

Course discipline/number/title: PSYC 2918: General Psychology: Honors

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 4
2. Hours/Week: 4
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): INFS 2915
4. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Goal 7/Human Diversity.

This course is an advanced introduction to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. One of Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Study Topic themes will unite topics covered in a traditional general psychology course such as research methods, Nature/Nurture, Learning, Memory, Thinking, Language, Development, Intelligence, Emotions, Stress, Personality, Social Psychology, and Psychological Disorders. Through an examination of primary text and the completion of an original research project, emphasis will be placed on the critical analysis and integration of broad psychological theory as it connects to the selected theme. This course is the Honors Equivalent of PSYC 2618.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): February, 2017

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Introduction to the selected Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study Topic
2. Conducting research in psychology.
3. Reading psychological literature and writing scientifically in psychology.
4. The Brain, Biology, and Behavior (Nature/Nurture and Evolutionary Psychology)
5. Cognitive and Social Development
6. Sensation/Perception
7. States of Consciousness
8. Learning
9. Memory
10. Thinking, Language, and Intelligence
11. Motivation and Emotion
12. Stress and Health
13. Personality
14. Psychological Disorders
15. Social/Cultural influences on human thought and behavior.

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

1. Articulate the application/relevance of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study topic across psychological concepts.
2. Evaluate the science of psychology.
3. Interpret behavior and mental processes using universal and culture-specific levels of analysis.
4. Evaluate the diversity of psychology's sub-disciplines and theories.
5. Apply research methods in psychology.
6. Evaluate varied academic sources and the conclusions drawn from them.
7. Write all sections of a research report using APA writing style.

E. 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 between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.

- E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued. . .
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.
- F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
Methods may include but are not limited to:
1. In-class participation/discussion.
2. Critical Thinking Assignments.
3. Original Research Project/Presentation.
- G. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:
Communication. Students will communicate appropriately for their respective audiences.

Critical Thinking. Students will think systematically and explore information thoroughly before accepting or formulating a position or conclusion.
- H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):
Compared to PSYC 2618, this Honors Course will integrate Phi Theta Kappa's most recent Honors Study Topic, will rely on primary texts, and will require that students complete an original research project.