Welcome to Introductory Psychology at Westminster! This course will provide a critical overview of the study of human affect, behavior, and cognition, focusing on the theories, research, and assessment techniques that define the discipline. We will also examine psychology through a variety of cultural lenses, understanding what makes people across the world similar and unique.

Course Goals
At the end of the semester, you will be prepared to:

- Articulate and apply the core principles and methods of psychological sciences.
- Understand and evaluate different ways of explaining human and animal behavior, thinking, and feeling.
- Discuss important issues that relate to human behavior globally.
- Conduct research that is appropriate for psychological sciences.
- Demonstrate many practical skills (e.g., critical thinking, interpersonal, technological).
- Participate in psychological studies.

Course Text and Media

For this course, we will use a free OpenStax resource. When you click the link below, you can read your text online; print or order a printed copy; or download a copy to your mobile device.

https://openstax.org/details/books/psychology

Additionally, we will work a lot with podcasts and other media that will add to your course text, and that will form the basis of class discussions.

All readings/media must be completed prior to class so that you can make informed contributions. Lectures and discussions will cover information that is not necessarily in the assigned readings, and you will need to take careful notes. And because psychology is a diverse study area, we will not cover all the information in your textbook. For these reasons, attendance and careful reading are strongly encouraged.

Desire2Learn (D2L)

I will use D2L to organize all course material and to provide a platform for communication. Also, I will use D2L to generate conversation about course material and to update you on assignments, quizzes, grades, and other opportunities. The schedule of modules and readings can be found on D2L.

Class announcements and updates will be communicated through your course webpage on D2L. Please
be in the habit of checking the webpage regularly. Information on this website is binding, whether or not you have read it and regardless of when you read it.

All out-of-class assignments must be submitted online in your D2L Dropbox (unless otherwise instructed) before class begins. Therefore, you should give yourself time to submit your work and arrive to class. Work that is not submitted before the beginning of class will be penalized 10 points for each partial or complete day (24 hrs) that it is not submitted in full. Originality checks will be used to help verify that you have not plagiarized your work.

If you have questions about submitting work online, please see me immediately. “I didn’t know how to do it,” will not excuse you from deadlines.

**Attendance**
You are adults, and I will treat you as adults. You are expected to come to each class on time, just like I would expect you to come to work each day were I your employer. If you suspect that attendance will be a problem for you, then you will want to reconsider taking a different course. **Your final course grade will be lowered by one full letter grade for every three absences.**

If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. I will not distribute notes or rehash discussions for you. It is your responsibility to check if any assignments were given or announcements made that you need to know. The dates assignments are due will not change because you missed a class—whether excused or unexcused—or failed to ask about missed work. Similarly, if you know that you are going to miss a class—whether excused or unexcused—on a day that an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to submit the assignment at the time of class. Late penalties still apply.

**Quizzes**
You will complete timed, online quizzes, usually every other Thursday. These quizzes will assess your mastery of the content in class, your textbook, and any supplementary readings/media. The format of quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer, and/or short essay. Quizzes will be posted on D2L and will be made available approximately Tuesday morning of each week. The quiz must be completed before 7:40am on the Thursday it is due; no exceptions will be made. Because you have two days to take the quizzes, no make-up quizzes will be given; a missed quiz will earn a 0. Quizzes are equally weighted, and please note that I base your grades on percentages in this course, not on points. The schedule for quizzes is listed in your course calendar on D2L.

It is important that you understand that you are in charge of your learning. You are responsible for processing, comprehending, and applying concepts and research that we discuss or that you read/hear about—regardless of whether we cover them in class. Also keep in mind that a quiz measures a representative sample of your knowledge and skills. Therefore, not everything that we read or discuss this term will be covered on a quiz. However, everything we read and do is important and should be evaluated in terms of your learning and growth potential.

To do well on quizzes, you have to comprehend and apply course material. Simple memorization is not sufficient to do well. The best way to prepare for quizzes is to find examples that fit your own life and experiences and to generalize them to test items. Information that is connected to you is learned best.
Additionally, you may want to visit the Learning Center in McGill Library for peer-tutoring.

**Literature Review**
You are required to write an APA-style scientific literature review that focuses on a psychological topic of interest to you. More specific requirements for this assignment will be distributed in class and on D2L.

**Research Participation**
Participation in psychological research is a requirement of this course. More information about this requirement will be distributed in class. If you do not complete the research participation requirement (or the alternative writing assignment), your final grade will be lowered by 5% points.

**Grading**
My grading scale is listed below. Please note that I do not curve grades. Your grade is based entirely on your class performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0%-59%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How are assignments weighted in this course?
- Quizzes: 55% (quizzes are equally weighted)
- Writing assignments: 35% (including homework, literature review, etc.)
- Research participation: 10%

**Office Hours**
- M: 9:30-10:30
- W: 2:00-3:00 via D2L chat
- R: 9:30-10:30

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to comply with Westminster College’s policy on Academic Integrity, as described in the [College Catalog](#). If you are suspected of violating this obligation on any assignment or draft of an assignment, then a report of your misconduct will be submitted to the Dean of the College. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Plagiarizing another person’s published or unpublished work or ideas.
- Cheating or receiving unauthorized help on assignments.
- Submitting your own papers from another class or school, including research that you have proposed and/or conducted for other courses.
- Damaging, destroying, or stealing material from library resources.
- Using unauthorized materials during an examination (e.g., online resources, textbooks, dictionaries, programmable calculators, electronic organizers, pocket PCs, cell phones, etc.).
**Academic Accommodations**

If you have special needs that may affect your academic or personal life during this semester, you should speak a member of Disabilities Services. Accommodations that are consistent with college policy will be considered. If you have learning challenges or if you need additional assistance with your coursework and study habits, then you should contact the Learning Center at x6700, or the Counseling Center at x7340.