

Course Syllabus
Psychology 1001-02 –CRN 47102
Orientation to the Psychology and the Social Sciences
Dixie State College of Utah
Fall 2014

Instructor: Deborah Decker, MA
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Course times: Wednesday 12:00 – 12:50 pm in McDonald 207

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 dmail, 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

Dixie State Guidebook. Available in the bookstore only. Cost \$19.95.

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	points	% of grade
Attendance	5 points each	20%
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Professor Panel	30 points	20%
Semester Project	30 points	20%

Attendance: Since this is a discussion course, your attendance will be vital, and there isn't any way to make up for a discussion you have missed. However, to allow for unforeseen circumstances, you may miss any one day 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 assignments will be short assignments before, during, and after class. These assignments are not intended as "busywork" just to give you something to do. Each fulfills one of the objectives given at the first of this syllabus, and will help you to apply what you are learning about becoming 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 given. Late assignments will not be accepted.

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.

Power Point Presentation	15 pts
Reflection Paper	15 pts

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.

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, and 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.

Click on this link - <http://www.dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/> - for comprehensive information on the Semester Dates, the Final Exam Schedule, DSU resources such as the library, Disability Resource Center, IT Student Help Desk, Online Writing Lab, Testing Center, Tutoring Center, and Writing Center. In addition, please review DSU policies and statements with regards to Academic Integrity, Disruptive Behavior and Absences related to university functions.

If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability or think you might have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the North Plaza. The Disability Resource Center (<http://dixie.edu/drcenter/>) will determine eligibility of the student requesting special services and determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability.

By remaining registered in this class you agree to abide by all the policies in this syllabus.

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Course Calendar

Fye calendar Fall 2014	Class Topics	Assignments	Online Topics	Assignments
week 1 Aug 26th or Aug 27th	Campus procedures pg 9 Making the Transition pg 24 Course Overview	checklist Reflection paragraph	important dates pg 6 course syllabus Campus resources pg30-73	quiz 1 syllabi work sheet discussion
week 2 Sept 2nd or 3rd	Classroom Ettiquette pg 146 Learning Style pg 152 Taking Notes pg 161	paper air plane activity note taking reflection	Staying Safe Video pg 108 Read a Textbook pg 165 Student life video	 getting involved ass.
week 3 Sept 9th or 10th	Student Rights pg 96-97 Academic Integrity pg 191 Study Habits pg 177	plagarism policy for psych	Writing assignments pg 174 Financial Aid Video Study groups ps 183	
week 4 Sept 16th or 17th	Test Anxiety pg 188 Library Services pg 35 Managing Time pg 111		Test Taking Strategies pg 188 Active Studt techniques pg 181	
week 5 Sept 23rd or 24th	Managing Money pg124 Managing Stress pg 137 Staying Motivated pg 131	budget assignment Stress Assignment	Staying Healthy pg 119 Career Center How to talk to Professors pg 168	
week 6 Sept 30 or Oct 1st	Professor Panel		Final Project Intro Building college network pg 133	
week 7 Oct 7th or Oct 8th	GE Requirements pg 206 Grad plan Intro pg 215	fake student schedule	Register for Classes pg 211 Final Exams pg 198	real GE plan
week 8 & 9 Individual meetings	Individual meetings Grad Plans		Power point	
Week 10			Final	