Introduction to Psychology
Instructor: Jean Kilnoski
402-466-4774 ext. 321
jean.kilnoski@doane.edu

3 Semester Credits

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 Materials:

Text: Introduction to Psychology by Charles Stangor.

The textbook is available free online as a digital text, or you can download a copy of the textbook.

Use the URL below to find your textbook.

http://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/1035891

If you lose this URL, simply go to www.flatworldstudents.com and find your class using your name, your course name or Institution.

Author(s): Charles Stangor
ISBN: 978-1-936126-48-4 (Black & White)
ISBN: 978-1-936126-49-1 (Color)
Institution: Doane College
Course Title: Introduction to Psychology
Course Number: PSY 117
Section Number: 1

Purpose:
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.

*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.

**Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the primary themes in the field psychology.
2. Critically examine research findings in the field of psychology.
3. Apply concepts from the textbook and from class to real world settings.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of general terms and concepts of the discipline of psychology.

**Course Requirements:**

1. All students are required to attend course meetings, complete all course readings, and pass course examinations.
2. Students are required to give a 10 – 15 minute presentation about a concept covered in the module assigned to their group.
3. Complete homework assignments.
4. Attendance will be taken every session. My expectations are that you attend every class and participate fully in class discussions.
5. Because of the intensive nature of Doane-Lincoln classes, attendance is critical. There is no way to make up for a missed class, so there is no make up work.
6. Homework assignments are due before the start of the class. Homework will not be accepted after class has started.
7. A cell phone policy will be discussed during the first class.
8. We will have two quizzes during the term.

**Evaluation:**
Students will be evaluated on:

- Quizzes 5%
- Attendance/Homework 25%
- Presentation 20%
- 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 homework.

**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.