



North Dakota State College
of Science



2025-2026 Syllabus

Fall Term 2025

Course Information

Course Number: PSYC 111

Course Title: PSYCH 111 (NDSCS)/Advanced Psychology (WFHS)

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours at NDSCS/.5 elective credit at WFHS

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jessica McKinnon, M.Ed.

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Office Location: 118E

Office Hours: Block 1B

Course Description

An introductory survey of the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The course will consist of an examination of psychology as a science and a profession. It will explore the biological foundations of behavior, sensing and perceiving the physical world, and normal and altered states of consciousness. The course will examine forms of learning, language and higher cognitive processes such as memory, thinking and problem-solving. This lecture course will focus on motivation, emotion, life-span development, theoretical views of personality, personality assessment, stress and coping, health and behavior, abnormal behavior and its treatment, and social psychology.

Textbook and Required Materials

- [Introduction to Psychology: Gateways to Mind & Behavior by Coon, Mitterer, and Martini.
- #2 pencils on exam days
- Your preferred writing utensils and paper on regular days

Learning Goals/Outcomes

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

1. Develop an understanding of how and why people think, feel, and behave the way they do
2. Describe key concepts, applications, theories, and perspectives in the field of psychology
3. Use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena
4. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice

5. Engage in critical thinking skills to evaluate information and solve problems
6. Analyze and consider values that build community at local, national, and global levels
7. Demonstrate fundamental competence in written, oral, and interpersonal skills
8. Apply psychological content and skills to everyday life
9. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and value systems

Grading and Evaluation

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 0% - 59%

- Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole percentage point
- Quarter grades will be calculated based on total points, semester grades will be the average of the two quarter grades
- Grades are final at the end of the semester
- Students can generally expect grades for assessments and assignments to be posted to **PowerSchool** within one week of the assessment or assigned due date.
 - Please note that **PowerSchool** grades are the official grade for the class – NOT what you may see on Schoology or MindTap.
- Grades will be based on a combination of unit exams, quizzes, assignments (both in-class and homework), class participation, and quarter projects (1 per quarter).
- ASSESSMENTS: Since this class is a college class offered at WFHS, I will strive to make this class as much like a college course as possible. In college, the bulk of your grades will be tests. Additionally, many courses you take in college will have a major project. With that in mind, here are the assignments for this course with due dates. I reserve the right to change these if needed... especially test dates

Assessment:	Approximate Due Date	Points
• Chapter Assignments	Varies	Varies
• *Forms, writings, document mark ups, lab activities, etc.		
• Exam 1	Mid qtr 1	75
• *Objective, multiple choice		
• *No retakes		
• Exam 2	End qtr 1	75
• *Objective, multiple choice		
• No retakes		
• Exam 3	Mid qtr 2	75
• *Objective, multiple choice		
• No retakes		
• Exam 4	End qtr 2	75
• *Objective, multiple choice		
• No retakes		
• Projects		
○ Quarter 1:	last week of quarter	40

- * Create a Two-Minute Tutorial (similar to a crash course video) to inform or educate viewers about a disorder or condition that affects one or more of the senses. This video should be one that would be appropriate to share with individuals (and their families) who have been diagnosed with the specific disorder or condition.
- **Quarter 2:** last week of quarter 50
- *Complete a detailed analysis of a film, applying multiple perspectives of psychology and evaluating the accuracy of the portrayal of psychological concepts in the film.
- **Quizzes** Varies varies
- * no retakes, contains information from current chapter

Attendance Policy

West Fargo Public Schools has adopted the following policy regarding attendance:

"Students must not be absent more than 10 times from each semester course in which they are enrolled if they are to receive credit that will count toward graduation. Exceptions which may be approved include illness substantiated by a statement from a doctor, supporting a family, or other special circumstances approved by the principal."

The attendance standard indicated above is a minimum course requirement for successfully completing all courses. When learners' absences go beyond the required limits, students will be dropped from the course as loss of credit (LC), unless otherwise determined by the learner's administrator. Loss of credit carries the weight of an F. The administrator will possibly assign the student to a study area for the remainder of the semester during the period they were scheduled for that class.

Skipping Class

Students who skip classes will be given time in detention to make up for at least every minute they miss. A pattern of skipping will result in a meeting to consider educational alternatives for a student. Additionally, students will earn a 0 for any assessments or assignments in class that day, which may NOT be made up.

Tardiness

Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one and a half hours of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.

Tie to Assessment Outcomes

This course supports the Liberal Arts Program assessment outcome of Communication. Student performance in this area may be assessed in this class and reported for institutional assessment purposes.

Course/Instructor Expectations

- **NORTH DAKOTA CELL PHONE BAN WILL BE ENFORCED**
 - Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the beginning of the school day until the end of the school day, this includes passing times and applies to all spaces, including hallways

- Cell phones WILL be taken if in use or in sight
- The following items are required for class: paper, pen/pencil and iPad (charged)
- Class begins when the bell rings/at the start of the period
- Be in your desk when the bell rings. Use only your assigned desk. No lining up at the door!!
- No earbuds unless specifically instructed to use for a class activity – used with iPad only
- WFHS FOOD & DRINK POLICIES WILL BE ENFORCED
 - No food in classrooms (unless provided by teacher) – this includes candy
 - All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid
 - **Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away**
- Stay on task, pay attention, take notes and participate in discussions/activities
 - iPads will NOT be allowed during notes, class discussions, or other activities
 - iPads must be connected to Apple Classroom!
- Signing out will be limited to emergencies only – Ehall Pass required
- All work must be completely independently, unless specifically instructed otherwise by Mrs. McKinnon. Working together without permission will be considered as cheating. Trying to pass off something as your own thoughts/work when it is not will be considered cheating.

Grievance Process

Should you have concerns regarding curriculum, class procedures, or grades you should first discuss these concerns with the instructor. If your concerns are not resolved, contact your assigned counselor.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, falsifying research data or results or assisting others to do the same will be cause for sanction up to and including reduction in grade, failure of course or removal from class. Repeat offenses may result in additional sanctions.

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Statement on use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of artificial intelligence, machine learning models, or other AI technologies to complete any assignments or assessments in this course is strictly prohibited. All work submitted must be entirely your own original work. Submitting work generated by AI systems constitutes academic

dishonesty and will result in disciplinary action according to college policies. If you have any questions about what constitutes authorized assistance versus unauthorized AI use, please consult with me.

ADA Statement

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact their instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at NDSCS.Accessibility@ndscs.edu or by phone at 701-671-2623 as soon as possible in the semester to discuss possible accommodations.

Equal Opportunity Statement

North Dakota State College of Science is an equal opportunity employer and equal opportunity educator. NDSCS is fully committed to equal opportunity in employment decisions and educational programs and activities. All practices are in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, for all individuals without regard to age, color, gender identity/expression, genetic information, marital status, national or ethnic origin, physical and mental ability status, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, familial or parental status, status as a U.S. veteran/service member, or participation in lawful activity off the employer's premises during nonworking hours which is not in direct conflict with the essential business-related interests of the employer.

For more information, refer to the NDSCS College Catalog under [*Non-Discrimination Statement and Equal Opportunity Policy*](#).

Continuity of Instruction

NDSCS is committed to the continuity of instruction in the event of an emergency disruption that may result in the suspension of activities, including in-person classes at NDSCS. NDSCS is committed to preparing for any significant operational disruption or closure, which could result from flooding, weather, medical emergency, campus evacuation or other emergency.

An emergency closing of the College, campus closure, and/or suspension of in-person classes does not equate into a suspension of instruction. Faculty contract days remain in effect, though the means of instructional delivery may change.

All communications and updates are sent out in official College email and posted at NDSCS.edu

Land Acknowledgement Statement

NDSCS acknowledges that we occupy the sacred ancestral lands of the First Nations cultures of North Dakota. Without them, we would not have access to our gathering, dialogue, and learning spaces.

Developed/Revised (Date): 8-12-25