

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title:

PSYC 111H—Honors Psychology

Number of credits:

1 credit

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn extensively about scientific research in psychology. At the beginning of the semester, students will learn how to read and understand journal articles in the field of psychology. After this foundation is established, the students (in collaboration with the instructor) will select a topic to research extensively, and later present on at the Honors Symposium. 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. Perform an extensive literature review.
5. Present at the Honors Symposium.

Instructor:

Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office:

Thatcher Hall 2208

Office Hours:

Mondays: 2:00-4:00pm

Wednesdays: 2:00-3:00pm

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.
- Present research in proper APA format at the Honors Symposium.
- 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:

- **Literature Review:** After selecting a topic of focus, students will gather journal articles and perform a literature review. This literature review should involve learning extensive “expert” knowledge of the topic. Students should understand the past, present, and future of the area of study.
- **Honors Symposium Presentation:** Students will present (as a group) the information gathered in the literature review at the Honors Symposium. This presentation should last approximately 20 minutes. Students should create a conference style presentation (utilizing PowerPoint), cover the history and future directions of the material, and should be capable of answering questions relevant to the topic of study.
- **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	Topic
Week 1	Class Introduction
Week 2	“How to Read a Journal Article”
Week 3	“How to Perform Library-Based Research”
Week 4	“Writing a Literature Review”
Week 5	“Writing a Literature Review”/Topic Selection
Week 6	“Writing a Topic Specific Literature Review”
Week 7	Topic Research
Week 8	Topic Research

Week 9	Topic Research
Week 10	Topic Research
Week 11	Presentation Prep
Week 12	Presentation Prep
Week 13	Presentation Prep
Week 14	Practice Presentation
Week 15	Honors Symposium

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. Students will not be social loafers.
- **Grades.** Grades in this class are based on participation in class discussions, research, and presentation preparation. 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.