

**Valley City State University**  
**Psychology 111: Introduction to Psychology**  
**Fall 2020 Online**

**Contact Information:**

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**Office hours:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-12noon; Tuesday/Thursday 1-2PM or by appointment. I am in my office most of each day so please feel free to stop in or e-mail to schedule another time that works better for you.

**Required Text:**

Introduction to Psychology, Kalat, 11<sup>th</sup> edition by Cengage

Access to MindTap via Cengage Unlimited or individual access code for this text

A note about Cengage Unlimited: For \$119.99, you receive a code that allows you to access over 22,000 Cengage products online, including a full electronic version of our textbook. Should you wish to purchase a physical copy of the text, you can do so for only \$7.99 by renting it for the semester from Cengage. Our MindTap course, where you will complete weekly assignments, is linked through Blackboard, so you will be logging into the site via Blackboard once you have set up your account.

**Catalog Description:** (3 credits) A survey of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

**Course Purpose and Goals:**

**Purpose:** This course is designed to provide an introduction to a variety of psychological topics including: the brain, sensation and perception, memory, learning, cognition, personality, social psychology, psychological disorders and therapies.

**Learner Outcomes/Competencies:**

- Students will define fundamental psychological terms/concepts.
- Students will compare/contrast multiple psychological perspectives on a variety of topics.
- Students will work in small and large groups to complete tasks and discuss course content.
- Students will use critical thinking skills to apply psychological concepts to a topic of interest.
- Students will record a presentation, share it with others, and discuss the content in an online setting.

**VCSU General Education Learning Outcomes**

PSYC 111 meets the Creative and Critical Thinking General Education Learning Outcome through assessment of the final, individual presentation on a psychological topic of interest recorded and shared with peers.

**VCSU Psychology Program Outcomes**

The VCSU Psychology Program strives to meet five goals the American Psychological Association has set forth for a comprehensive undergraduate experience in psychology. Here is how this course addresses each:

- Goal 1: Knowledge Base in Psychology
  - This is the primary outcome targeted in PSYC 111 as we work to develop a common language so we can discuss basic psychological phenomenon.
- Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking.
  - We will address this goal through the TED-talk project, which gives you an opportunity to determine how psychological processes are at work in areas of your own interest.
- Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World
  - We will discuss a variety of current events that reflect ethical issues in today's society and apply psychological theory and research to those events.
- Goal 4: Communication
  - Participating in small group work, contributing to large class discussion, and recording an oral presentation, students will improve their communication skills.
- Goal 5: Professional Development
  - Students will be briefly introduced to a variety of career paths in the field of psychology.

### **Course Philosophy and Policies:**

**Course Philosophy:** Psyc 111 is taught at an introductory level and assumes the student has little or no prior knowledge of psychological concepts.

**Learner-Centered:** In this online course, the student is expected to take primary responsibility for his/her learning. This includes completing assignments in a thorough and timely manner, participating in discussion boards and class activities fully and thoughtfully, seeking out answers to questions, and developing the art of intellectual inquiry. The role of the instructor is to facilitate the learning process by designing appropriate assignments, giving ample constructive feedback, and providing opportunities for students to create and apply new understandings of the course content.

My goal is to provide prompt grading and feedback to benefit your learning and overall understanding of the content of this course. Students can expect that weekly assignments including Discussion Boards will be graded within 2 weeks of the deadline. Please refer to the "Feedback" section of the grade for detailed information about what you've done well for that particular assignment as well as any tips or guidance for future assignments. If for any reason a specific item will not be graded within this timeframe, I will let you know through a Blackboard announcement when you can expect to have that feedback.

**ADA Statement:** If you need course adaptations, adjustments, or accommodations because of documented disability, or have emergency medical information to share, please make an appointment to talk with me during the first week or class, or when the medical situation arises. Also, contact Jackie Owen in Student Academic Services located in the Learning Commons and she will work with you and your instructors to make the necessary arrangements.

### **Title IX Reporting**

As a member of the Department of Social Science, I recognize that some of the topics covered in this course might spark strong emotional responses due to personal circumstances. I encourage you to reach out to me as a resource. I also want to make you aware that Title IX standards encourage you to report to the campus Title IX Coordinator any occurrence of gender discrimination, sexual

assault, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship (dating or domestic) violence, or stalking. Should you desire to discuss any of these situations in a confidential manner, VCSU does have free confidential [Counseling & Health Services](#) available to students.

**Student Support Services:** A variety of services are available to assist you in your academic endeavors at VCSU, including the Learning Center, Disability Support Services, and Allen Memorial Library. For more information, check the link in Blackboard titled Student Support/Policies.

**Plagiarism Statement:** Academic integrity is the foundation of intellectual pursuit and participation in a scholarly community. The student handbook describes the expectations for academic honesty and indicates the possible consequences of academic dishonesty. When an act of academic dishonesty is discovered, faculty are required to complete an Academic Integrity Report to document the incident and sanction to the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) as well as the division chair.

I have a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism and cheating. Incidents of confirmed plagiarism and/or cheating will be immediately reported to both the VPAA and the Social Science Department Chair. First offenses will receive a reduced grade or 0 (zero). Second and subsequent offenses (as documented in the VPAA office) over the student's entire academic career at VCSU will result in additional sanctions, which may range from academic probation to expulsion.

Understanding what constitutes plagiarism and what is proper use of another's work can be difficult to determine so I expect that you will have questions as you complete your work. It is your responsibility to ask those questions and seek help BEFORE submitting your work. If you ask first, you avoid any issues of academic dishonesty and you learn how to continue doing this properly in the future. If you just try something without asking and the result constitutes plagiarism, you will be held responsible for that and the sanctions outlined above will apply. Do yourself a favor and ask first!

See the [VCSU Student Handbook](#) for more details on this policy.

**Make-up Work:** Late assignments are not generally accepted. You have a course schedule at the end of this syllabus that contains all deadlines for the duration of this course – be sure to make any necessary arrangements to meet those deadlines. If you know you will be unavailable on the day an assignment is due (e.g., you will be traveling without internet access) you need to submit it early in order to earn the points. I will make exceptions to this rule only in extreme circumstances (e.g., hospitalization, funeral attendance). In the event that you need to request an extension, please let me know of your situation as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. Documentation of your circumstance may be requested before late assignments will be accepted.

**Blackboard:**

I will use Blackboard as the primary form of communication with you to post grades, assignments, announcements and all other information pertaining to class. Please check Blackboard often to ensure your assignments are completed in a timely fashion, participate in the online discussions with your peers, and that you are staying caught up on class announcements and updates.

**Final Exam:** University policy states that each class must meet and complete a meaningful academic activity during the scheduled final exam time. This course will include a final exam to be completed

during the last week of the semester via Blackboard. This final exam will be cumulative, holding students accountable for all of the content covered in the class.

**Grading:** There will be a total of 800 points possible in this course, earned through quizzes, Discussion Boards, a presentation, and final exam. The grading scale in this course is as follows:

716-800 points	A
636-715 points	B
556-635 points	C
476-555 points	D
475 or fewer points	F

**Discussion Boards (300 pts):**

How to write a great post: In the online classroom, discussion forums are a critical way of interacting with each other. I have carefully constructed each prompt to allow you the opportunity to apply the information you've learned about psychological topics. The discussion boards will consist of one initial post thread created by each student, and two substantial comments on other students' posts. Other students' posts will become visible once your own initial post is submitted. Each initial post must consist of a minimum of 300 words. Responses to peers are to be at least 100 words. Discussion posts are worth 20 points each; 15 for the initial post and 5 for your peer responses.

Your initial post should be written as an essay with attention to grammar, punctuation, and writing style. Use 3rd person in your writing. Be sure to answer all parts of the question. Your responses must reflect some significant reflection and include more than a sentence such as "I agree with your thoughts on this" or "I like your post." Some posts will require the use of citations and references (every time you discuss something you have read or learned elsewhere, you need to give that person credit). You are to use APA (7th ed.) formatting for all writings in Psychology. There is a link under Content for you to use to help with learning this format. The reference can just be added to the bottom of your discussion.

All DB posts will be due by **Friday night at 10PM** in the week they are scheduled (end of the week).

**MindTap Quizzes (300 pts):** There will be a total of 15 MindTap quizzes during the semester, each worth 20 points. Each quiz will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. MindTap quizzes will be taken through Blackboard and due by **10PM Friday** each week.

**Presentation (100 pts):** Students will choose a topic they are passionate about and apply multiple concepts from the field of Psychology to their topic in a TED-style presentation. Presentations will be recorded, uploaded, and discussed via Blackboard. More details will be available on a separate assignment sheet in Blackboard.

**Final Exam (100 pts):** During the final week of the class, you will take a Final Exam assessing your understanding of the concepts covered throughout the entire semester. You will have the whole last week of classes to complete the Final Exam, but it will be due no later than **10PM Friday**. This cumulative exam will be available in Blackboard and will consist of multiple-choice questions requiring you to apply concepts we've discussed all semester to real-life scenarios.

### Tentative Course Schedule:

Dates	Topic	Deadlines Friday by 10PM	Quizzes close Friday at 10PM
M Aug 24- F Aug 28	Intro to course	Welcome Discussion by Friday	
M Aug 31- F Sept 4	Ch. 1: What is Psychology?	DB 1 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 1 by Friday
M Sept 7- F Sept 11	Ch. 2: Scientific Methods in Psychology	DB 2 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 2 by Friday
M Sept 14- F Sept 18	Ch. 3: Biological Psychology	DB 3 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 3 by Friday
M Sept 21- F Sept 25	Ch. 4: Sensation and Perception	DB 4 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 4 by Friday
M Sept 28- F Oct 2	Ch. 5: Development	DB 5 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 5 by Friday
M Oct 5- F Oct 9	Ch. 6: Learning	DB 6 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 6 by Friday
M Oct 12- F Oct 16	Ch. 7: Memory	DB 7 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 7 by Friday
M Oct 19- F Oct 23	Ch. 8: Cognition and Language	DB 8 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 8 by Friday
M Oct 26- F Oct 30	Ch. 9: Intelligence	DB 9 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 9 by Friday
M Nov 2- F Nov 6	Ch. 10: Consciousness	DB 10 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 10 by Friday
M Nov 9- F Nov 13	Ch. 11: Motivated Behaviors	DB 11 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 11 by Friday
M Nov 16- F Nov 20	Ch. 12: Emotions, Stress, and Health	DB 12 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 12 by Friday
M Nov 23- F Nov 27	Ch. 13: Social Psychology	DB 13 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 13 by Friday
M Nov 30- F Dec 4	Ch. 14: Personality	DB 14 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 14 by Friday
M Dec 7- F Dec 11	Ch. 15: Abnormal Psychology	DB 15 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 15 by Friday
M Dec 14- F Dec 18	Review		Presentation by Monday Final Exam by Friday