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.

This class is designed as an introduction to the complex and vast field of psychology. Psychology is a social science which aims to understand the behavioral and mental processes within human beings. In this course, students will learn the history of psychology, psychological theory, scientific method, as well as an overview of the major fields in psychology (e.g., cognitive psychology, clinical psychology, social psychology).

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 behaviors from a psychologist's perspective.
4. Apply concepts learned in class to different scenarios (both in class, and within their own lives).

Instructor:

Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office:

Thatcher Hall 2208

Office Hours:

Mondays 2:00-3:00pm
Tuesdays 11:00am-12:00pm
Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm
Thursdays 11:00am-12:00pm

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

MWF 11:00-11:50am
TH 1107

Textbook(s):

Recommended (Not Required): Myers, D. (2010). *Psychology,* 9th Ed. New York: Worth Publishers.

Course Requirements:

- Exams (4 exams (non-cumulative), each worth 50 points) 200 points
- Quizzes (10 quizzes, each worth 5 points) 50 points
- Term Paper 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 40 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each, and two short answer questions worth 5 points each. All exams are closed book and notes.
- **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.
- **Term Paper:** Each student will complete a term paper covering a psychological theory or concept covered in class. Students should provide the history of the theory or concept, as well as cite current research that utilizes the theory or concept. The term paper will be written in APA style and should be between 2-4 pages (double-spaced). An informational lecture and discussion over APA style, as well as paper requirements, will be given after the first exam.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Chapter
Week 1	8/27 8/29	Wednesday Friday	Class Introduction Thinking Critically with Psych. Science	 1
Week 2	9/1 9/3	Monday Wednesday	*Labor Day (No Class)* Thinking Critically with Psych. Science	 1

	9/5	Friday	Biology of the Mind	2
Week 3	9/8	Monday	Biology of the Mind	2
	9/10	Wednesday	Biology of the Mind	2
	9/12	Friday	Consciousness and the Mind	3
Week 4	9/15	Monday	Consciousness and the Mind	3
	9/17	Wednesday	Nature, Nurture, Human Diversity	4
	9/19	Friday	Nature, Nurture, Human Diversity	4
Week 5	9/22	Monday	Review	1-4
	9/24	Wednesday	**Exam #1**	1-4
	9/26	Friday	APA Style and Paper Discussion	
Week 6	9/29	Monday	Plagiarism and Paper Discussion	
	10/1	Wednesday	Developing Through the Life Span	5
	10/3	Friday	Developing Through the Life Span	5
Week 7	10/6	Monday	Sensation and Perception	6
	10/8	Wednesday	*Assessment Day (No Class)*	
	10/10	Friday	Sensation and Perception	6
Week 8	10/13	Monday	Learning	7
	10/15	Wednesday	Learning	7
	10/17	Friday	Learning	7
Week 9	10/20	Monday	Memory	8
	10/22	Wednesday	Memory	8
	10/24	Friday	Review	5-8
Week 10	10/27	Monday	**Exam #2**	5-8
	10/29	Wednesday	Thinking and Language	9
	10/31	Friday	Thinking and Language	9
Week 11	11/3	Monday	Intelligence	10
	11/5	Wednesday	Intelligence	10
	11/7	Friday	Intelligence	10
Week 12	11/10	Monday	Motivation and Work	11
	11/12	Wednesday	Motivation and Work	11
	11/14	Friday	Emotions, Stress, and Health (+10 pts paper)	12
Week 13	11/17	Monday	Emotions, Stress, and Health	12
	11/19	Wednesday	Paper Work Day	
	11/21	Friday	Review **(Term Papers Due by 11:00am)**	9-12
Week 14	11/24	Monday	**Exam #3**	9-12
	11/26	Wednesday	Psychological Disorders	14
	11/28	Friday	*Thanksgiving Break (No Class)*	
Week 15	12/1	Monday	Psychological Disorders	14
	12/3	Wednesday	Psychological Disorders/Social Psychology	14 & 16
	12/5	Friday	Social Psychology	16
Week 16	12/8	Monday	Social Psychology	16
	12/10	Wednesday	Review	14 & 16
	12/12	Friday	**Exam #4**	14 & 16

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

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
- Goal 6: Demonstrates the knowledge of the human experience throughout history

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 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* two weeks prior to the missed exam. An essay exam (worth 50 points) will substitute for the missed exam. This exam must be taken *before* the scheduled exam date. 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). An essay exam will take the place of the missed exam and must be taken within one week of the missed exam. If the student does not notify the instructor before the next class period, the student will receive a "0" for the missed 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 and short answer). Proper documentation from a coach or faculty supervisor is required to avoid the essay exam.

- **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 then 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 Moodle shell, 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 Moodle shell. Just as with the in-class quizzes, if a student does not complete the assignment by 9:00pm, it cannot be made up.

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.

Student E-mail Policy

The Dakota College at Bottineau campus community is increasingly dependent upon electronic communication among faculty, staff and students. Because of its convenience, cost-effectiveness and speed, e-mail has replaced much of the paper correspondence of the past. Because of this acceptance of and reliance upon electronic communication, e-mail is considered an official form of communication at Dakota College at Bottineau. A student's campus-assigned e-mail 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 email because of a failure to access a campus-assigned e-mail address rests with the student.