Contact Information

**Instructor:** Amy Burns, LPC

**Office/Office Hours:** 8:30-9am Monday through Friday by phone, or anytime via email or Moodle Message. I often do a lot of grading on Sundays, so if you are trying to catch me for a live chat, that’s usually when I am online.

**Telephone:** 276.623.0881 - this is my office at DePaul Community Resources in Abingdon, VA. I work at multiple sites, but the office assistants who answer the phone know where I will be and will provide you with instructions for contacting me if this is an emergency.

**E-mail:** The best way to reach me is by sending a Message within your Moodle course. You can also reach me via my email address, which is: aburns@depaulcr.org. Students should expect to receive message responses within 24 hours. I will post if I will not be available in the News Forum, so be sure to read the News Forum!

Course (Catalog) Description

**VCCS Master Course Description:**
Surveys the basic concepts of psychology. Covers the scientific study of behavior, behavioral research methods and analysis, and theoretical interpretations. Includes topics that cover physiological mechanisms, sensation/perception, motivation, learning, personality, psychopathology, therapy, and social psychology.

Students that successfully complete this course will earn 1 high school credit and 3 hours of college credit for Principles of Psychology, PSY 200, as well as have a basic overview of Psychology and related topics.

**Course Materials**


All course materials were selected to meet the course goals and objectives. Students should contact their facilitator or guidance counselor to receive all textbooks. If you are unable to receive a book within the first few days of class, please contact the instructor.

**Time & Location of Class Meeting:**

This course is asynchronous, which means you will be able to access your course material at any time of the day or night. You should have a specific time in the day that you will be assigned to work on your assignments for this course at school. It is critical to log into your course on a daily basis.
Technology Requirement:

Students will be required to complete and submit assignments by using Moodle, the learning management system for Elite Learning. The course can be accessed at www.svetn.org. Students will need use of the Internet for all coursework. Access to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are also required.

Technical Support:

Technical problems are not common but occur from time-to-time. To receive prompt support, students must submit a Trouble Ticket by going to www.svetn.org and then selecting the Contact tab. The Trouble Ticket Form will be distributed to the Informational Support Team. You should receive a response within 24 hours (usually much sooner). After you have submitted the Trouble Ticket, please send me a Message through Moodle, or an email to let me know what problems you have been experiencing.

Teaching Methods:

Reading assignments will consist of primary text, posted PowerPoint Presentations, lecture guides, exam reviews, and research articles.

Audio/visuals such as video and sound clips, in addition to slide presentations will be posted to course website.

Weekly discussion questions will be posted by the instructor. Weekly written assignments, such as review questions, article reviews, current events in science, or short opinion papers will be assigned.

Weekly announced quizzes to be posted on covered materials.

There will be four announced unit exams.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

The content of this course will focus on the understanding and application of the covered material. Students will have the opportunity to integrate recent and classic scientific research and practical applications in the field of psychology through various technology and assignments.

The student will learn:

- The history of psychology and an overview of research techniques.
- Research findings on conformity, obedience, altruism, and attitude formation.
- The biological bases of behavior; nervous system and endocrine system.
- Some basic aspects of sensation and the difference between sensation and perception.
- The research being conducted on altered states of consciousness and sleep and dreaming.
- Themes and current findings about social, intellectual, physical, and personal development throughout the lifespan.
- Principles of classical and operant conditioning as well as social and cognitive learning as various means by which people learn.
- The current understanding of the memory process: storage, retrieval, forgetting, and memory aids.
- To develop daily examples of cognitive problem-solving strategies.
- To identify the stages of language development and consider the connection between thought processes and language.
- To contrast biological, stimulus, and learned motivations and the theories associated with these.
- Consider the psychological and cognitive correlations to emotional arousal.
- Physiological and psychological coping strategies for stress.
- Specific theories of personality formation including personality assessment.
- To appreciate the difficulty of defining and diagnosing "abnormal" behavior.
- Some characteristics associated with the major DSM-5 classifications.
- Basic therapeutic techniques typical of a variety of somatic therapies, psychotherapies, and behavior therapies and will be able to see how these evolved from the theoretical explanations of personality development and psychopathology.
- Cultural diversity and ethnic diversity in psychology developments.

**Method of Evaluating Student Achievement**

**Grading Policy & Scale:**

This course will be graded on a ten-point scale:

100-90 %= A  
89-80 %= B  
79-70 %= C  
69-60 %= D  
59 % or less = F

All grades will be reported by SVETN to each high school with a numeric grade and a recommended letter, but assignment of a final letter grade will be at the discretion of the student's school. Instructor will also post a letter grade to the community college at the end of the semester. Those dates are located in the *Elite Learning Student Guide*.

Each assignment will be weighted by percent as follows:

- Vocabulary-to-Know and Forums- 10%
- Review Questions- 10%
- Quizzes- 20%
- Unit Exams- 30%
- Other assignments- 15%
- Article reviews- 15%

Rubrics and Guides have been posted for discussion question assignments and Study Guides are posted for each exam. Every assignment description will include specific guidelines and requirements for that assignment, and students should expect feedback through either the assignment or the Message system within a week of the assignment closing. Due to increased amount of time required to grade papers, those will be returned within two weeks of the assignment closing. If the instructor requires additional time to grade an assignment, an announcement will be made to the class.
Students are responsible for monitoring their grades by regularly clicking on the "Grades" link on the course page. If there is a "dash" in the grade slot on the assignment, it either has not yet been graded or has not been received. A "zero" in the grade slot indicates that an assignment was not received, that the spelling and grammar were so poor it was not graded, it did not meet required instructions/standards for the assignment, or the assignment was not properly closed, and your instructor was unable to view it. If you have questions about your scores, or found that the provided feedback was insufficient, please contact your instructor through the Messages function.

Students must always use complete sentences with appropriate spelling and grammatical structure on all assignments; "text-speak" is not acceptable and individuals will be graded down if this is used on any assignments.

**Late Work Policy:**

Please be aware that this is a rigorous college course which requires disciplined work habits and the meeting of deadlines. Due dates are located on the calendar and throughout the course, including in the assignment name. You should give yourself plenty of time on assignments and don’t wait until the last minute. Assignments such as Forums are contingent upon all classmates completing the assignments prior to the due date, as each individual needs to comment on their classmates’ posts.

Most assignments in this course will be open for several weeks, allowing the student ample time to complete them. Please keep in mind that if you don’t attempt the weekly quiz until 30 minutes before it closes, and then experience technical problems, you will not receive an extension because ample time was given on the quiz. I will not extend deadlines unless I am contacted by your school with an approved excuse, within a reasonable time frame (e.g., asking for an extension on an assignment that has been open for two weeks the day before it closes because you are going on Senior Trip will not result in an extension). You must plan accordingly if you will be out of school on trips, and arrange to complete the work PRIOR to leaving. I will not reopen an assignment after it has closed.

Because this is an asynchronous course, if school is canceled due to weather, etc., on a day assignments are due, assignments are still due on that day. Nearly all assignments will close on Saturdays, at 11pm. If there is a different due date, it will say so in the assignment description.

**Reading Assignments:**

This course is designed to complete a chapter a week throughout the semester. It is expected that students will have read the weekly chapter in their text, reviewed the media provided on the website, the PowerPoint provided on the website, and any provided research articles PRIOR to completing their assignments each week.

**Attendance Policy:**

At least once every school day, you are required to log on to MOODLE and perform three tasks:

1. Check your inbox for new Messages.
2. Check for new course announcements under “Latest News,” also under “News Forum.”
3. Check the calendar under “Upcoming Events,” to see what work is due.

You should then proceed to work on the assignments within the current unit. Please note that failure to follow these procedures could result in a loss of points.

Because this is an Internet-based course, there is not a scheduled time set for your coursework. Each student must be dedicated to completing assignments independently. The student will be required to log in to this course on a regular basis, which will be checked by the teacher. The school and/or parents will be notified if a student has not logged into their course for a three day period.
Contacts will also be made if a student is logging into their course with only a minimum amount of work each day. Expect no less than 60-90 minutes of work each day, including both written and reading assignments.

**How to be Successful:**

These are examples of what students in the past have done to be successful in this course.

- Make sure you read through this entire document. There is useful information here.
- Stay on task by printing off your assignment sheets and keeping them in a notebook with a calendar, marking off what you have already completed, and when things are due.
- Plan ahead and do not procrastinate. Dual enrollment classes are college courses, and an asynchronous class requires discipline. If you are not self-disciplined in your studies, then please re-evaluate your course choices with your guidance counselor.
- You must stay focused and keep a steady pace, or you will fall behind. In this course, it is the students’ responsibility to keep up with assignments.
- Technical difficulties may occur. Remember that technical difficulties happen with online courses. Report technical problems as soon as possible by submitting a Trouble Ticket at www.svetn.org under the Contact tab, which is located on the upper-left hand side of the main Elite Learning page.
- Print out the PowerPoints. If you do your reading from the text and the guides at home, you will be able to perform most of our class requirements during the period provided at your high school, where technical difficulties such as losing internet connectivity are less likely to occur.

**Disabilities:**

Students who participate in this class are also high school students. Each high school has resources available for students with disabilities (IEP). Please contact the guidance counselor at your school to request academic accommodations. Each community college also has the Office of Student Services, which may be able to provide additional services. A representative from your school (guidance counselor) may make a request for services at the college. That office will evaluate the request and make recommendations for appropriate and reasonable accommodations, which the student will provide to the instructor. Please contact your guidance counselor or SVETN for more information.

**Emergency Policy:**

Follow all emergency policies for your home school.

**Academic Integrity:**

Each student will be bound by the academic codes of their school. Any violations will be reported to the student's school for appropriate disciplinary action. Cheating will not be tolerated. Because these courses are considered college courses, each student is considered a responsible adult, and will face the consequences of their chosen actions. It is assumed that students will maintain standards of conduct appropriate to membership in Elite Learning as well as the community college. Emphasis is placed on standards of student conduct rather than on limits or restrictions. Guidelines and regulations governing student conduct are developed by the Elite Learning faculty, staff, and administration. More detailed information is found in the Elite Learning Student Guide.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism means taking someone else's work and representing it as your own, and it is not tolerated in this course. This includes:

Copying and pasting precise wording from websites into your work. Even if you give them credit, but don't use quotes, it still counts as plagiarism.
Using an idea you got somewhere else without giving credit.

Paraphrasing someone else’s work without giving credit.

*The results of plagiarizing in this class are as follows:*

The first offense the student receives a verbal warning, a zero on the assignment, and educational authorities are contacted.

The second offense may result in failure of the class (a zero will be entered as the final grade), and the student will be reported to educational authorities (at your home school and community college) for further discipline.

*Personal Conduct:*

This standard applies to both formal and informal discussions within your course. You will be asked to dissent in a scholarly manner with your classmates during a number of assignments. Please keep the following in mind:

- Show respect for others.
- Always ask yourself ‘would I say this to a person’s face?’
- Avoid offensive language, profanity.
- Be tolerant of diverse opinions and perspectives.
- Be aware of the release of your personal information, and think about how comfortable you will be knowing that the class has read your work. In the past, students have had some difficulty with the over-sharing of personal information in some of the forum assignments. If you have any questions about how personal is acceptable to be in an assignment, please contact your instructor.

*It is critical that all students read the Elite Learning Guide for Students. This guide is located at [www.svetn.org](http://www.svetn.org) as well as within your course. Contact Dawn Stafford, SVETN Executive Director, if you have questions or concerns.*

*Course syllabus and schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

*Course Content*

**Unit 1**

- Prologue & Chapter 1  Thinking Critically With Psychological Science
- Chapter 2  The Biology of Mind
- Chapter 3  Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind
- Chapter 4  Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity
- Unit I Exam

**Unit 2**

- Chapter 5  Developing Through the Life Span
- Chapter 6  Sensation and Perception
- Chapter 7  Learning
- Chapter 8  Memory
- Unit II Midterm Exam
Unit 3

- Chapter 9  Thinking and Language
- Chapter 10  Intelligence
- Chapter 11  Motivation and Work
- Chapter 12  Emotions, Stress, and Health
- Unit III Exam

Unit 4

- Chapter 13  Personality
- Chapter 14  Social Psychology
- Chapter 15  Psychological Disorders
- Chapter 16  Therapy
- Unit IV Final Exam