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Course Name

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Code No.

- I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of the science of psychology: its methods, concepts, and theories, including the topic areas of 1) brain, consciousness, sensation, and perception; 2) learning and memory; 3) intelligence, thought, and creativity; 4) motivation. Psychological concepts will be studied with a view towards how they can be applied to enhance the student's understanding of psychological adaptation and the causes and consequences of human behaviour.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

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

1. Identify and describe the major approaches to psychology, the contributors, and the research methods.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- identify the key names in the history of psychology and their main contributions
  - list and differentiate the five major approaches to psychology
  - list and describe various methods of research design, including factors affecting research
2. Describe and explain the role that biology plays in the field of psychology.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- describe the structure and function of the central nervous system
  - describe the structure and function of neurons and the roles played by neurotransmitters and receptors
  - list and describe the structure and function of the peripheral nervous system
  - explain the specialization of the cerebral hemispheres and the effects of brain damage
  - describe the major endocrine glands, the hormones they secrete, and their principle functions
3. Describe and explain the relationships between sensation, perception, and behaviour.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- list the senses and describe how sensory stimuli are experienced as sensations
- describe the Gestalt principles of perceptual organization

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- identify factors that influence perception and categorize them according to biological, psychological, or environmental factors
4. Describe the different levels of human consciousness and the factors that influence them.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- distinguish and explain the different levels of sleep and consciousness
  - describe and differentiate how consciousness can be altered by hypnosis and drugs
  - describe and differentiate sleep disorders
5. Identify and describe the major learning theories.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- explain and differentiate classical, operant, and cognitive learning theories
  - explain the concept of operant conditioning and describe the main influencing factors
  - describe the various types of cognitive learning theories
6. Describe the systems and processes involved in memory.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- explain and distinguish the different systems and processes involved in memory
  - compare the nature of remembering with forgetting
  - evaluate and apply current research to memory improvement
7. Recognize various concepts and controversies of intelligence and its measurement.

Potential elements of the Performance:

- explain the nature-nurture issues of intelligence
  - identify issues of cultural diversity as it relates to the use and misuse of IQ testing
8. Describe the physiological, cognitive, and behavioural components involved in the main theories of motivation.

Potential elements of the Performance:

- describe and identify the main theories of motivation
- describe the “social motives” for achievement and competence

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**III. TOPICS:**

1. Discovering Psychology
2. Psychology and Science
3. The Brain's Building Blocks
4. The Incredible Nervous System
6. Perception
7. Consciousness, Sleep, and Dreams
8. Hypnosis and Drugs
9. Classical Conditioning
10. Operant Conditioning and Cognitive Learning Theory
11. Types of Memory
12. Remembering and Forgetting
13. Intelligence
15. Motivation

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

Introduction to Psychology (1999) 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Rod Plotnik. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company

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

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## V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

### Evaluation

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) 4 tests x **20%** = **80%** (using a variety of techniques including multiple choice, matching, and short answer)
- b) One written assignment (broken into 3 mini assignments) = **20%**  
Mini assignments will be due on the following dates:
  - i) last PSY102 class of the week 2001 09 24
  - ii) last PSY102 class week of 2001 10 15
  - iii) last PSY102 class week of 2001 11 12

Further details related to the assignments will be distributed in week two of classes.

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 touch-tone/24-hour number allows you to immediately notify the professor with your name, message, and phone number.

Upon returning to college (your first day back), the student will **immediately** contact the professor to make arrangements for testing. Phone, 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.**

Notification policy in brief: **Mutual respect, courtesy, and accountability**

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

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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
R (Repeat)	59% or below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas.	
X	A temporary grade. This is used in limited situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course (see <i>Policies &amp; Procedures Manual – Deferred Grades and Make-up</i> ).	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office. This is used to facilitate transcript preparation when, for extenuating circumstances, it has not been possible for the faculty member to report grades.	

## 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. Visit Room E1204 or call Extension 493, 717, or 491 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.

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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/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. 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.

**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 see the coordinator of the Social Science Department. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.