

Course Syllabus
PSY 1001-03: Introduction to Psychology and the Social Sciences:
First-Year Experience
Dixie State University
Fall 2014

Professor: **Justin Nuckles**
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Office hours: **Tues, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, other times by app't.**
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Course times: **Mon from 12:00 – 12:50 pm in MCD 207**
CRN: 47886

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 the field of psychology is and some of the career paths one can take in psychology; 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 University. 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
 - what academic policies are found in the University Catalog
 - how to get involved in college life
 - what your rights and responsibilities are as a student

- 2) Know some strategies for dealing with the challenges of college life. This includes:
- managing your time
 - staying safe on campus
 - recognizing and dealing with stress
 - staying healthy
 - managing your money
 - forming a college network
 - staying motivated when the going gets tough
 - resolving conflicts
- 3) Know how to succeed academically. This includes knowing how to:
- use a course syllabus
 - take advantage of your learning style
 - read a college textbook
 - talk to your professors
 - take good notes
 - write good papers
 - study effectively
 - recognize and deal with test anxiety
 - take tests effectively
 - avoid academic dishonesty
- 4) Understand your major or area of study. This includes knowing:
- why education is important for you
 - what General Education is, and how to fulfill the GE requirements
 - how to choose a major that is right for you
 - what the course requirements are in your major
 - how to construct a graduation plan
 - what kinds of careers your major will prepare you for

Required Materials

The textbook for this course is the Dixie State University Student Guidebook: How to Survive and Thrive at DSU (2014-2015 edition). You can purchase this book at the DSU Bookstore for \$19.95. (It is published specifically for DSU, so you won't be able to find it on amazon.com, etc.)

Other materials you need will be provided by the instructor or will be available on Canvas. If you do not have internet access at home, you can access Canvas in the Holland Centennial Commons or at the Smith Computer Center.

On Canvas you will find the following:

- weekly announcements
- a class schedule showing dates when each topic will be covered and when assignments are due
- links to Canvas quizzes
- copies of all materials given out in class

Grades

Your grade will be assigned based your attendance, preparation assignments, in-class assignments, out of class assignments, and your midterm and final exams. Your grades will be available at any time on Canvas. You may also e-mail me at any time to ask about your grade.

<u>Category</u>	<u>% of grade</u>
Attendance	30%
Assignments	50%
Final Presentation	20%
Extra Credit	5%

Attendance (30%): Since this is a discussion course, your attendance is essential. Every day you are in class you will receive 10 points. There isn't any way to make up for these points; 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, it is your responsibility to come up after class and let me know that you are here. If you miss class, you are still responsible to turn in assignments that were due that day, and to check Canvas to find out about new assignments or in-class activities that you can make up.

In- & out-of-class Assignments (50%): In order to apply the concepts discussed in class, you will have a variety of in- and out-of-class assignments, which could be on Canvas, in your Guidebook, or on paper. These assignments are not just "busywork" to give you something to do – each fulfills one of the objectives given at the first of this syllabus, and will help you to become a successful student. Late assignments will be accepted with a 10% penalty. Descriptions of all assignments are found on Canvas – if you are absent, you are responsible to find out what you missed and make it up.

Final Presentation (20%): In lieu of a final exam, you will prepare and present, in your medium of choice (i.e. Prezi, PowerPoint, poster, oral presentation), a presentation on a potential career in the field of Psychology or the Social Sciences in which you are interested in, have decided upon, or would merely like to know more about. More details will be available on Canvas further into the semester.

Extra Credit (5%): There will be several extra credit assignments throughout the semester – things that are not required, but would still be useful to you.

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 only be given in circumstances where a student is passing the course, and has completed 80% of the course material, and fills out an incomplete contract before the 3rd week of the next semester.

The First-Year Experience® is a service mark of the University of South Carolina. A license may be granted upon written request to use the term The First-Year Experience in association with educational programmatic approaches to enhance the first college year. This license is not transferable without written approval of the University of South Carolina.

Other Useful Information

Important dates to remember:

Mon, Aug 25	Classes begin
Thurs, Aug 28	Last day for waitlist
Fri, Aug 29	Last day to add classes online
Mon, Sep 1	Labor Day (no classes)
Wed, Sep 4	Drop/Audit fee begins (\$10 per class)
Wed, Sep 4	Residency Application deadline
Tue, Sep 9	\$50 Late registration/payment fee
Mon, Sep 15	Last day for refund
Mon, Sep 15	Pell Grant Census
Mon, Sep 15	Last day to drop without a “W” grade
Wed, Sep 17	Classes dropped for nonpayment
Fri, Sep 19	Last day to add/audit classes
Wed, Oct 1	Fall 2014 Associates Degree Graduation Application deadline
<i>Fri, Sep 28</i>	<i>Block classes begin*</i>
Wed, Oct 15	Midterm grades due
Thurs & Fri, Oct 16-17	Semester break
Mon, Oct 20	Last day to drop individual classes
Mon, Oct 27	Spring and Summer 2015 class schedules available online
Mon, Nov 3	Spring 2015 Bachelor’s Degree Graduation Application deadline
Tue, Nov 11	Career Day (no classes before 4 pm)
Fri, Nov 14	Last day for complete withdrawal
Oct 17-20	Spring Registration Opens
Wed-Fri, Nov 26-28	Thanksgiving break (no classes)
Fri, Dec 12	Last day of classes
Mon-Fri, Dec 15-19	Final exams

Dmail: Important class and university information will be sent to your Dmail account. This information includes your DSU 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 DSU. All DSU 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.

University approved absences: Dixie State University Policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a university-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>

Disability Accommodations: 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 in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Classroom expectations: It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. This means not talking when the professor is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at:
<http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

Academic integrity: In order to ensure that the highest standards of academic conduct are promoted and supported at the University, students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to, refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, falsification, misrepresentation, and/or inappropriately colluding or collaborating. The University shall consistently hold students accountable for instances of academic dishonesty and apply appropriate consequences. For more information, see the Student Academic Misconduct section of DSU policy at
<http://dixie.edu/humanres/polstu.html>

Additionally, as a course within the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, students are expected to read, sign, and abide by the Department's Academic Honor and Integrity Policy, available as a standalone document on Canvas through the course website.

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

If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the **Tutoring Center** located on the 4th floor of the Holland Centennial Commons in Room 431. You can visit them online at
<http://www.dixie.edu/tutoring/>

If you need help writing papers, essays, etc. go to the **Writing Center** on the fourth floor of the Holland Centennial Commons in room 421. You can also visit them online at
<http://dixiewritingcenter.com/>

If you need to use a **computer** to do schoolwork on campus, go to the Smith Computer Center or the Holland Centennial Commons on the second, mezzanine, or third floors.

If you are assigned to take a test in the **Testing Center**, go to the North Plaza. You can get information on their website at <http://www.dixie.edu/testing/>

The **Library** has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Dixie State University

Library on the 2nd, and 3rd floors of the Holland Centennial Commons, or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>