrate your learning, and serve as useful resources in your future teaching. You will also have the opportunity to practice planning and leading mini-lessons.

### YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

The NMSU Department of Psychology is committed to promoting a sense of inclusion and respect for all people, regardless of their culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, age, religion, immigration status, veteran status, or physical ability. The Department recognizes that systematic barriers exist for some people and not others, and is committed to fostering a more equitable and diversified environment.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES (as created by students)

In this class you will have the opportunity to:

1. Build an introductory course in your discipline that uses best practices identified in research on the scholarship of teaching and learning. This course design will include:
  - a. course objectives describing what students will be able to DO at the end of the course
  - b. an outcome map and assessment plan
  - c. selection of appropriate preparatory resources for students
  - d. a course schedule with learning objectives for each day of the class, including preparatory material when appropriate
  - e. a detailed plan for one unit
  - f. a complete syllabus
2. Create effective learning activities that:
  - a. balance theoretical principles and broad application of disciplinary topics
  - b. discourage the unauthorized use of generative AI
  - c. effectively integrate academic digital tools as appropriate
3. Practice effective communication and course delivery skills by teaching short lessons given to your classmates.
4. Examine tools and techniques for professional development and self-assessment.
5. Explore effective and ethical uses generative AI

## RECOMMENDED TEXT

Zakrajsek, Todd D. and Nilson, Linda B. (2023) *Teaching at its Best: A Research-Based Resource for College Instructors* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). Jossey Bass. ISBN: 978-1119860228

## PREREQUISITES

None

## HOW CAN I USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS IN THIS CLASS?

Use of AI tools is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. Students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your references list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty.

## SETTING GRADE WEIGHTS

One practice you may include in your teaching is allowing students to set grade weights. To give you first-hand experience with both the process and the results, you will determine the percentage of the final grade for each of the assignments described above. Teaching practice is graded because I want you to feel safe trying something new without a concern for how it might affect your final grade.

Assignment	% of final grade
Course objectives	____%
Outcome map and assessment plan	____%
Course schedule	____%
Unit plan	____%
Course syllabus	____%
	100%

## GRADING

Due to university policy, I must reduce my assessment of your learning to the woefully inadequate representation of a letter grade. I will do so using the following criteria:

Grade	Percentage of total points earned	Grade	Percentage of total points earned
A	92-100%	C	72-77%
A-	90-91%	C-	70-71%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	82-87%	D	62-67%
B-	80-81%	D-	60-61%
C+	78-79%	F	< 60%

Note that grade reports are not automatically mailed to students. Students can access grades and credits by the web using [my.nmsu.edu](http://my.nmsu.edu). At the request of the student, the instructor will provide information on progress in the course prior to the last day to drop a course.

## UNIVERSITY GRADING SYSTEM

The University Grading System is outlined in [ARP 4.55](https://arp.nmsu.edu/4-55/) (https://arp.nmsu.edu/4-55/). At the request of the student, the instructor will provide information on progress in the course prior to the last day to drop a course.

## S/U GRADING OPTION

Students enrolling under the S/U grading option must earn a specific grade as designated by the instructor to receive an “S”. Students must elect the grading option prior to the last day to add a class. See [ARP 4.55 Part 2](https://arp.nmsu.edu/4-55/) (https://arp.nmsu.edu/4-55/) for more information.

## INCOMPLETE GRADES

If something arises in your life, talk to me ASAP. The sooner you do so, the more options I have to help. Under university policy, incompletes may be given only if a student has a passing grade at mid-semester (the last day to withdraw from a class) and is precluded from successful completion of the second half of the course by a documented illness, documented death, family crisis or other similar circumstances beyond the student's control. Visit [ARP 4.55 Part 2, Letter D](https://arp.nmsu.edu/4-55/) (https://arp.nmsu.edu/4-55/) for more information.

## MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS

Multiple submissions, revisions, and redos are not allowed.

## STUDENT RESOURCES

A complete list of resources for current students is available at [Aggie One Stop](#)

<a href="#">Emergencies</a>	911	<a href="#">Military &amp; Veterans Programs</a>	(575) 646-4524
<a href="#">Aggie One Stop</a>	(575) 646-6678	<a href="#">Student Success Center</a>	(575) 646-3136
<a href="#">Student Assistance Services</a>	(575) 646-1722	<a href="#">Student Technology</a>	(575) 646-4857
<a href="#">Police Department</a>	(575) 646-3311	<a href="#">Writing Center</a>	
<a href="#">Aggie Health &amp; Wellness Center</a>	(575) 646-2731	<a href="#">Campus Tutoring</a>	
<a href="#">Financial Aid &amp; Scholarship Services</a>	(575) 646-4105	<a href="#">Aggie Cupboard</a>	(575) 646-7636

Another resource for college students with disabilities is the [Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring \(DREAM\)](#) group, sponsored and funded by the National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD). From their website: [DREAM](#) is a national online disability cultural center connecting and supporting students to become leaders and agents of change on their campuses. The student-led organization strives to empower students with disabilities to work for campus and national change, encourage the development of disability culture and peer support, and advance the study of disabilities within academia.

## WITHDRAWALS

To withdraw from this class, you must submit a signed withdrawal form by close of business on 3/20/25.

## CIVILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Learning new ideas or encountering new situations can sometimes trigger emotions ranging from delight to frustration. Please feel free to share positive emotions with me and your classmates early and often. You are also free to share negative emotions with me and/or your classmates provided you do so civilly. I am happy to answer your questions and/or to help you identify ways to improve your performance in class. However, I will not respond to written or verbal communications that fail to uphold this standard of civility.

I will hold your written work to an analogous standard of professionalism. I expect all written work to use full English sentences, to be proof-read and spell-checked, and to remain on topic.

## EMAIL

Your NMSU email account is the official means of communicating with the university. Information critical to your success at NMSU is delivered to you via this account, and you are expected to follow rules and policies provided to you via this communication method. Any email from you to the instructor should be sent either through the Canvas course management system or through your official NMSU email account. Please be advised that due to privacy and security concerns, we are unable to respond to emails from or about students that do not originate from an official NMSU email address.

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is available in the NMSU Student Handbook online <http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/>

Academic misconduct is explained at:

[https://studentlife.nmsu.edu/academic\\_integrity/academic\\_misconduct.html](https://studentlife.nmsu.edu/academic_integrity/academic_misconduct.html) Academic misconduct is governed by ARP Policy 5.10. (<https://arp.nmsu.edu/5-10/>)

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The NMSU Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at <https://nmsu.libguides.com/plagiarism>.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Please visit [https://syllabus.nmsu.edu/student\\_resources\\_policy.html](https://syllabus.nmsu.edu/student_resources_policy.html) university policies and student services, including important dates, final exam schedule, and more.

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES AND AUTHORIZED ABSENCES

NMSU values diversity and the university supports cultural and religious inclusiveness. If your participation in cultural or religious observances (e.g. religious holidays, spiritual observances) conflicts with a particular class session, please notify the instructor in writing and ahead of time to be excused from class for such observances.

## DISCRIMINATION AND DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

[Disability Access Services](#) (DAS)

Corbett Center Student Union Room 208

Aaron Salas, Director

575-646-6840

[das@nmsu.edu](mailto:das@nmsu.edu)

New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. **You may submit a report online at [equity.nmsu.edu](http://equity.nmsu.edu). If you have an urgent concern, please contact the Office of Institutional Equity at 575-646-3635.**

**Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint contact:**

Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)

O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue

Phone: (575) 646-3635

E-mail: [equity@nmsu.edu](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)

[Office of Institutional Equity Website \(https://equity.nmsu.edu\)](https://equity.nmsu.edu)

## CLASS RECORDING

Class lectures can be recorded and are covered by [ARP 11.05, Part 2, Letter I](https://arp.nmsu.edu/11-05/) (<https://arp.nmsu.edu/11-05/>). These recordings should not be distributed by anyone other than the instructor.

## SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS STATEMENT

This syllabus is subject to revision to best fit the educational needs of the class. Any changes or modifications will be announced in class.