

Course Syllabus
**Psychology 1001-01 – Orientation to the Psychology and the Social
Sciences**
Dixie State College of Utah
Fall 2011

Instructor: Aaron Combs
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Course times: Tuesday 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.

Helpful Text: 2011 College Catalog (Not required)

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

There is no textbook for this course; the materials you need will be provided by the instructor or will be available through blackboard.

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	<u>points</u>	% of grade
Attendance	4 points each	30%
Assignments	5 points each	30%
Semester Project	approx 80 points	40%

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 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 are here; 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” 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 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 given. Late assignments will be accepted 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	40 pts
Paper	40 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.

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

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).

Mon, Aug 22	Classwork starts
Wed, Aug 24	Last day to add without a signature
Mon, Aug 29	Drop fee begins (\$10 per class)
Mon, Sep 5	Labor Day
Tue, Sep 6	\$50 Late registration/payment fee
Mon, Sep 12	Last day for refund
Mon, Sep 12	Last day to drop without a "W" grade
Mon, Sep 12	Pell Grant Census
Fri, Sep 16	Last day to add classes
Fri, Sep 30	Last day to apply for graduation
Thurs, Fri, Oct 13-14	Semester break
Mon, Oct 17	Last day to drop or audit classes
Fri, Nov 11	Last day for complete withdrawal
Mon, Nov 14	Spring registration open for Seniors
Tue, Nov 15	Career Day
Tue, Nov 15	Spring registration open for Juniors
Wed, Nov 16	Spring registration open for Sophomores
Thurs, Nov 17	Spring registration open to all students
Wed-Fri, Nov 23-25	Thanksgiving break
Fri, Dec 9	Last day of classes
Mon-Fri, Dec 11-15	Final exams

College resources: Several college 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 in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. There is a schedule of what courses have tutors at what times outside the door. You can also visit them online at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/>

If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. You can also visit them online at http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php

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 basement.

If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the first floor of the Career/Financial Aid Building. You can get information on their website at <http://new.dixie.edu/testing/>

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Val Browning Library or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>

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 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, a zero grade 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 failing the course.

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, whether or not you are caught. You will pay the price, sooner or later.

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 at the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call 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 23	Introduction	Syllabus assignment, Vasa test
August 30	Website navigation. Getting involved	Stuff to Know and Check your records
September 6	Campus Resources	Campus map quiz
September 13	Intro to Careers in psychology	Campus Resources assignments Visiting campus resources and where to go for help
September 20	Degree Planning	Degree Plan assignment
September 27	Degree Planning	
October 4	Lab	
October 11	Note Taking	Note taking assignment
October 18	Lab	Professional Interviews
October 25	Safety	Safety assignment
November 1	Lab	Rough draft assignment
November 8	Planning	Weekly plan assignment
November 15	Career Fair	Career fair assignment
November 22	Group presentation	
November 29	Group presentation	
December 6	Group presentation/ project	
December 10		Final Project