

Course Syllabus
**Psychology 1001-01 – Orientation to the Psychology and the Social
Sciences**
Dixie State College of Utah
Fall 2013

Instructor: Aaron Combs
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Course times: Monday 12:00 – 12:50 pm in McDonald 207
CRN: 44611

Course description

Psychology 1001 is a First Year Experience® course designed to help students gain an understanding of the psychology program, learn about careers in psychology, and succeed in psychology courses, as well as other courses at Dixie State College. One of the main goals of the course is to help new freshmen and returning students make a successful transition to being a college student. Topics covered will include strategies for reading textbooks, writing papers, studying, taking exams, talking to your professors; information about campus resources such as the Financial Aid Office, Tutoring Center, library, Advisement Office, and Disability Resource Center; learning what science is and some of the career paths one can take in science; discussing peer interactions and professional networking; navigating the registration process; and gaining an appreciation for non-academic activities on campus.

Course objectives

At the end of this semester, you should:

1. Know your way around Dixie State College. This includes knowing
 - where to find buildings and services that you may need on campus
 - what campus services are available to you
 - how to do things like add classes, drop classes, change your major, check your account balance, use your email, and so on
 - how to get involved in college life
 - how student government represents you
 - what your rights and responsibilities are as a student
2. Understand your major or area of study. This includes knowing
 - why a college degree is valuable
 - what General Education is, and how to fulfill the GE requirements
 - what the course requirements are in your major
 - how to construct a graduation plan
 - what kinds of careers your major will prepare you for
3. Know some strategies for dealing with college life. This includes

- managing your time
- avoiding being the victim of a crime
- balancing school and work
- recognizing and dealing with stress
- staying healthy
- dealing with financial issues
- networking with other people
- staying motivated when the going gets tough

4. Know how to succeed academically. This includes knowing how to:

- use a course syllabus
- read a college textbook
- talk to your professors
- take good notes
- study effectively
- recognize and deal with test anxiety
- take tests effectively
- avoid academic dishonesty
- engage in critical thinking
- take advantage of your learning style

Required Materials

First Year Experience Handbook.

Grades

Your grade will be assigned based your attendance and participation in class discussions, short reading, writing, and other assignments which will be given regularly throughout the course, and a final project.

Assignments	% of grade
Attendance	20%
Assignments	30%
Semester Projects (Career Exploration, and 4 Year Plan)	50%

Attendance: Since this is a discussion course, your attendance will be vital, and there is not any way to make up for a discussion you have missed. However, to allow for unforeseen circumstances, you may miss any two days without penalty. Roll will be taken at the beginning of the class, so make sure to come on time. If you are late, please let me know that you were here after class has ended; however, you will then lose two attendance points. If you miss class, you are responsible to turn in assignments that were due that day, and to check the course website to find out about new assignments.

Assignments: The majority of your grade in this class will be based on fulfilling short assignments before, during, and after class. These assignments are not intended as “busywork.” Each fulfills one of the objectives given at the first of this syllabus, and will help you to apply what you are learning about become a successful student. Descriptions of all assignments are found on the course website, if you are absent, you are responsible to find out what you missed and make it up. All out of class assignments will be due one week after they are assigned. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week past the original due date with a 10% penalty.

Final Project: The final project is intended to give each student a greater understanding of the different careers available in psychology, and the paths required to get there. The final project will also help you, as a student, network and be familiar with people and resources that can be important in finding a career in psychology. The final project will be divided into 2 sections.

Presentation	50% of project points
Paper	50% of project points

Letter grades will be assigned based on % of points earned on the scale shown below.

A	93.0 – 100%	C+	77.0 – 79.9%
A-	90.0 – 92.9%	C	73.0 - 76.9%
B+	87.0 – 89.9%	C-	70.0 – 72.9%
B	83.0 – 86.9%	D	50.0 – 69.9%
B-	80.0 – 82.9%	F	0 - 49.9%

A grade of “incomplete” will be given only in circumstances when a student has been doing well in the class but has a difficulty such as serious illness during the last week or two of the semester.

College resources: Several college resources are available to help you succeed. Check out the links for each one to get more information.

Tutoring Center: If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the Tutoring Center located in the new Holland Centennial Commons, Room 431. There is a schedule of what courses have tutors at what times outside the door or by accessing this page <http://www.dixie.edu/tutoring/schedule.php>. You can also view the general hours for the tutoring center online at <http://www.dixie.edu/tutoring/>.

Writing Center: If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center in the Holland Centennial Commons Building 421. You can also visit them online at <http://dixiewritingcenter.com/>

Computer Center: If you need to use a computer to do schoolwork on campus, go to the Computer Center in the Smith Computer Center or the Library located in the Holland building.

Testing Center: If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the east side of the north plaza building. You can get information on their website at <http://www.dixie.edu/testing/>.

Library: The Library has all kinds of information and resources and is located in the Holland Building. <http://library.dixie.edu/>

Classroom expectations: We are all responsible for acting in such a way that we are facilitating a shared learning environment. This means not talking when the teacher is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

College approved absences: Dixie College Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club activities, field trips for other classes, etc). Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>

Academic honesty: I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. However, I will not tolerate cheating, and if I discover that it has occurred, zero points will be given for that assignment or exam, and you will not be allowed to make it up. Repeated or aggravated offenses will result in a referral to student affairs which may reprimand, place on probation, suspend, and/or expel the student.

Any time you take credit for work you did not do, you are cheating. This includes getting the answers to homework problems from someone else, copying information from a library or internet source and presenting it as if it were your own words (plagiarism), looking at someone else's answers on an exam, and asking someone who has already taken a test about what questions it contains.

I have tried to design assignments and exams to minimize the temptation to cheat, but it is not my job to prevent you from cheating. If you cheat and are not caught, it doesn't mean that you "beat the system." It means you violated the student code of conduct and forfeited your integrity regardless of whether or not you are caught.

Disability Statement:

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located next to the testing center on 1000 East, in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call (435) 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Course Calendar

Date	Class Work	Assignment
August 19	Introduction Syllabus Assignment FYE Checklist Getting Involved Assignment	
August 26	Safety/Health Safety Checklist Career Test Assignment Resource Assignment Financial Aid Paper	DUE Syllabus Assignment FYE Checklist Safety Checklist (In-Class)
September 2	Labor Day: No Class	
September 9	Getting to know you Successful Student Assignment	DUE: Career Test Assignment Resource Assignment Financial Aid Paper
September 16	Being a Successful Student Behavioral Contract Study Skills	DUE: Successful Student Assignment
September 23	Intro to careers in psychology Behavior Contract Study Skills	DUE: Behavioral Contract Study Skills
September 30	Computer Lab Possible Interview Contacts Time Management Assignment	DUE: Behavioral Contract Study Skills
October 7	Stress	DUE: Possible Interview Contacts List Time Management Assignment Getting Involved 5 Activities
October 14	No Class: Contact people to interview Initial Contact and Presentation Plan Summary	No class
October 21	Computer Lab: Course Planning 4 Year Plan and Profile Rough Draft	DUE: Initial Contact and Presentation Plan Summary
October 28	Course Planning 4 Year Plan and Profile	DUE: 4 Year Plan and Profile Rough Draft
November 4	Presentations	DUE: 4 Year Plan and Profile
November 11	No class: Meetings with me Career Day Paper	
November 18	Presentations	Due: Final Project
November 25	Presentations	Due: Final Project
December 2	Prepare For Final	DUE: Getting involved assignment
Dec	Final	DUE: Final Exam

Other Useful Information

Dmail: Important class and college information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a Dmail account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "Dmail," for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Dmail email, so please check it often.

Important DSC dates to remember (for course dates, see schedule on the last page).

Aug 22	Last Day to Waitlist
Aug 23	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Aug 28	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Aug 28	Residency Application Deadline
Sep 2	Labor Day
Sep 3	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Sep 9	Pell Grant Census
Sep 9	Last Day for Refund
Sep 9	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Sep 10	Courses dropped for non-payment
Sep 13	Last Day to Add/Audit
Oct 1	Associate's degree Graduation Deadline - Fall 2013
Oct 9	Mid-Term Grades Due
Oct 10-11	Semester Break
Oct 14	Last Day to Drop Individual Class
Oct 21	Spring and Summer 2014 class schedules available online
Nov 1	Bachelor's degree Graduation Deadline - Spring 2014
Nov 8	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Nov 11	Spring Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Nov 12	Career Day
Nov 12	Spring Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Nov 13	Spring Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Nov 14	Spring Registration Open to All Students
Nov 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 6	Classwork Ends
Dec 9-13	Final Exams

