

Syllabus

PSYC1810 Introduction to Psychology

2014

Committee Members:

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Date Reviewed: P-24-14

NCCA Council of Instructional Officers Chair

Chair: Jody Tomarek

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I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PSYC 1810

Introduction to Psychology

Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description: An introduction to the science of psychology including the application of critical thinking to the study of learning theory, memory, personality, growth and development, biological and neurological aspects, abnormal behavior, therapies, intelligence, motivation, emotion, sensation, perception, and theoretical perspectives.

3.0 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours

Contact hours per semester: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

The course will:

1. Explore psychological terminology and concepts, and identify the various disciplines within the field.
2. Describe scientific research methods and ethical principles.
3. Illustrate the scientific application of psychology and how the major psychological principles and theories can be applied to real life situations.
4. Provide for the critical examination and evaluation of psychological concepts, methods, and theories.
5. Define the interaction of bio-psycho-social processes on behavior and mental processes..
6. Offer opportunities for the examination of the impact of multicultural factors on the self and others.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will:

1. Compare theoretical perspectives of psychology
2. Communicate the goals, methods, and ethics of psychological research
3. Explain how physiology affects behavior and mental processes
4. Explain physical, cognitive, and social development over the lifespan
5. Examine aspects of sensation and perception
6. Analyze examples of learning theories and their components
7. Describe different models of memory
8. Describe how intelligence is defined, measured, and interpreted
9. Discuss the factors that motivate human behavior and mental processes
10. Identify the factors that comprise emotion
11. Identify and explain aspects of personality
12. Distinguish between major psychological disorders
13. Recognize the nature and states of consciousness
14. Analyze how stress influences health (optional)
15. Examine how social situations influence human behavior and mental processes

IV. COURSE CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE

1. Learning Theory
2. Memory
3. Personality
4. Growth and Development
5. Biological and Neurological Aspects
6. Abnormal Behavior & Therapies
7. Intelligence
8. Motivation
9. Emotion
10. Sensation and Perception
11. Theoretical Perspectives
12. Research Methods
13. States of Consciousness
14. Optional Topics:
 - a. Health and Stress
 - b. Social Psychology

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Suggested Required Texts: (The final selection of one of the following textbooks is at the discretion of the instructor.)

Psychology, Rathus

Psychology, Myers

Psychology in Your Life, Grison, Heatherton and Gazzaniga

The Science of Psychology, King

Essentials of Psychology Concepts and Application, Nevid

Essentials of Psychology, Bernstein

What is Psychology? Essentials Pastorino and Doyle-Portillo

Psychology: An Introduction, Lahey

Invitation to Psychology, Wade and Tavris

Essentials to Understanding Psychology, Feldman

Mastering the World of Psychology, Wood, Wood, and Boyd

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques including several of the following: lectures, small and large discussion groups, collaborative projects, research, essays, computer-assisted instruction, web-based instruction, multimedia and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Course grades, at the determination of the instructor, will be based on class and group participation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers, and/or a portfolio.

The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and her/his grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Content and schedule determined by instructor.