COURSE DESCRIPTION: The primary learning objective of this introductory psychology course is to explore the subject matter of the field and to become familiar with the vocabulary and concepts of the field and with some of the research findings upon which our knowledge of human thought and behavior is based. Furthermore, the primary goal of this class is to emphasize development of critical thinking skills and to prepare you to be a cautious and analytical consumer of information that is proclaimed to be scientific or to be based on research.

PURPOSES: The main course objectives are: 1) to gain a general knowledge of the major subfields of psychology, 2) to attain a working understanding of some of the major theories in psychology, and 3) to develop critical thinking skills.

GRADES: A chapter exam will be given at the end of each chapter and will be worth 30 points. We will tentatively cover 13 chapters and you will be allowed to drop the two lowest scores. Exams will cover information from your textbook and from lecture. All exams will require you to bring a non-erasable pen to class. Each chapter test will also include short answer questions and essay. There are NO make up exams so it is critical that you are present when exams are given. There are NO exceptions. Exams will be given on Tuesday (day 6 of class), Monday (day 10 of class) and Monday (day 15 of class). Exam can be taken ahead of time but not after it is already given. Arrangements to take it can be done during office hours or at the assessment center.

Each student will be expected to write a three to four page paper and present their findings in class. We will spend time the first meeting about the nature and requirements of the paper. Writing and presentation of the paper are worth 70 points.

Your grade will then be based on 11 chapter exams for 330 and 70 points for their paper. Your grade will be based on your percentage of a total of 400 points. An “A” is 360 to 400, a “B” is 320 to 359, a “C” is 280 to 319, a “D” is 240 to 279, and an “F” is below 240.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Day 1 - Mon  The Science of Psychology & the History of Psychology Chapter 1
Day 2 - Tue  Research in Psychology Chapter 2
Day 3 - Wed  The Biology of the Nervous System - I Chapter 3
Day 4 - Thu  The Biology of the Nervous System - II Chapter 3
Day 5 - Fri  Sensation & Perception Chapter 4
Day 6 - Tue  Consciousness/Test 1 Chapter 4
Day 7 - Wed  Learning Chapter 5
Day 8 - Thu  Memory Chapter 6
Day 9 - Fri  Cognition Chapter 8
Day 10 - Mon  Development/Test 2 Chapter 9
Day 11 - Tue  Motivation Chapter 10
Day 12 - Wed  Emotion Chapter 11
Day 13 - Thu  Stress & Health Chapter 11
Day 14 - Fri  Writing a paper/No Final Library work
Day 15 - Mon  Presentation of paper/Test 3 Presentation

Please keep in mind that things can change or may occur that could impact on whether or not some of the material is covered in class. Every attempt will be made to stick to this schedule but we must be flexible.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS: The student is expected to follow the guidelines for student code of conduct as outlined in the IVCC catalog. Students are expected to come to class, be on time, and read all of the assigned materials for class. There will be NO make up exams unless prior arrangements are made. There are NO exceptions. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your attainment of knowledge and understanding of the course materials by performing satisfactorily on examinations, quizzes, assignments, extra credit essays, and in-class activities. Any concerns regarding the code of conduct for
students can be addressed by referring to the IVCC catalog.

Cell phones, pagers, and other similar equipment are **not permitted** in class without the prior approval of the instructor. Please be aware of others around you and turn your telephones off. Texting is not permitted in class.

**REQUESTS FOR MODIFICATION:** Any student that needs additional help due to documented disability should make an appointment to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Arrangements can be made to provide help in the Learning Center.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**
Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Whether or not you come to class is up to you. Experience has shown, however, that students that come to class and participate get more out of the course and eventually end up with a better grade. It is your responsibility to come to class. You will **NOT** be dropped from class if you simply don’t show up. This may result in failing the class.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**
It is the student’s responsibility to ask the instructor to be withdrawn from the class. I do not automatically withdraw students without their agreement to do so. Withdrawal should be made to me in writing and include your name, student identification number, and your address. If you need or want to be withdrawn from class it is your responsibility to let the instructor know and make arrangements, during office hours, to fill out the necessary paperwork.

**FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT**
Withdrawal from the course can affect financial aid. Students who receive financial aid should see an advisor in the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing from a course.

**PLAGARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY**
Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating the test will be taken and the student will receive a failing grade for that test. If a student cheats a second time, they will be failed for the semester. Using someone’s work and claiming it as your own will also not be tolerated. If a student is caught plagiarizing they will be failed for the semester.

**CLASSROOM RULES**
Since everyone in this course is an adult it is expected that students will practice self-control allowing others to speak, respecting each other, and allowing others to work in quiet during exams. This allows for a positive learning environment for all.

**CLASS CANCELLATION** If you are concerned that the college may be closed because of inclement weather please check the college website ([www.ivcc.edu](http://www.ivcc.edu)) and note that on the opening page it will be posted or listen to your local radio station. A list of them is on the website as well. If you would like the college to alert you by text message or via your email address visit [www.ivcc.edu/alerts/](http://www.ivcc.edu/alerts/) and sign up for which ever modality you would like to use.

**OFFICE HOURS** Office hours will be by appointment only.

**NOTES**