

PSY 117 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we will focus on the scientific explanations for different experiences and behaviors. This course provides an introduction to the study of people and their behavior. Students will explore the fundamentals of behavior, learning, conditioning, growth, cognitive processes, perception, emotion, personality and psychopathology. The objectives for this course will be accomplished through lecture, discussion, class activities (inside and outside of class- these are fun and will tell you more about your own psyche), media, and personal research

TEXT: *Exploring Psychology* by David G. Myers, 6th Edition, Worth Publishing, 581 pgs.

Hard cover (cloth) ISBN: 0716786222

Paperback ISBN: 0716715449.

The book has great media and supplements that I will use along with power point from online DVD excerpts from various media sources will also be used to enhance the curriculum Participation from students by completion of various PsychSim exercises online will not only enhance the curriculum but encourage students to apply what they're learning.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To develop a general knowledge base of psychological themes, research findings, and issues in psychology
- 2) To promote critical thinking skills regarding issues in psychology including:
 - ability to inquire about causes and effects
 - development of healthy skepticism of explanations and conclusions
 - refinement of curiosity about behaviors, thoughts and emotions and their interplay with one another
- 3) To heighten awareness of the field of psychology and its applicability to our everyday lives
- 4) To develop a familiarity with terms and concepts of the discipline of psychology

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD: This course is designed to give an overview of the field of psychology We will explore this information through limited lecture, class discussion, in class activities, personal research, and film.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: All students are required to attend weekly classes, complete all course readings, worksheets, a class presentation, and pass the course exam Attendance will be taken every week.

Students will be evaluated on:

- Attendance 25%
- Class Participation 25%
- Worksheet Completion 10%
- Presentation 25%
- Web assignments 15%

GRADING SYSTEM

The course is worth 200 points. Attendance will be 50 points, class participation will count for 50 points, worksheets will count for 20 pts., web assignments 30 points, and your class presentation/

paper will make up the remaining 50 points. If you must miss a class, you must have prior approval barring an unforeseen tragedy. Make up requirements are set forth at the beginning of this syllabus. This make up is due at the beginning of the class following the one you missed. Additional work may be required given that each class

FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Choose a topic of particular interest to you from the possible topics listed below. Prepare a presentation for session six or seven during which you will share with the class your research. You are to have two sources outside of the assigned text. Both sources can be research articles or one source can be an article and the other an interview with an individual who either practices in some area of psychology. You must present me with a copy of the article (s) and, if you chose to use a person as your second resource, a summary of your interview. Your presentation must include visual aids and should take from 5 to 10 minutes. A copy of the paper for your presentation is due the same evening your presentation is given.

Possible Topics can include:

What is the structure of the brain and what functions do the different parts serve?

How do we see, hear, smell, taste and feel things?

How do our genes and evolutionary histories affect our psychological processes?

What is consciousness and how can it be altered?

What is intelligence and how do we learn?

How do we remember things and why do we sometimes forget?

Where do our feelings come from?

What motivates us to work and to love?

How do people change and grow over their lifespan?

Are all people basically the same or do they differ from one another in fundamental ways?

How do others influence our behaviors and attitudes and how do we influence others?

Why do people act aggressively in one instance and compassionately in another?

What is the relationship between psychology and physical health?

What is a mental disorder? How are they diagnosed? Can they be treated?

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: Each week, starting with week 2, you are assigned chapters to read and study. Class participation is vital to completion of the worksheets, class exercises, and discussion each week.

MAKE UP: If you have to miss a class, you **must** notify the instructor by phone or email **PRIOR** to your absence. A make up essay is required for each chapter assigned for the class you missed using key terms from each assigned chapter. This essay needs to be typed, double spaced and at least 1 page in length for **EACH** chapter discussed the evening of your absence. This essay will be due the week following your absence. Failure to do so will result in lowering of your grade.

Missing one class will have no effect on your grade. Missing two classes, except under special and prior excused approval, will result in a drop of one letter grade. If you miss more than two absences, this will result in failure of the class.

SESSION ONE-Monday, March 17, 2008

Chapter 1-Thinking Critically with Psychological Science

Chapter 2-Neuroscience & Behavior

Review the syllabus and requirements for the course. Examine the structure of the text and the features that will enhance your learning experience. Introduce ourselves to one another through class activity. Discuss more thoroughly the requirements for the course, class participation

guidelines, and the final project, and grading system.

SESSION TWO-Monday, March 24, 2008

Chapter 3, Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity

Chapter 4-The Developing Person

SESSION THREE-Monday, March 31, 2008 (may not have class-have a panel presentation in Lincoln)

Chapter 5-Sensation and Perception

Chapter 6-States of Consciousness

SESSION FOUR-Monday, April 7, 2008

Chapter 7-Learning

Chapter 8-Memory

Chapter 9-Thinking,, Language, and Intelligence

SESSION FIVE-Monday, April 14, 2008

Chapter 10-Motivation

Chapter 11-Emotion, Stress, and Health

Take an online personality assessment and bring your results to the next class. You don't need to pay for additional information about your results-this is not required

Web site: www.Keirse.com Click on The Keirse Temperament Sorter (II).

SESSION SIX-Monday, April 21, 2008--Begin class presentations

Chapter 12-Personality

Chapter 13-Psychological Disorders

SESSION SEVEN-Monday, April 28, 2008--class presentations

Chapter 13-Psychological Disorders

Chapter 14-Therapy

Chapter 15-Social Psychology

SESSION EIGHT-Monday, May 5, 2008

Final Grades, evaluation of the class, and wrap-up.

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.