

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this introductory level course students learn to apply basic psychological concepts including scientific methods, biological bases of behavior, perception, states of consciousness, consequences of human behavior including abnormal behavior.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

Explain the basic concepts of psychology and their applicability in a variety of situations.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Evaluate Research Methods:Potential Elements of the Performance:

- discuss the different perspectives from which psychologists examine behavior and mental processes
- explain the importance of proper sampling and ethics in research
- Contrast case study, survey, naturalistic observation, correlation, and experimental methods.

2. Describe the neural and hormonal systemsPotential Elements of the Performance:

- describe the structure of neurons and explain how they communicate
- Identify the major divisions of the nervous system and describe their functions
- Describe the nature and function of the endocrine system
- Identify the structures of the brain and discuss their respective functions

3. Contrast Processes of sensation and perception:Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe the senses of vision hearing touch taste smell and the movement and position of the body.
- Explain the basic principle of perceptual organization
- State the claims of ESP and explain why research psychologists remain skeptical

4. Describe various states of consciousness:

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Discuss the nature of consciousness
- Describe the cyclical nature, functions and disorders of sleep
- Identify the content and functions of dreams and day dreams
- Explain the nature and uses of hypnosis
- Describe the physiological and psychological effects of specific drugs and the factors that contribute to their use

5. Compare Learning methods:

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Explain the processes of classical conditioning including acquisition, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization and discrimination.
- Explain the processes of operant conditioning including shaping, extinction and reinforcement.
- Discuss the effects of punishment on behavior
- Explain cognitive learning theory

6. Discuss basic concepts of motivation:

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Identify several theories of motivation
- Describe the basis of hunger, thirst and sexual motivation
- Contrast extrinsic and intrinsic achievement motivation

7. Compare theories of personality development:

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe the psychoanalytical, trait, humanistic and social-cognitive perspectives on personality and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses
- Examine the techniques utilized to assess personality

8. Describe various psychological disorders and their treatment

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Discuss the prevalence of psychological disorders and the controversy surrounding the use of diagnostic labels
- Compare and contrast the current perspectives on the causes of abnormal behaviour
- Describe the causes, symptoms and treatment of anxiety, somatoform, dissociative, mood, schizophrenia personality, cognitive and sexual and gender identity disorders
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the major psycho-therapies and biomedical therapies

III. TOPICS:

Course topics include some or all of the following as time allowed:

MODULE

1. Discovering Psychology
2. Psychology and Science
3. The Brains Building Blocks
4. The Incredible Nervous System
6. Perception
7. Consciousness, Sleep, and Dreams
8. Hypnosis and Drugs
9. Classical Conditioning
10. Operant and Cognitive Approaches
15. Motivation
19. Freudian & Humanistic Theories
20. Social Cognitive and Trait Theories
22. Disorders I: Definition & Anxiety Disorders
23. Disorders II: Mood Disorder and Schizophrenia
24. Therapies

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Introduction to Psychology (2001) 6th Edition; Rod Plotnik; Brooks/Cole Publishing Company

Optional Resource: Study Guide for Plotnik's Introduction to Psychology, prepared by Matthew Enos.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

Students will be responsible for regular attendance and class participation in all areas of the course, as well as all readings and tests as requested. The course content and evaluation can be modified at the discretion of the professor

The final Course grade will be determined as follows:

A.	7 Tests x 10% =	70%
	(using a variety of techniques including recognition and recall testing)	
B.	One Take Home Test	10%
C.	Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total		100%

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.00
A	80 - 89%	3.75
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
F (Fail)	59% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism

Students should refer to the definition of "academic dishonesty" in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in "academic dishonesty" will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course, as may be decided by the professor. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

**NOTIFICATION POLICY IN BRIEF
MUTUAL RESPECT COURTESY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

If a student misses a test due to a verifiable illness or incident, the professor will determine if the student is eligible for an extension for an assignment or re-scheduling of a test. The student is ultimately responsible and obligated to contact the professor by phone, in person, or in writing "prior" to the assigned due date or test time. The College touch-tone/24 hour voice mail number allows you to immediately notify the professor with your name, message and phone number.

Upon returning to the college, i.e. (Your first day back) the student will immediately contact the professor to make arrangements for testing. Call, or come by the professor's office, or leave a note under his/her office door with a telephone number where you can be reached Failure to do so will result in a zero grade.

Readings, Video Tapes and Handouts:

Students are responsible for obtaining any materials missed due to absenteeism.

Complementary Activities:

To meet course objectives, students should expect to match each scheduled class hour with independent study.

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

IX. CELL PHONES must be turned off during class time. No cell phones are allowed in class on test days.