

Doane College PSY 117 Introduction to Psychology

Course Syllabus

3 Semester Credits

Purpose:

Psychology speaks with many voices to students. Some view the science of psychology as a pathway to self-understanding or intellectual discovery, while others see it as a way to understand human behavior in general. Introduction to Psychology invites students to explore and to gain an understanding of how psychology impacts everyday lives, and to assess everyday principles and concepts.

The purpose of Introduction to Psychology is to introduce students to the basic concepts of psychology. We will define, describe and explain such basic concepts as learning, memory, thinking, motivation, emotion, sensation, and perception. These concepts and others enter into or relate to major sub-fields of psychology such as biopsychology, developmental, social, personality, cognitive, and health. Furthermore, some concepts help to "explain" other concepts. Both learning and motivation would not exist without appropriate anatomical and physiological bases or without appropriate social institutions.

Course Description:

Psychology is defined as, "The scientific study of behavior and mental processes and how they are affected by an organism's physical state, mental state, and external environment." We will cover a wide range of topics. Some students are surprised that so many different areas of life are considered topics of study for psychology -- yet all of these areas pertain to basic human experience. In this course we will focus primarily on the scientific explanations for these different experiences and behaviors. This course will provide students with an introduction to the systematic study of people and their behavior. Students will explore the fundamentals of behavior, learning, conditioning, growth, cognitive processes, perception, emotion, personality, and psychopathology. The course is designed to give an overview of the entire field of psychology through lecture, discussion, class activities, media, and personal research.

Contact Hours:

The course will be held during the regular semester meeting schedule.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop a general knowledge base of psychological themes, research findings, and issues in psychology

- a. Describe the scientific methods used in psychology for gathering knowledge.
 - b. Discuss the biological basis of behavior.
 - c. Discuss the impact of society on the behavior of individuals
 - d. Define the various types of abnormal behavior
2. Explore critical thinking skills in psychological issues.
 3. Heighten awareness of the field of psychology and its application in life events
 4. Gain a familiarity with the general terms and concepts of the discipline of psychology
 5. Apply the course to everyday life because psychological concepts are constantly occurring (implicitly and explicitly) in our lives.

Course Materials:

Text: Robert S. Feldman, Essentials of Understanding Psychology, 7th Edition

Course Requirements:

All students are required to attend course meetings, complete all course readings, work sheets, provide a class presentation, and pass course examinations. Attendance will be taken every session. My expectations are that you attend every class and participate fully in class discussions. *Any late assignments will influence the final grade. Extra credit projects may be negotiated with the instructor before the designated due date for the assignment. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor regarding missing classes.* **Make up work:** Students who miss class meetings will be assigned makeup work based on missed classes. Chapter summaries that include explanations and examples of all key terms will be required in addition to a four page summary of each chapter for the missed class.

Because of the intensive nature of Doane-Lincoln classes, attendance is critical.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on:

- Attendance 25%
- Class Participation 25%
- Midterm Examination 25%
- Final Examination 25%

Course Format:

This will be an interactive course that includes an elevated level of classroom participation, including lecture and instruction, learning guides, work sheets, videos, and case studies.

Course Assignments:

All students are required to complete course assignments including readings from the text, discussion exercises, and written papers.

Academic Integrity Policy

The Doane College Academic Policy is adhered to in this class. All projects will represent your own work. Any use of others' ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.