

# Dakota College Course Syllabus

**Course Prefix/Number/Title:**

PSYC 111 – Introduction to Psychology

**Course Description:**

For the student, this class will be an introduction to the study of behavior and mental processes within human beings. Psychology is a field that attempts to scientifically explain what makes us do the things we do. The student will learn the vocabulary, methods and technology of psychology today. More exactly, the way psychologists describe behavior, and the ways in which they dredge out answers. Psychology is a social science; therefore language is an important piece of the puzzle to our studies. This acceptance of terms, combined with scientific methods, allows us to avoid the pitfalls and restraints of unfounded beliefs, opinions, and general anecdotal evidence.

**Course Objectives:**

- To have an accurate understanding of the basic concepts of psychology as a science.
- To utilize information learned in the class throughout one's life - academically, professionally and personally.
- To understand the inner workings of the human brain, and how they apply directly to outward behaviors.

**Instructor:**

Steven J. Sathre

**Office:**

Thatcher Hall 2208

**Office Hours:**

MWF 1:00-2:30

**Phone:**

701-228-5456

**Email:**

steve.sathre@dakotacollege.edu

**Lecture/Lab Schedule:**

T,Th 2:00-3:15 / MWF 9:00-9:50

**Textbook(s):**

*Psychology* (9<sup>th</sup> edition), Myers, David, Worth Publishers, 2010.

Various Handouts

**Course Requirements:**

The formula for grades is as follows.

3 exams (non-cumulative), 40 pts. each = 120 pts.

10 quizzes, 3 pts. each = 30 pts.

1 essay (details to follow) = 50 pts.

Total pts. available = 200 pts.

90-100% - 180-200pts. = A

80-90% - 160-179pts. = B

70-80% - 140-159pts. = C

60-70% - 120-139pts. = D

<59% - <119pts. = F

No Incompletes will be given.

Exams will be multiple choice and essay format. They are not cumulative. Closed book and notes.

Quizzes will be 3 questions and given randomly. They cannot be made up under any circumstances. They cover material in that week's reading and are short answer in form.

The essay is thesis-based, 1500 words at minimum and written in APA format.

**Tentative Course Outline**

Week 1

Introduction and Chapter 1, Psychological Science

Week 2

Chapter 2, Neuroscience and Behavior

Week 3

Chapter 3, Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity

Week 4

Chapter 4, Development Through Life

Week 5

Chapter 5, Sensation

Week 6

Chapter 6, Perception

**Exam #1**

Week 7

Chapter 7, States of Consciousness

Week 8

Chapter 8, Learning

Week 9

Chapter 9, Memory

Week 10

Chapter 10, Thinking and Language

Week 11

Chapter 11, Intelligence

**Exam #2**

Week 12

Chapter 12, Motivation and Work

Week 13

Chapter 13, Theories and Emotion

Week 14

Chapter 15, Personality

Week 15

Chapter 16, Psychological Disorders

**Essay Due: Dec 2**

Week 16

Chapter 18, Social Psychology

Week 17

**Final Exam**

Date and Time to be Determined

**General Education Goals/Objectives**

#### Goal 4: Demonstrates effective communication

##### Objective 1: Expresses ideas through effective writing

Skill 1: Uses the stages of the writing process to develop, organize, and present ideas in writing

Skill 2: Analyzes the demands and possible strategies of a writing task, based on topic, purpose, context, and audience, and then accomplish that task with clarity

Skill 3: Demonstrates competent writing that includes a clear, original thesis or claim, appropriate evidence and support, a logical structure, and a style of language that serves the writer's purpose and audience

Skill 4: Uses Edited Standard Written English in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax, and presents written work in a style and format consistent with the demands of an academic setting

##### **Relationship to Campus Theme:**

- The student will be familiar with the technological tools used to investigate the mind and our behavior.
- The student will be shown our place in the animal world and the natural world.
- How will the Social Sciences be important to our future?

##### **Classroom Policies:**

Reading the assigned text is the student's responsibility, and is essential to success in this course. It should be noted though that it is in your best academic interest to read material *before* the week of lecture/discussion as to aid in your understanding. Any deadlines are final and your work is due on the day specified (11:59:59 PM). Any late work will not be accepted for full credit.

Please refrain from doing anything that might be disruptive and disturb other students or the instructor, such as chronically arriving late, leaving early, talking with neighbors, using a cell phone or texting. Turn all electronic junk off. This class does not require the use of a laptop computer, therefore they are not allowed to be operated in lecture periods.

This academic environment is an open and harassment free one. Participation within the classroom is highly encouraged and is an integral part of the higher education experience. Ask questions – comment on discussions.

##### **Academic Integrity:**

*Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary* defines plagiarism as: "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work." There will be *zero tolerance* of any form of academic dishonesty. If any evidence appears of students not doing their own work, plagiarism, or outright cheating on quizzes/exams, the matter will be investigated. If it is concluded that such dishonesty occurred, the student in question will receive an automatic "F" for the course. Furthermore, the matter will be reported to the appropriate university office and the instructor will participate in any proceedings against the guilty party.

**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.