



West Virginia Northern is a comprehensive community college that provides affordable, quality education and training for all who wish to learn. Northern strengthens our community and empowers individuals to pursue fulfilling lives.

SYLLABUS

COURSE DETAILS

Semester:	FALL	Course Dates:	08/25 – 12/12/2025
Course Title:	Introduction to Psychology	Year:	2025
Course Number:	PSY 105 – 821 & 854	CRN:	20468 & 20469

Course Meeting Information

Course Modality:	In Person	Synchronous
DAYS:	TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS
TIMES:	10 AM – 11:15 AM	10 AM – 11:15 AM
LOCATION:	WEIRTON Campus	242 R
DATES OF COURSE (From / to):	M 08/25/2025	F 12/12/2025

Instructor Information

INSTRUCTOR:	PROF RJ CANTER	
LOCATION:	WHEELING	WEIRTON
OFFICE:	419F EC	242 RL
CONTACT (E-MAIL) [PREFERRED]:	RCANTER@WVNCC.EDU	
CONTACT (OFFICE PHONE):	304-723-7523 (<i>out of order</i>)	

DAY OF WEEK	LOCATION	STUDENT // OFFICE HOURS		
MONDAY	MONDAY	9 AM – 10 AM	12 PM – 1 PM	2 PM – 3 PM
TUESDAY	WEIRTON	9 AM – 10 AM		1 PM – 2 PM
WEDNESDAY	WHEELING	9 AM – 10 AM	12 PM – 1 PM	2 PM – 3 PM
THURSDAY	WEIRTON	9 AM – 10 AM		1 PM – 2 PM
FRIDAY	ONLINE	By appointment only		Email me!
I will make 8 PM check-ins M-R and will respond to urgent messages and needs ONLY.				

Course Information

Required Materials or Textbook:

Grison & Gazzaniga (2021) Psychology in Your Life. 4th edition. Norton.

ISBN 10: 039387754X

ISBN 13: 978-0393877540

Optional Materials:

(new textbooks provide access codes to Norton's InQuizitive and you are welcome to use the tool as a study aid. However, using InQuizitive is not a requirement of this course.

Catalog Description:

This course is a survey of psychology. Major topics include emotion, motivation, perception, learning, personality development, cognition, and normal and abnormal behavior. Current therapies, changes throughout the life span and biological states as they affect behavior are also studied.

Expanded Description/Focus:

This is a required course for general education core and nursing. Topics included are the science of psychology, biology and behavior, lifespan development, learning, memory, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, health psychology, personality development, abnormal behavior and therapies, and social and industrial psychology.

Program Outcomes:

General Education Outcomes

General Education Outcomes:

Demonstrate Professional and Human Relations Skills

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to apply major concepts and compare and contrast theories used in psychology.
2. Students will be able to compare the nature's and nurture's influence on human behavior
3. Students will be able to use concepts related to sensation, perception, motivation, emotion, memory, and intelligence.
4. Students will be able to relate psychological influences to health and wellness.
5. Students will be able to describe abnormal behavior, its causes, and treatments.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Define psychology CLO#1
2. Recognize methods and limitations of psychological research CLO#1
3. Identify ethical dilemmas in psychological research CLO#1
4. Identify psychological specialties and careers CLO#1
5. Identify, compare, and contrast major psychological theories CLO#1
6. Identify relevant brain and nervous system structures CLO#3
7. Recognize effects of neurotransmitters, hormones, and chemical imbalances on Behavior CLO#2 & 5
8. Define sensation and perception CLO#3
9. Compare and contrast sensation and perception processes CLO#3
10. Describe theories of motivation CLO#3
11. Describe physiological, cognitive, and expressive components of emotion CLO#3
12. Describe normal and altered states of consciousness CLO#1 & 4
13. Define functions of sleep and dreaming CLO #4
14. Identify common sleep disorders CLO#4 & 5
15. Explain effects of altering consciousness with drugs CLO#4
16. Describe learning theory, including classical and operant conditioning CLO#1
17. Identify and apply principles of behavior modification CLO #1 & 4
18. Explain short-term and long-term memory processes CLO#3
19. Describe and apply memory improvement strategies CLO#3
20. Explain cognition, concept formation, problem-solving, reasoning, and critical thinking CLO #3
21. Explain the concept of intelligence CLO#3
22. Describe methods of intelligence testing CLO#3
23. Describe major theories of human development CLO#1, 2,
24. Identify developmental stages from conception through old age CLO#1, 2
25. Identify effects of teratogens during pregnancy CLO#2
26. Describe effective and ineffective parenting practices CLO#2
27. Distinguish biological and cultural gender differences CLO#2
28. Describe influences on human sexuality CLO#2
29. Recognize psychological influences on "health and wellness" CLO#4
30. Describe stress and apply concepts related to stress management CLO #1 & 4
31. Explain major theories of personality CLO#1
32. Identify characteristics and types of "abnormal" behavior CLO#5
33. Describe historical and current approaches to diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders CLO#5
34. Define social psychology CLO #1
35. Recognize how psychology is used in organizations and industry CLO#1
36. Describe biological (nature) influences on behavior CLO#2
37. Describe environmental (nurture) influences on behavior CLO#2
38. Apply psychological principles to their own lives CLO #4

Course Policies

Attendance:

- **Per college and financial aid policy, all students must establish attendance in the first week of class.**
 - Students not establishing attendance as required will be administratively withdrawn from the course.
 - To establish attendance, a student must complete the first week's assignments. A student must complete all establishing tasks by 11:59 PM on the first Sunday of the first week of the course.
- It is recommended that students log into the course daily to utilize the power points slides, course calendar, notice of announcements, and keep up with assignments, quizzes, and exams.
 - At a minimum, log into the course 4-5 days per week to keep up with your work and stay informed.
 - Check for announcements each time you log into the course.
 - You should check your WVNCC email more than once a day.
- Refer to the Course Schedule for meeting times, locations, and topics covered.
 - *If this course is in person, attendance will be tracked via a signature page distributed at every meeting.*
 - *If this course is entirely online, please refer to the time management schedule and assignment checklist.*
 - *If this course has online meetings, an additional attendance policy will be posted.*

Class Preparation:

- Students are responsible for reading the syllabus and all course information provided in this course (available online).
- Students should schedule reading of the textbook chapters and use of the power point slides according to the Course Schedule.
- If you have scheduled meetings, review the materials before the course meeting for the most optimal use of our course time.
- Students have access to an assignment checklist and course schedules to help them prepare and stay on track – please refer to these course documents early and often.

Late Assignment Policy:

- **An assignment checklist is available – please reference it!**
- Students will need to pay close attention to the “window of opportunity” and “due & end” dates for all assignments.
 - The deadlines for completion of course work is firm.
 - Students will receive 0 points for assignments, discussion forum posts, quizzes, and exams not completed by the deadlines.

- Students missing 4 requirements (assignments, discussion forum posts, quizzes, exams) in a row may be administratively withdrawn from the course.
- Because the assignment checklist is available, you are technically aware of everything that is due throughout the semester – on day one.
 - This eliminates the need for a late assignment policy as there should be no late submissions.
 - **If extenuating circumstances occur, reach out to me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
- It is recommended that students avoid waiting until the last hours before due dates to submit assignments.
 - It is a much better choice to post early enough within the window of opportunity to correct any technical difficulties you may have (i.e. internet, computer, and other access problems).
 - Doing this will allow time to correct problems and still meet deadlines.

Continuity of Instruction:

- In the event this class is canceled by the College or technology issues occur, students will be notified and given instructions by email.
- In the event the partnering school issues a 2-Hour Delay or a cancellation, students are not expected to attend class physically at WVNCC.
 - Students are responsible for covering that scheduled material on their own in this instance.
 - Students may be notified and given further and/or supplemental instructions by email.

Course Requirements

Assessments and Assignments

Exams

- There are 5 exams consisting of multiple choice and short answer essay questions.
- 2 ½ hours are allowed to complete an exam.
- An exam is located at the end of each module.
- Exams are worth 100 points each.
- You may not stop an exam or quiz and return to it later.
- Once you start, you must finish.

Quizzes:

The Syllabus Quiz.

- The Syllabus Quiz consists of multiple choice and True/False questions.
- Time allowed to complete this quiz is 20 minutes.
- The syllabus quiz is worth 10 points.
- The syllabus quiz is located under “start here” tab in the course content.

- This is a required assignment to establish your attendance in the course.
- This is due by 11:59 PM on the first Sunday of the class schedule.

Traditional Chapter Quizzes.

- There are 14 Chapter Quizzes.
- These consist of 15 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each.
- Time allowed for chapter quizzes is 1 hour.
- Chapter quizzes are worth 30 points each.
- You may not stop an exam or quiz and return to it later.
- Once you start, you must finish.

Some Modules Include Additional Quizzes.

- For example, Module 2 includes a Reinforcement vs. Punishment Quiz.
- These consist of multiple-choice questions.
- Time allowed for this type of quiz is 15-30 minutes.
- This type of quiz is worth 10-20 points.
- Some of the additional quizzes are BONUS quizzes.

Written Assignment:

- Exploring Careers in Psychology is a written assignment in Module 1.
- Instructions are provided in Module 1.
- It is worth 20 points.

Discussion Forums:

The Introduction Post & Respond.

- It has a potential 20 bonus points.
- Instructions are available in Module 1 or under the Discussions tab in the left-hand menu.
- This is a required assignment to establish your attendance in the course.
- This is due by 11:59 PM on the first Sunday of the class schedule.

Psychological Disorders in Film

- This is a writing and discussion forum post & respond assignment.
- Full instructions and grading rubric will be provided in Module 5.
- Available under the Discussions tab in the left-hand menu or in Module 5.
- It is worth 50 points.

The Graded Coursework:

Requirements	Possible Points
5 Exams worth 100 points each	500
14 Chapter Quizzes worth 30 points each	420
1 Syllabus Quiz	10
1 Exploring Careers in Psychology written assignment	20

1 Reinforcement vs. Punishment Quiz	20
1 Sensation and Transduction Video Quiz	10
1 APA Format Instructional videos Quiz	20
ATTENDANCE	75
1 Psychological Disorders in Film paper and discussion forum	50
Total	1,125
Introduction & Establish Attendance Discussion	Potential for 20 bonus points
Forum Post & Respond (required)	Potential for 10 bonus points

Attendance Points Chart:

Absences	Points	Absences	Points
0 - 1	75	4 - 5	35
2 - 3	55	6 – 7	15

This course is a CUMULATIVE POINTS COURSE.

A CUMULATIVE GRADING SYSTEM is based on tracking the number of points that a student earns towards a TOTAL. In this system, grades are not weighted. There is nothing to average and NO division to do. There is no formula for your FINAL GRADE. Much like arcade games, you cannot lose points in this system – you can only gain them.

That said, having 105 points in a course that has 900 points available is... NOT good (failing).

To determine your FINAL GRADE, I check the number in each student's TOTAL column (in the course site) and compare it to the FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION CHART below:

Final Grade Scale:

A	1,012 to 1,125 points	90%
B	900 to 1,011 points	80%
C	787 to 899 points	70%
D	675 to 786 points	60%
F	674 and below	

Tracking Your Progress and Feedback:

Students can track their progress in Grades under the Course Menu tab in the Brightspace course. When appropriate, the instructor will provide specific feedback through comments and instructions to individual students on individual assignments, quizzes, and tests. Generally, students can expect grading within 48 to 72 hours of the due date for the specific learning assessment. Sometimes, it may take longer depending on the type of assessment as in the case of written assignments.

Institutional Policies

Classroom Conduct:

WVNCC seeks to provide educational programs and rules to encourage independence and maturity. Within this context, WVNCC has adopted a “zero-tolerance” Student Code of Conduct Rule. This rule expresses the sanctions for certain inappropriate behaviors for students and establishes due process procedures consistent with regulations governing the College.

Behavior that interferes with the educational mission of WVNCC is unacceptable. Such behavior will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to disciplinary administrative withdrawal, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate action as determined by the administration. For more information visit: <https://www.wvncc.edu/current-students> to locate the Student Handbook.

Academic Integrity:

All students are responsible for their academic work and behavior which supports a learning environment. Dishonesty in the form of plagiarism and cheating may result in disciplinary actions such as lower grade, failing grade, administrative withdrawal, program probation, suspension, or dismissal. Disruptive behavior that interferes with the rights or learning environment of others can result in administrative withdrawal, suspension, or dismissal. Students have the right to appeal such decisions consistent with the rules. See Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Student Handbook at: <https://www.wvncc.edu/current-students>.

Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Students who use Artificial Intelligence tools on academic work without permission, or who use them in improper ways, are violating the academic integrity rules of WVNCC. If the instructor allows the use of Artificial Intelligence, and it is used as permitted, then students are not committing academic dishonesty. Using Artificial Intelligence on academic work is academically dishonest if these tools are prohibited by the instructor.

Mental Wellness Resources

We are a community here at West Virginia Community College. We believe in the importance of mental health, and we want to make sure you have the support you need. We believe in YOU. Have you ever considered trying online therapy? WVNCC believes it is a convenient way to prioritize your well-being and take care of yourself.

At WVNCC, we value your mental health and want to ensure you feel safe and supported throughout your journey. We have services that offer you FREE online teletherapy sessions, wellness workshops, and a 24/7 help line. We at WVNCC feel this is an opportunity for you to strengthen yourself, practice self-care, and show self-respect without any shame or judgment.

To take advantage of this beneficial service, please visit our [Mental Wellness Resources](#) page.

Remember, seeking help is a sign of courage, self-care, and self-respect. We at WVNCC are here to support you every step of the way. Start investing in your mental well-being today!

If you want more information on this resource, or to see the additional information and resources available, go here: <https://www.wvncc.edu/current-students/mental-wellness-resources/7474>

Academic Resource Center:

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) provides WVNCC students with varied resources for success, including but not limited to accessibility services, library, and tutoring. The ARC can be reached at 304-510-8766 in New Martinsville, 304-723-7516 in Weirton, and 304-214-8954 in Wheeling and/or visit: arc@wvncc.edu or visit: <https://www.wvncc.edu/offices-and-services/academic-resource-center/8323>

Non-Discrimination Statement:

West Virginia Northern Community College (WVNCC) is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution and does not discriminate based on race, sex (e.g., sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or parenting status), disability, religion, color, national origin, or age in admission, employment, educational programs or activities. It also does not discriminate based on genetic information in employment or employee health benefits. Further, faculty, staff, students, and applicants are protected from retaliation for making complaints or assisting in investigations of discrimination. WVNCC will take steps to ensure that a lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the College's CTE offerings. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. If you have questions, you may contact Robert Brak, Director of HR & Development, Title IX/Title VI Coordinator for Students and ADA Coordinator for Employees, 1704 Market Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 (304) 214-8901; email: rbrak@wvncc.edu; <https://wvncc.edu/offices-and-services/title-ix-/5251>.

For Students, the Section 504 Disability Coordinator is Cindy Craig, Director of Academic Resource Center, 1704 Market Street, Wheeling WV 26003 (304) 214-8957 ccraig3@wvncc.edu.

Accessibility Services:

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations should complete the form at this link <https://www.wvncc.edu/offices-and-services/voluntary-disability-disclosure/8510>. Someone from the ARC will contact you to schedule an intake appointment.

Student Portal Issues

If any student should encounter issues with the use of their student portal, either through the regular school week or on the weekends, an IT Help ticket can be submitted by using this link [Student Portal Issues](#).

Students can find assistance with Brightspace by locating and accessing the Help and Resource module located in all Brightspace course, or by using the following link for the [Brightspace Help Center](#)

Students can also download the Brightspace Pulse Application on their mobile device to stay connected to their courses and instructors. The application will work and grant you access to Brightspace even if the portal is down.

Course Timeline

Assignments	Window of Opportunity	Deadline for Submission	Possible Points
Syllabus Quiz	08/25 – 08/31	08/31/2025	10
Introduction and Establish Attendance Discussion Forum Post & Respond	08/25 – 08/31	08/31/2025	20 bonus
QUIZ 1 on CH 1	09/01 – 09/07	09/07/2025	30
QUIZ 2 on CH 2	09/08 – 09/14	09/14/2025	30
EXPLORING CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY	09/08 – 09/14	09/14/2025	20
QUIZ 3 on CH 3	09/15 – 09/21	09/21/2025	30
EXAM 1 on CHS 1, 2, & 3	09/15 – 09/21	09/21/2025	100
QUIZ 4 on CH 4	09/22 – 09/28	09/28/2025	30
SENSATION & TRANSDUCTION VIDEO QUIZ	09/29 – 10/05	10/05/2025	10
Quiz 5 on Chapter 5	09/29 – 10/05	10/05/2025	30
REINFORCEMENT vs PUNISHMENT QUIZ	10/06 – 10/12	10/12/2025	20
Quiz 6 on Chapter 6	10/06 – 10/12	10/12/2025	30
EXAM 2 on CH 4, 5, & 6	10/06 – 10/12	10/12/2025	100
QUIZ 7 on CH 7	10/13 – 10/19	10/19/2025	30
QUIZ 8 on CH 8	10/20 – 10/26	10/26/2025	30
QUIZ 9 on CH 9	10/27 – 11/02	11/02/2025	30
EXAM 3 on CH 7, 8, & 9	10/27 – 11/02	11/02/2025	100
APA FORMAT VIDEO QUIZ	10/27 – 11/09	11/09/2025	20
QUIZ 10 on CH 10	11/03 – 11/09	11/09/2025	30
QUIZ 11 on CH 11	11/10 - 11/16	11/16/2025	30
QUIZ 12 on CH 12	11/17 – 11/23	11/23/2025	30
EXAM 4 on CHS 10, 11, 12	11/17 – 11/23	11/23/2025	100
QUIZ 13 on CH 13	11/24 – 11/30	11/30/2025	30
MODULE 5 OPTIONAL BONUS OPPORTUNITY	11/24 – 11/30	11/30/2025	10 bonus
QUIZ 14 on CH 14	12/01 – 12/11	12/11/2025	30
PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS IN FILM DISCUSSION	11/17 – 12/11	12/11/2025	35
EXAM 5 on CHS 13, 14, 15	12/01 – 12/11	12/11/2025	100