PSY 117 Introduction to Psychology
Summer Term – 2013
3 credits

Instructor:
Dr. Joanne M. Garrison
308-380-2196
joanne.garrison@doane.edu

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:
ISBN: 9780078035258

Course Goals and Objectives
Upon completion of this course students will:
• Demonstrate understanding of psychological themes, research findings, and issues in psychology and be able to describe the scientific methods used in psychology for gathering knowledge
• Articulate 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
• Apply the course to everyday life and articulate how psychological concepts occur implicitly and explicitly in our lives.

Course Structure
The course goals and objectives will be accomplished through a variety of strategies. 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
Student participation and interaction in the class will be a part of the final grade. 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; presentations.

Writing Expectation
All assignments must be keyboarded and grammatically correct, using APA style.

Assignments and Projects
1. Weekly readings will be assigned to the class and students will be expected to have read these and be able to discuss the material.
2. Students will be responsible for group and individual presentations
3. There will be several exams and quizzes for the course. The exams and quizzes take the place of a research paper.

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
86% - 93%: B
79% - 85%: C
70% - 78%: D
0% - 69%: F

Late Work
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.

Class Schedule

Week One:

Chapter One – Introduction to Psychology
Psychologists at Work; A Science Evolves: The past, the present, and the Future; Research in Psychology; Critical Research Issues

Chapter Two – Neuroscience and Behavior
Neurons: The Basic Elements of Behavior; The nervous System and the Endocrine System: Communicating within the Body; The Brain

Week Two:

Chapter Three – Sensation and Perception
Sensing the World Around Us; Vision: Shedding Light on the Eye; Hearing and the Other Senses; Perceptual Organization: Constructing Our View of the World

Chapter Four – States of Consciousness
Sleep and Dreams; Hypnosis and Meditation; Drug Use: The highs and Lows of Consciousness

Quiz to cover chapters 1-4

Week Three:

Chapter 5 – Learning
Classical Conditioning; Operant Conditioning; Cognitive Approaches to Learning

Exam to cover chapters 1-5

Week Four:

Chapter 6 – Memory
The Foundations of memory; Recalling Long-Term Memories; Forgetting: When Memory Fails

Chapter 7 – Thinking, Language, and Intelligence
Thinking and Reasoning; Language; Intelligence

Week Five:

Chapter 8 – Motivation and Emotion
Explaining Motivation; Human Needs and Motivation: Eat, Drink, and Be Daring; Understanding Emotional Experiences

Chapter 9 – Development
Nature and Nurture: The enduring Developmental Issue; Infancy and Childhood; Adolescence: Becoming an Adult; Adulthood
Quiz to cover chapters 6-9

Week Six:

Chapter 10 – Personality
Psychodynamic Approaches to Personality; Trait, Learning; Biological, Evolutionary, and Humanistic Approaches to Personality; Assessing Personality: Determining What Makes Us Distinctive

Exam to cover chapters 6-10

Week Seven:

Chapter 11 – Health Psychology: Stress, Coping, and Well-Being
Stress and Coping; Psychological Aspects of Illness and Well-Being; Promoting Health and Wellness

Chapter 12 – Psychological Disorders
Normal Versus Abnormal: Making the Distinction; The Major Psychological Disorders; Psychological Disorders in Perspective

Week Eight:

Chapter 13 – Treatment of Psychological Disorders
Psychotherapy: Psychodynamic, Behavioral, and Cognitive approaches to Treatment; Psychotherapy: Humanistic, Interpersonal, and Group Approaches to Treatment; Biomedical Therapy: Biological approaches to Treatment

Chapter 14 – Social Psychology
Attitudes and Social Cognition; Social Influence; Prejudice and Discrimination; Positive and negative social Behavior

Exam to cover chapters 11-14