

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title:

PSYC XXX—Honors Psychology

Number of credits:

1 credit

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn extensively about scientific research in psychology. Each week, students will be assigned 1-2 journal articles that build upon course material in PSYC 111. Students will learn how to read, understand, and interpret psychological journal articles, and will participate and contribute to discussions about the articles. Additionally, students will be required to submit a PSYC 111 paper that contains a more in-depth literature review than is required for non-honors PSYC 111 students.

Pre-/Co-requisites:

PSYC 111—Introduction to Psychology

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Learn how to read, understand, and interpret psychological journal articles.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic scientific design, assessing the effectiveness of study designs presented in the readings.
3. Extend research findings to real-life situations.
4. Select research articles relevant to class topics for class discussion during the last 2-3 weeks (depending on class enrollment) of the semester.

Instructor:

Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office:

Thatcher Hall 2208

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: 11:00-1:00

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

Textbook(s):

Myers, D. (2010). *Psychology*, 9th Ed. New York: Worth Publishers. (this is the text for PSYC 111)

Additional course readings available on the course Moodle Shell.

Course Requirements:

- Read weekly readings and come to class prepared to discuss.
- Participate in seminar style discussion.
- Select a relevant reading for discussion at the end of the semester.
- Devise an in-depth literature review for PSYC 111 paper.

*****If the above criteria are met, the student will receive a passing grade. If students fail to meet the above criteria, students will not pass the honors portion of PSYC 111.**

Major Assignments:

- **Weekly Readings:** Each week, the instructor will post 1-2 psychological journal articles on the course Moodle shell. Students are responsible for reading the articles, understanding the basic content of the articles, and devising five (5) questions regarding the articles for each weekly discussion. These questions will facilitate discussion if needed, and will be collected at the end of each class.
- **Student Selected Readings:** Each student will select a relevant psychological journal article for class discussion during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester. The article must be selected two (2) weeks prior to the discussion class, and a link to the article must be sent to the instructor at that time. Students will be in charge of leading the discussion over their chosen articles.
- **In-Depth Literature Review:** Students in the honors section of PSYC 111 will develop a greater understanding of psychological research than students in a non-honors section of PSYC 111. This understanding should be demonstrated in the PSYC 111 term paper (see requirements in the PSYC 111 syllabus). This may include, but is not limited to: citing 2-3 journal articles, assessing the strengths and/or weaknesses of research findings, addressing future directions within one's research paper.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Chapter
Week 1			Class Introduction	
Week 2			Thinking Critically with Psych. Science	1
Week 3			Biology of the Mind	2
Week 4			Nature, Nurture, Human Diversity	4
Week 5			Developing Through the Lifespan	5
Week 6			Sensation and Perception	6
Week 7			Learning	7
Week 8			Memory	8
Week 9			Thinking and Language	9
Week 10			Intelligence	10

Week 11			Motivation and Work	11
Week 12			Emotions, Stress, and Health	12
Week 13			Psychological Disorders	14
Week 14			Social Psychology	16
Week 15			Student Selected Articles	
Week 16			Student Selected Articles	

General Education Goals/Objectives:

- Goal 1: Explains the interrelationships between humans and their environment and the role of science in their lives.
- Goal 4: Demonstrate Effective Communication

Relationship to Campus Theme:

Campus theme: Nature, Technology, and Beyond

- Students will be familiar with the technological tools used to investigate the mind and our behavior.
- Students will be familiar with how nature influences our own (psychological) development.
- Students will use critical thinking to understand the importance of psychology now, and in the future.

Classroom Policies:

- **Participation.** Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively engage in class discussion and activities. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engaged in discussion. Computers are NOT allowed in this seminar style class.
- **Grades.** Grades in this class are based on participation in class discussions, and coming to class prepared (i.e. reading the assigned readings and completing at least five (5) questions regarding each article). The instructor will notify the students of their pass/fail status during Week 5 and Week 13 (students should feel free to inquire about their status whenever they see fit).

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism (taking the ideas, thoughts, or language or someone else and passing them off as your own) will not be tolerated in this class. If a student is suspected of plagiarizing, cheating, or not doing their own work, the matter will be investigated. Any student who is found to engage in academic dishonesty (including letting others cheat off of you) will receive an automatic “F” in the course. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the appropriate University office and additional action may be taken.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Please inform the instructor within the first week of classes if any assistance is required due to disabilities or special needs.