

Course discipline/number/title: PSYC 2618: General Psychology

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 4
2. Hours/Week: 4 lecture
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
4. Other requirements: None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Goal 7/Human Diversity

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The topics covered will include research methods, the biological roots of behavior, sensation, perception, principles of learning, memory, thinking, language, intelligence, emotions, stress, personality, psychological disorders, therapy, and social psychology. College level reading and writing skills are recommended.

C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): November, 2019

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Background to the Science of Psychology
 - a) Historical Roots
 - b) Research Methods
2. The Brain, Biology, and Behavior (may include, but not be limited to:)
 - a) Nature/Nurture
 - b) Evolutionary Psychology
 - c) Physiological Psychology
3. Lifespan Development
4. Cognitive and Behavioral Processes (may include, but not be limited to:)
 - a) Learning
 - b) Memory
 - c) Decision Making/Problem Solving
 - d) Intelligence
 - e) Language
 - f) Consciousness
5. Individual Psychological Process (may include, but not be limited to:)
 - a) Personality
 - b) Stress/Health
 - c) Motivation/Emotion
6. Social Processes (may include, but not be limited to:)
 - a) Culture
 - b) Social Influence
 - c) Obedience
7. Mental Health
 - a) Psychological Disorders
 - b) Treatment for Mental Illness

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings of psychology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. Describe the history of psychology and how it is distinct from related disciplines such as sociology and philosophy.
4. Utilize critical thinking to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
5. Apply psychological principles to personal and social issues.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of diversity-related issues in psychology.

F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations among groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great popular diversity.

G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Methods may include but are not limited to:

1. Objective and short answer tests
2. Essay tests
3. Short papers (1-2 pages)

H. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S). This course contributes to meeting the following RCTC Core Outcome(s):

Critical Thinking. Students will think systematically and explore information thoroughly before accepting or formulating a position or conclusion.

Global Awareness and Diversity. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and respect for human diversity through their words and actions.

I. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None