

Introduction to Psychology and the Brain

Grades: 8th – 12th
Day of Week: Wednesday
Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm ET
Length of Class: 10 Weeks
Semester: Winter 2019
Tuition: \$300.00

Instructor's Name: Samantha Star
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Office Hours: By appointment

Description of Class:

Have you ever wondered what makes us tick? Some may say it is our heart, but what about our brain? What role does it play in who we are and the choices we make? Introduction to Psychology will introduce students to human nature. We will explore the brain's anatomy, understand the history of psychology and the various points of view that have existed over time. We will delve into experience, emotion, learning, behavior and psychological disorders through readings, videos, research and lectures. The class will observe a live dissection of a brain, performed by the teacher (with possibility to follow along at home).

Class Approach:

Students will be asked to complete reading and research ahead of time so that our class time can focus on lectures, discussions and debates. Student are encouraged to take a hands-on approach to learning. The teacher will complete a live dissection of the brain for a better understanding of the function of the brain's anatomy.

Goals:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify major contributors to the field of Psychology
- Apply major theories and stages of development (from infancy through adulthood) to their own lives as well as those around them
- State, label, and describe basic parts and functions of the human brain
- Compare and contrast functions of the brain's hemispheres
- Recall and explain the cognitive theorists' approach to the study of emotions.
- Identify ways of measuring test standardization, reliability, and validity
- Explain the various views of intelligence

- Describe and evaluate the major schools of personality theory
- Summarize the major causes, symptoms, treatment, and prognoses of various psychological disorders

Textbook:

[Understanding Psychology by Richard Kasschau, Ph.D. ISBN: ISBN 0-07-828571-2](#)

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Students are expected to come to class prepared with

- the textbook
- pencil
- eraser
- binder (for homework assignments)
- a notebook
- whiteboard with markers

Students should have headsets with microphones.

Students may be asked to complete a lab, if materials are required a list will be sent out 1-2 weeks ahead of the lab.

Requirements:

Students are expected to take part in class discussions and demonstrate a knowledge of the homework completed beforehand.

Weekly Homework:

Weekly homework will vary and will average approximately 2-3 hours per week.

Homework Policy:

Weekly homework will be due prior to class. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day, for a maximum of 3 days. After 3 days, the student will not receive any marks for late homework. Late quizzes, exams and papers will not be accepted.

If you will have an issue meeting a deadline, please contact me to discuss.

Additional Policies:

Attendance is expected at all classes. There will be a strict zero-tolerance policy in regard to plagiarism and cheating. "Cheating" is defined as unauthorized help on an examination or assigned course material. A student must not receive from any other student or give to any other student any information, answers, or help during an exam. A student must not "steal" the answers from an unsuspecting student during an exam. "Plagiarism" is defined as the taking of a person's ideas, words, or information and claiming those properties as one's own. The use of all ideas, words, or information from any source must be properly referenced and due credit must be given to its author. All cheating and plagiarism infractions will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment.

Evaluation:

Class Participation – 25%

Labs – 10%

Homework Exercises – 25%

Mid-term Paper – 15%

Final Exam – 25%

Grading Scale:

Percentages/Grades

100-90:	A
89-80:	B
79-70:	C
69-60:	D
59 – 0:	No effort: F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Winter 2019

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to the brain, Orientation & Syllabus Review
Week 2	Approaches to Psychology
Week 3	The Lifespan
Week 4	The Workings of Mind and Body
Week 5	Learning and Cognitive Processes
Week 6	Learning and Cognitive Processes Con't
Week 7	Personality and Individuality
Week 8	Adjustment and Breakdown
Week 9	Adjustment and Breakdown Con't
Week 10	Lab - Dissection