Introduction to Psychology
PY 117, 3 Course Credits
Winter 2013, Doane College
http://bb2.doane.edu

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Required Text:


Catalog Description:
This course is developed to present an introduction to the scientific study of humans and their behaviors. Course topics will include, but not limited to, the fundamentals of behavior, learning, sensation/perception, memory, emotion, personality, psychological disorders and development across the lifespan.

Undergraduate Core: As with all courses fulfilling the Community and Identity Foundational Area of Knowledge, this course is designed so you will gain a greater understanding of yourself and the communities in which you live and work, and how identity is formed through the interaction of the individual and larger society.

Course Objectives:
This course intentionally addresses learning outcomes common to all courses fulfilling the Community and Identity Foundational Area of Knowledge.

The goal of this introductory psychology course is for all students to be able to effectively:

• Explain and demonstrate knowledge of basic psychological concepts, disciplines, and theories
• Think critically about research and research methods within the scientific environment of psychology
• Review/participate in psychology demonstrations, projects, discussions, activities, and/or presentations
• Apply psychological concepts to everyday life
• Identify psychology-related resources and tools for further investigation of the field

Learning Strategies Utilized to Accomplish Course Objectives:

• Lecture PowerPoint (to present new and relevant psychological concepts, disciplines, and theories)
• Blackboard online discussions (to promote critical thinking and apply psychological concepts to everyday life)
• Video clips/supplemental articles/activities (to reinforce lecture materials and provide a visual explanation of psychological concepts)
• Assignments (i.e., case studies/essays, quizzes/tests, and a final APA research paper will be used to solidify course concepts and material in application, for further investigation of the field and to think critically about research methods)

**Attendance/Participation Policy:**
Regular virtual attendance is needed to apply class material that is not in the textbook via class discussion board posting, case study activities, as well as having access to resources posted on the Blackboard site. If you are unable to participate each week on the discussion board, you will be responsible for notifying the instructor and completing all work assigned during your absence.

**Late Paper/Assignments Policy:**
Due to the nature of this online formatted course, there is some flexibility with submitting some assignments. You will be required to complete all quizzes/exams, case studies/assignments, and final APA research paper by the end of the course. Due dates will be posted under the Announcement or Assignment sections on Blackboard. You will be responsible for checking your Blackboard site regularly. The discussion board posts (and the reading assignments that align with the posts) are required on a weekly basis. If you do not post (or only submit an initial or one peer response post) by the end of each week, you may not earn full credit.

**Doane College 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 dean of undergraduate studies.

**Academic Accommodations:**
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

**Blackboard:**
All assignments, announcements, power point lectures, and grades will be found on this website. It is crucial that you utilize this website in order for this class to be effective. Under the Assignment tab, you will find all text chapters with correlating assignments (i.e. lecture notes, articles, videos, discussion board posts, exams, or case study). Not all chapters have a required assignment attached.

**Points and Grading:**
Your grade for this course will be determined by the number of points you receive in each of the following sections.

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<th>A=90%+</th>
<th>B=80-89%</th>
<th>C=70-79%</th>
<th>D=60-69%</th>
<th>F=59% and below</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>10 pts each week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Tests</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-40 pts each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies/Assignments</td>
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<td>25 pts each x 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA Research Paper</td>
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<td>100 pts</td>
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Course Requirements:

*Discussion Board
All students will be required to participate with online discussion boards. There will be weekly discussion board posts required. Each week a journal topic/question will be posted on Blackboard. You will be required to post an initial response as well as response to at least one classmate. I highly encourage each student to make the initial response by Wednesday of each week, allowing for the remaining days of the week to respond to classmate’s posts and comments. Please keep the responses professional, using both personal experience/opinion but also information from the course text/material. You will receive credit for both your initial post (5 pts) and your response post (5 pts).

*Quizzes/Tests
There will be quizzes/tests worth 5-40 points each. The points will represent knowledge gained from previous and/or present lecture topics. Keeping up on reading assignments is encouraged to succeed in these points.

*Case Studies/Assignments
There will be 2 case study/writing assignments due through out the course worth 25 points each. The assignments are due according to the schedule. Specific instructions for each of these assignments will be provided at least one week prior to the due date. These assignments will include individual reflections while applying concepts from the text as well as your own life. A grading rubric will be available on Blackboard.

*Final APA Research Paper
An approved topic submission, outline, and final APA research paper (100 pts) will be due according to the course schedule. Following the APA guidelines is important for the final grade. Handouts for the APA guidelines as well as a grading rubric for the paper will be provided. The paper may be turned in earlier than the due date; however there will be a deduction (10% of paper grade) for late papers.

*Caveat: Due to the nature of this online course, materials and requirements may change upon the discretion of the instructor.