

Introduction to Psychology

PSY 117

Section 2: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Section 3: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Classroom: Lied, Room 254

Instructor: Krystia Reed, M.A.

Office Hours: Available by appointment

Email: Krystia.Reed@doane.edu

*Please put PSY117 in the subject line for all emails. I will respond to all emails within 1 business day.

Course Description

An introduction to the systemic study of human cognition, emotion, and behavior with an emphasis on the scientific method. Fundamentals of behavior, learning, conditioning, development, cognitive processes, perception, emotion, personality, and psychopathology are among the content areas studied. Particular emphasis is placed on the use of the scientific method for the study of human nature.

Undergraduate Core Curriculum

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 Outcomes

Students successfully completing the course will demonstrate a general understanding of the knowledge established in the above areas, as well as the methods used by psychologists to acquire that knowledge.

Course Objectives:

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

Specifically, throughout the course, topics related to developmental, abnormal, and cognitive psychology will explore dimensions of human experience with regard to perceptions of self. In addition, social psychology content will help students understand how individuals interact to form communities and social structures.

Required Texts

Myers, D. G. (2013). *Psychology* (10th ed.). NY: Worth Publishers. OR

Myers, D. G. (2015). *Psychology* (11th ed.). NY: Worth Publishers.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following components:

Attendance & Participation	20 x 5 points	= 100 points
Reading Quizzes	12 x 15 points	= 180 points
Exams	4 x 200 points	= 800 points
Group Project		= 200 points
Total		= 1300 points

Attendance & Participation (100 points)

You are expected to attend every class period and attendance will be taken daily. There are 23 non-exam class periods during the semester. Each class will be worth 5 points, which you will earn by attending class, staying alert, participating in class discussions, and completing in-class assignments and activities. You are able to miss 3 class periods (**excused or unexcused**) without penalty. If you miss class more than three times for excused absences (serious illness, family emergency, approved school activities, jury duty, military service, a religious obligation), please talk to me. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes and announcements from other students.

NOTE: If you have two consecutive unexcused absences, I am required to inform the college.

Reading Quizzes (180 points)

At the start of each new chapter, there will be a reading quiz at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be worth 15 points. The purpose of these quizzes is to highlight important topics from the chapters, check understanding, and reward those who keep up with the reading. There will be 15 total quizzes during the semester, however, I will drop your lowest 3 quiz scores. You must be present to take the quiz and I will not offer make-up quizzes. If you are absent for a quiz, you will receive a 0, which can be counted as one of your lowest 3 quiz scores. If you miss more than 3 quizzes for an excused absence, please talk to me.

Exams (800 points)

There will be 4 exams, each worth 200 points. The exams will cover both reading and lecture content, including any supplementary material, such as articles and videos for the topic. Reading material may be on the test even if it is not covered in lecture, and lecture material may be on the test even if it is not covered in the reading. Makeup exams are only offered to students who miss class for an excused absence. If you are going to miss an exam, notify me ahead of time – I will not offer makeup exams for students who notify me the day of the exam.

Group Project (200 points)

At the end of the semester you will be required to complete a group project. More information regarding the group project will be provided after the second exam.

Grading Scale

Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage	Letter	Percentage
A+	97.0-100%	B-	80.0-82.9%	D+	67.0-69.9%
A	93.0-96.9%	C+	77.0-79.9%	D	63.0-66.9%
A-	90.0-92.9%	C	73.0-76.9%	D-	60.0-62.9%
B+	87.0-89.9%	C-	70.0-72.9%	F	Less than 60%
B	83.0-86.9%				

If you have concerns about your grade, please speak with me during the semester (sooner is better). I may be able to offer you suggestions that will help you to increase your grade. I can do nothing, however, at the end of the semester once the final grades have been calculated.

Course Policies

Blackboard

Check Blackboard daily and make sure that your default email address on Blackboard is correct. The materials on Blackboard (announcements, assignments, readings, and syllabus) will be updated regularly. Any out-of-class assignments must be submitted on Blackboard via SafeAssign.

Late Work Policy

Due dates noted in the syllabus, in the assignment descriptions, or during class will be strictly enforced. All assignments must be submitted on time in the manner indicated in the instructions. Assignments turned in after the due date/time will be **penalized 10% for up to 24 hours after the deadline. After 24 hours, the assignment will receive a 0.** You must contact me **prior to the deadline** if you want me to consider approving a late submission.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. Accommodations provide equal opportunity to obtain the same level of achievement while maintain the standards of excellence of the college. If you have a documented disability registered with the Academic Support Center that may interfere with your participation or performance in this course, please meet with me to discuss disability-related accommodations and other special learning needs.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct is a serious violation of the college policy. All guidelines and sanctions outlined in your student handbook will apply. Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing, or otherwise engaging in academic dishonesty will fail the assignment, quiz, or exam on which the cheating occurred and may be given a failing grade in the course. All such instances will be reported to the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs for further potential sanctions. If you have questions about what is and is not acceptable behavior, **please ask!**

Tentative Course Schedule

See Blackboard for the up-to-date schedule

All assigned readings are to be done before class on the day assigned

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1	Tuesday	January 20	Introduction
	Thursday	January 22	Thinking Critically with Psychological Science Ch. 1
2	Tuesday	January 27	The Biology of Mind Ch. 2
	Thursday	January 29	Consciousness Ch. 3
3	Tuesday	February 3	Nature, Nurture, & Human Diversity Ch. 4
	Thursday	February 5	Exam 1 Review
4	Tuesday	February 10	Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 4
	Thursday	February 12	Developing through the Lifespan Ch. 5
5	Tuesday	February 17	Developing through the Lifespan Continued
	Thursday	February 19	Sensation & Perception Ch. 6
6	Tuesday	February 24	No Class
	Thursday	February 26	No Class
7	Tuesday	March 3	Learning Ch. 7
	Thursday	March 5	Learning Continued
8	Tuesday	March 10	Spring Break
	Thursday	March 12	
9	Tuesday	March 17	Memory Ch. 8
	Thursday	March 19	Exam 2: Chapters 5 – 8
10	Tuesday	March 24	Thinking & Language Ch.9
	Thursday	March 26	Intelligence Ch. 10
11	Tuesday	March 31	Motivation Ch. 11
	Thursday	April 2	Emotion Ch. 12
12	Tuesday	April 7	Exam 3: Chapters 9 – 12
	Thursday	April 9	Personality Ch. 13 (2013) Ch. 14 (2015)
13	Tuesday	April 14	Social Psychology Ch. 14 (2013) Ch. 13 (2015)
	Thursday	April 16	Social Psychology Continued
14	Tuesday	April 21	Disorders Ch. 15
	Thursday	April 23	Therapy Ch. 16
15	Tuesday	April 28	Exam 4 Review
	Thursday	April 30	Exam 4: Chapters 13 – 16
16	Group Projects		
	Wed/Thurs	May 6/7	1pm Class: 11:30 -2:30 Wednesday, May 6 2:30pm Class: 11:30 – 2:30 Thursday, May 7