PSY 117 Introduction to Psychology  
Spring Term – 2014  
3 credits

Instructor:  
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Course Description

An introduction to the systematic study of individual people and what they do. Fundamentals of behavior, learning, conditioning, growth, cognitive processes, perception, emotion, personality and psychopathology are among the issues studied.

Course Readings:


Course Goals and Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of psychological themes, research findings, issues in psychology and the scientific methods used in psychology for gathering knowledge

- Understand the general terms and concepts of the discipline of psychology

- Analyze the impact of society on the behavior of the individual; how the biological basis of behavior impacts individual behavior; and recognize various types of abnormal behavior

- Evaluate the field of psychology by gaining a heightened awareness of the field and its application in life events

- Synthesize the knowledge gained in this course with everyday life and how psychological concepts occur implicitly and explicitly in our lives.

Description of Learning Strategies
The learning strategies used to achieve the course goals and objectives will be accomplished through a variety of methods. Class will consist of Lecture, Cooperative Learning, Discussion, Presentations, Reflection, and Application. There will be time for group work as well as individual. The class will be interactive and engaging with many opportunities for student input and participation. This class will engage and challenge students to a deeper understanding of psychology by drawing them into the field and stimulating their thinking and understanding of how psychology impacts our everyday lives. Students will have the opportunity to do their own on-line research through journal and internet site articles to deepen and extend their understanding of the subject matter.

**Methods for Assessment of Student performance**

Students will complete a variety of assignments to meet the stated objectives of the course. Each assignment will correspond to one of the five stated course goals and objectives. Students will be evaluated on: class participation; written projects; class assignments; examinations; quizzes; individual and group presentations.

**Writing Expectation**

All assignments must be keyboarded and grammatically correct and should use APA style.

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Each student is responsible for all work missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. If there is going to be an absence the student is expected to contact the instructor prior to the absence. Since this course is taught once a week it is critical that students attend every class. It will be very difficult to make up a class that is missed. Absence from class may jeopardize a student’s understanding of the course and may result in a reduction of grade.

**Grades will be based on the following Grading Scale**

- 97% - 100%: A+
- 94% - 96%: A
- 90% - 93%: A-
- 86% - 89%: B
- 82% - 85%: B-
- 79% - 81%: C
- 75% - 78%: C-
Late Papers

Late work will be accepted but there will be a significant reduction in points corresponding to each day late, at the discretion of the instructor. Students are strongly encouraged NOT to turn in later assignments but to turn in all work on the due date.

Academic Integrity Policy

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