A. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This introductory course in psychology is a survey of the multiple aspects of human behavior. It involves a survey of the theoretical foundations of human functioning in such areas as learning, motivation, emotions, personality, deviance and pathology, physiological factors, and social influences. It directs the student to an insightful understanding of the complexities of human relationships in personal, social, and vocational settings.

B. BOOKS
There are two required books. The author of the textbook is Myers the title is: Psychology. This textbook is required for this course. I fully expect that you will have read the assigned readings each week. The on-line exercises may not necessarily cover every aspect of the book and having read the book will give you better understanding of the current topic. The second book is the APA pocket style guide. The bookstore will have this on the shelves for you when you purchase your text. If you already have this from another class, no need to purchase again.

C. ATTENDANCE
As you are aware, this class meets asynchronously, meaning that there is not a set time that we are all in contact with one another during the week. This course is designed to meet your needs for flexibility. However, you will need to complete your assignments/discussion questions, etc., within the stated timeframes. I will speak to this further during the grades section, but a week of class will end on Monday at 7:59 AM and a new week will begin on Monday at 8 AM. Therefore, your quizzes, discussion questions, etc., will need to be completed before this time.

D. RESPECT AND CIVILITY
It is my goal to have a highly interactive and open atmosphere during this course. However, it is my expectation that students will, at all times, promote an environment of openness, honesty, respect and civility. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Issues of Diversity (race, sexual orientation, disabilities, etc.).
2. Respecting another’s viewpoint with which you may disagree.

I ask that you please read the on-line etiquette section in the back of the syllabus (also provided in the course website). This guide will give you a feel for some of the nuances of composing on-line “conversations”.


E. GRADING RATIONALE

1. **This is a performance-based course** and is designed around 11 competencies. Your grade will be based on your performance of those competencies according to the criteria outlined in your learning plans. Your grades will be determined by a combination of your assignments and discussion responses.

2. **Assignments:** Students will be assigned exercises to complete during the course of the semester. Each learning activity will have a specific point total (listed below) and be utilized to calculate your overall grades. **Unless previously approved by the instructor, learning activities will not be accepted after the due date.** Remember that all learning activities are due before the end of the learning plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards. 5 Random boards will be graded.</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Plan Quizzes</td>
<td>130 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personality exercise</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Paper</td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>310 points</td>
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3. **On-line discussions:** For each topic, I will have several discussion questions posted. The main component of your grade will revolve around these discussions and therefore, I suggest that you focus upon the requirements for the discussions (see scoring guide for specifics). In general, I expect that you will give thought to these questions and answer with more than a simple “I agree” or “Great response Jane Doe!” I expect you to support your arguments, give rationale and engage in college-level discourse. Remember that a week of class will end **MONDAY at 7:59 AM.** Therefore, the current discussion threads will end at that time. Any responses posted beyond that time will not be counted. **YOUR INITIAL RESPONSE MUST BE POSTED BY THURSDAY!** This will give your classmates time to respond to your postings (please note that this is one of the criteria listed in the scoring guides).

4. **Grades will be determined** by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible, and will be assigned by the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-90%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-88%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-80%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-78%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELOW 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>
F. Course Competencies
1. Use principles of motivation.
2. Apply principles of learning.
3. Summarize how biological, hereditary and environmental factors influence behavior.
4. Demonstrate effective uses of cognitive processes.
5. Apply psychological perspectives and research methods.
6. Appraise interaction between social influences and individual behavior.
7. Relate personality theories to self and others.
9. Evaluate the impact of states of consciousness on behavior.
10. Analyze the interactions of sensation and perception.
11. Summarize common psychological disorders and related treatment approaches.

G. Core Abilities
Core Abilities are broad outcomes or skills that every graduate of a Northcentral Technical College program is expected to achieve. These skills go beyond the context of a specific course or program and are the skills employers tell us they expect employees to have. Northcentral Technical College has identified ten (10) Core Abilities that are important in every area of learning. Five of these core abilities have been identified as important in this course: Communicate clearly, Act responsibly, Think critically and creatively, Value self positively, and Work productively.

H. Guidelines and other information

ADA Statement
If you believe that you may require special accommodations or services to participate in this course, please contact the instructor or a counselor in Student Services. See the Northcentral Technical College’s Student Handbook for further details.

NTC policies
Students with questions regarding affirmative action, equal opportunity, harassment, computer use policy or information about any other NTC policies may refer to the current NTC catalog or student handbook available in Student Services or at this site: http://www.ntc.edu/about/polcourse/html

I. CHANGES
Please note that the instructor, with respect to timely decisions, reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at his discretion.
Discussion Board Etiquette (from emoderators.com)
Website: http://www.emoderators.com/dлитutorial/discussion_board_etiquette.htm

For those who are new to discussion boards. Here are a few beginning tips to guide your writing:

1. Be careful posting anything that is personal to you or others. Be considerate and kind to classmates.

2. If your posting is for a specific person or group, make sure you address it to them. Realize, however, that others will probably read it.

3. Make sure everyone realizes when you are trying to be funny. It is easy for messages to be misinterpreted since there are no physical gestures or voice inflections that accompany the text.

4. When responding to someone’s comments, explain to whom and what you are commenting on. Do not include their whole posting. Try to use only the appropriate quotes or a summary.

5. Remember to read what has previously been posted by others to avoid repeating comments.

6. Make sure you are posting under the appropriate heading or thread.

7. Cite your references.

8. Since reading other’s comments or articles can be very time consuming, try to keep your comments to an appropriate length.

Mike’s Note: While we wish to observe freedom of speech, there are several ground rules to be observed such as those mentioned in the Respect and Civility section of the syllabus. Therefore, any comments that are (amongst other things) demeaning, utilize derogatory terms (other than for illustration), use profanity, are prejudicial/racist/sexist will be removed and the student will be reprimanded by the instructor. Continued violations of this policy will result in further sanctions.