

## Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

**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:**

Anytime via email or Blackboard message.

**Phone:** 228-5475

**Email:** [lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu](mailto:lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu)

**Lecture/Lab Schedule:**

Online

**Textbook(s):**

Weiten, Wayne. (2013). *Psychology: Themes & Variations*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Cengage Learning, Belmont, CA.

**Course Requirements:**

- Discussion Forums (11, each worth 10 points) 110 points
  - Homework Assignments (11, each worth 15 points) 165 points
  - Paper 50 points
  - Tests (4 exams (non-cumulative), each worth 30 points) 120 points
- Total: 485 points**

A	400 and above
B	356-399
C	311-355
D	267-310
F	266 and below

There are weekly deadlines for completing assignments.

- **Discussion Forums:** Each week, you will have one or more discussion forums (one for each chapter.) For each forum, you will need to post one answer to a question, and (at a minimum) two replies to other students' answers. You are also expected to respond to any questions asked of you. Forums will close on Sunday nights at 11:45 p.m. Central Time. If you wait until Sunday night to post your answer, other students will not have time to reply to you, and you will not have time to reply to them, resulting in a loss of points for you. So please, make the discussion forums your first priority each week.
- **Homework Assignments/Reaction Paper:** Weekly 1-page papers will cover the material discussed in that week. These papers are to be submitted in the drop box for that week. The deadline for submitting this homework to the drop box is 11:45 p.m. Central Time Sunday nights.
- **Paper:** A 3-5 page paper on a topic from our textbook of your choosing is due at the end of the course. The topic for your paper is due the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the term and must be approved by your instructor. The quality of the paper determines the total number of points, with a maximum of 50 points. The paper should be in American Psychological Association (APA) style.
- **Tests:** There will be four tests given during the semester. The questions will be multiple choice in nature. Each test consists of 30 questions, will be available for one week and will close at 11:45 p.m. Central Time Sunday nights. Each test will be worth 30 points, so a total of 120 points can be earned.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Week	Topic	Chapter	Pages	Assignment	Due Date
Week 1	The Evolution of Psychology	1	1-37	Discussion/Reaction Paper	January 19, 2020
Week 2	The Research Enterprise in Psychology	2	38-77	Discussion/Reaction Paper	January 26, 2020
Week 3	The Biological Bases of Behavior	3	78-127	Discussion/Reaction Paper	February 2, 2020
Week 4	Test 1	Ch. 1-3			February 9, 2020
Week 5	Learning	6	228-271	Discussion/Reaction Paper	February 16, 2020
Week 6	Human Memory	7	272-311	Discussion/Reaction Paper	February 23, 2020

Week 7	Language and Thought	8	312-347	Discussion/Reaction Paper	March 1, 2020
Week 8	Test 2	Ch. 6-8			March 8, 2020
Week 9	Human Development Across the Life Span	11	430-473	Discussion/Reaction Paper	March 15, 2020
Week 10	<i>Spring Break</i>				
Week 11	Personality	12	474-515	Discussion/Reaction Paper	March 29, 2020
Week 12	Test 3	Ch. 11-12			April 5, 2020
Week 13	Psychological Disorders	15	600-645	Discussion/Reaction Paper	April 12, 2020
Week 14	Treatment of Psychological Disorders	16	646-683	Discussion/Reaction Paper	April 19, 2020
Week 15	Social Behavior	13	516-559	Discussion/Reaction Paper	April 26, 2020
Week 16	Test 4	Ch. 15-16, 13			May 3, 2020
Week 17	Final Paper Due				May 10, 2020

#### 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 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 stay up-to-date in the class. If a student needs extra help with course technology, it is the student's responsibility to alert the instructor (via email, Blackboard message, or phone) as soon as possible. Please utilize the course Blackboard shell. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engage in discussion.
- **Deadlines.** All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:45pm CST of the assigned week. Students will be deducted 5 points for every 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in, including weekends. All exams, quizzes, discussions, and project drop boxes are open until the closing date. DO NOT wait for the last minute to complete assignments. If a student does not turn in or complete an assignment by the necessary time, the student will receive a "0" for the incomplete assignment.

- **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.

### **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.