

Course Prefix/Number/Title: PSYC 111—Introduction to Psychology

Number of credits: 3 credits

Course Description: This course involves the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. It is a basic prerequisite to most other psychology classes.

Pre-/Co-requisites: None

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Define key concepts in the field of psychology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of psychology, including the field's history, methods, and future directions.
3. Explain basic human processes and behaviors (including brain functioning, learning, memory, intelligence, development, and social interaction) from a psychologist's perspective.
4. Identify different types of psychological disorders.

Instructor: Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office: Thatcher Hall 2206

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:00-9:50am and 1:00-1:50pm

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule: MWF 10:11-10:56am, TH 1107

Textbook(s):

Recommended (Not Required): Myers, D, & DeWall, C. N. (2018). *Psychology*, 12th Ed. New York: Worth Publishers.

Course Requirements:

- Exams (4 exams (non-cumulative), each worth 50 points) 200 points
 - In-Class Quizzes (10 quizzes, each worth 5 points) 50 points
 - Blackboard Vocabulary Quizzes (5 quizzes, each worth 10 points) 50 points
- Total: 300 points**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| A | 270 and above |
| B | 240-269 |
| C | 210-239 |
| D | 180-209 |
| F | 179 and below |

Major Assignments:

- **Exams:** There will be 4, non-cumulative, exams throughout the semester worth 50 points each. Exams will cover information presented in class and from the textbook. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each.
- **In-Class Quizzes:** Ten (10) quizzes will be given randomly throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 5 points, and will vary in nature (e.g., short answer, multiple choice, matching). Quizzes cannot be made up under *any* circumstances. These quizzes will cover material presented in the week's readings and lectures.
- **Blackboard Vocabulary Quizzes:** Five (5) vocabulary quizzes will be given over various chapters throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth 10 points. These quizzes are available on the course Blackboard page. Due dates are set, but the quizzes may be completed prior to the due date.

Tentative Course Outline:

| Week | Date | Day | Topic | Chapter |
|--------|-------|-----------|---|---------|
| Week 1 | 8/23 | Wednesday | Class Introduction | 1 |
| | 8/25 | Friday | Thinking Critically with Psych. Science | |
| Week 2 | 8/28 | Monday | Thinking Critically with Psych. Science | 1 |
| | 8/30 | Wednesday | Biology of the Mind | 2 |
| | 9/1 | Friday | Biology of the Mind | 2 |
| Week 3 | 9/4 | Monday | <i>Labor Day (No Class)</i> | 2 3 |
| | 9/6 | Wednesday | Biology of the Mind (Vocab Quiz #1 Due) | |
| | 9/8 | Friday | Consciousness and the Mind | |
| Week 4 | 9/11 | Monday | Consciousness and the Mind | 3 |
| | 9/13 | Wednesday | Consciousness & Mind/Nature & Nurture | 3 & 4 |
| | 9/15 | Friday | Nature, Nurture, Human Diversity | 4 |
| Week 5 | 9/18 | Monday | Nature, Nurture, Diversity (Vocab Quiz #2 Due) | 4 |
| | 9/20 | Wednesday | Review | 1-4 |
| | 9/22 | Friday | Exam #1 | 1-4 |
| Week 6 | 9/25 | Monday | Developing Through the Life Span | 5 |
| | 9/27 | Wednesday | Developing Through the Life Span | 5 |
| | 9/29 | Friday | Sensation and Perception | 6 |
| Week 7 | 10/2 | Monday | Sensation and Perception | 6 |
| | 10/4 | Wednesday | Learning (Vocab Quiz #3 Due) | 7 |
| | 10/6 | Friday | Learning | 7 |
| Week 8 | 10/9 | Monday | <i>Assessment Day (No Class)</i> | 7 8 |
| | 10/11 | Wednesday | Learning | |
| | 10/13 | Friday | Memory | |
| Week 9 | 10/16 | Monday | Memory | 8 |
| | 10/18 | Wednesday | Review | 5-8 |

| | | | | |
|---------|-------|-----------|--|---------|
| | 10/20 | Friday | Exam #2 | 5-8 |
| Week 10 | 10/23 | Monday | Thinking and Language | 9 |
| | 10/25 | Wednesday | Thinking and Language | 9 |
| | 10/27 | Friday | Intelligence | 10 |
| Week 11 | 10/30 | Monday | Intelligence | 10 |
| | 11/1 | Wednesday | Intelligence | 10 |
| | 11/3 | Friday | Motivation and Work (Vocab Quiz #4 Due) | 11 |
| Week 12 | 11/6 | Monday | Motivation and Work | 11 |
| | 11/8 | Wednesday | Stress and Health | 12 |
| | 11/10 | Friday | <i>Veteran's Day (No Class)</i> | |
| Week 13 | 11/13 | Monday | Stress and Health | 12 |
| | 11/15 | Wednesday | Review | 9-12 |
| | 11/17 | Friday | Exam #3 | 9-12 |
| Week 14 | 11/20 | Monday | Social Psychology | 13 |
| | 11/22 | Wednesday | <i>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</i> | |
| | 11/24 | Friday | <i>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</i> | |
| Week 15 | 11/27 | Monday | Social Psychology | 13 |
| | 11/29 | Wednesday | Social Psychology/Psychological Disorders | 13 & 15 |
| | 12/1 | Friday | Psychological Disorders | 15 |
| Week 16 | 12/4 | Monday | Psychological Disorders (Vocab Quiz #5 Due) | 15 |
| | 12/6 | Wednesday | Review | 13 & 15 |
| | 12/8 | Friday | Exam #4 | 13 & 15 |

*****The final will NOT be given early. You must take the final during the final exam time, no exceptions.**

General Education Competency/Learning Outcomes:

- Competency 6: Demonstrates knowledge of social structures
 - Learning Outcome 1: Examines the experience of the individual
 - Performance Indicator 1: Demonstrates knowledge of mental processes within humans
 - Learning Outcome 2: Examines the world of human diversity
 - Performance Indicator 2: Identifies the varieties of human social groupings

Relationship to Campus Focus:

Campus Focus: 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 welcome in the classroom for note-taking purposes only. If students abuse this privilege, the instructor reserves the right to ban computers from the lecture periods.
- **Deadlines.** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Students will be deducted 5 points for every 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in, including weekends.

If a student is aware that they will miss an exam, they must inform the instructor *at least one week* prior to the missed exam. If a student is sick or experiences unforeseen circumstances where an exam must be missed, **the instructor must be informed immediately and proper documentation must be presented** (e.g., doctor's note, police accident report). Students will lose 10% for each 24-hour period that the exam is not taken. Once two class periods have passed since the missed exam, the student will receive a "0" for the exam. Students involved in college activities (e.g., athletics) that require them to miss an exam will take a make-up which is the same format as typical exams (multiple choice). Proper documentation from a coach or faculty supervisor is required to avoid the grade penalty.

- **Grades.** Questions about test grades can be emailed to the instructor up to 10 days (including weekends) after the grade is posted; after this time grades are considered final. Questions regarding grades can be emailed to the instructor no sooner than 24-hours after the grade has been posted. Challenging the grade will result in a re-grade. Re-grades may result in a grade higher or lower than the original grade.
- **Canceled Class.** If a weather-related event prevents the professor from getting to class, students will be responsible for completing an "assignment" over the scheduled reading. Information about the assignment will be provided on the class Blackboard page, and the deadline for completion of the assignment will be by 9:00pm the day of the missed class. The "assignment" will take the place of an in-class quiz, and will be worth 5 points. Students will be notified of the professor's absence by a note on the classroom door, as well as with a notification on the class Blackboard page. Just as with the in-class quizzes, if a student does not complete the assignment by 9:00pm, it cannot be made up.

Student E-mail Policy:

Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student's campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the Campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

Academic Integrity:

According to the DCB Student Handbook, students are responsible for submitting their own work. Students who cooperate on oral or written examinations or work without authorization share the responsibility for violation of academic principles, and the students are subject to disciplinary action even when one of the students is not enrolled in the course where the violation occurred. The Code detailed in the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty section of the Student Handbook will serve as the guideline for cases where cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties have occurred.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Students with disabilities or special needs (academic or otherwise) are encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Support Services.

Title IX:

DCB faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the College as a whole. Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if a student tells a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. Students wishing to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility can find a list of resources on the DCB Title IX webpage.