

Course Proposal for Revised General Education Course

Introductory Psychology

1. Catalog Description:

- a. Course level: PSY 1879G
- b. Title: Introductory Psychology
- c. Credit: 3-0-3
- d. Term to be offered: F, S, SU
- e. Short Title: Intro Psych
- f. Course Description: An integrated overview of the research methods, major themes, and content domains in psychology, including topics in the biological, cognitive, developmental, social/personality, and mental/physical health domains. As part of a course requirement, students will have the opportunity to participate in psychological research or summarize research articles in psychology journals.
- g. Prerequisite: None
- h. The course is writing active.

2. Student Learning Objectives

- a. In successfully completing this course, students will
 - (1) be required to write in standard English (writing)
 - (2) complete several writing assignments analyzing, synthesizing, and applying principles and concepts covered in course readings and class lectures (writing, critical thinking, citizenship)
 - (3) compare and contrast theories and methods in psychology and their applications to relevant daily experiences (critical thinking)
 - (4) compare and contrast the value and limitations of the scientific approach for understanding psychological phenomena (critical thinking)
 - (5) recognize and analyze ethical issues in psychological research (critical thinking, citizenship)
 - (6) understand the impact of psychological processes on society, including the implications of such issues as intelligence testing, prejudice and discrimination, and attitude formation and change (critical thinking, citizenship)
 - (7) recognize individual differences and similarities among people (citizenship)
- b. Students will also:
 - (1) gain firsthand experience with psychological research by either participating in on going research in the Psychology Department and/or summarizing research articles published in professional psychology journals.

3. Course Outline

Week 1: What is Psychology?

- ♦Defining Psychology ♦Psychology's Beginnings as a Science ♦Early and Contemporary Approaches
- ♦Areas of Specializations

Week 2: Psychology's Scientific Methods

- ♦Scientific Research and the Scientific Method ♦Research Methods ♦Research Challenges ♦Ethics in Research

Week 3: Biological Foundations and Neuroscience

- ♦Genes, Evolution, Nature vs. Nurture ♦Neurons and the Organization of the Nervous System ♦Brain Structure and Function ♦Brain Damage, Plasticity, Repair

Week 4: Sensation and Perception

- ♦Detecting the World—Thresholds ♦Visual System ♦Auditory System ♦Other Senses ♦Perception

Week 5: States of Consciousness

- ♦Defining Consciousness ♦Sleep ♦Dreams ♦Hypnosis ♦Psychoactive Drugs

EXAM #1

Week 6: Learning

- ♦What is Learning? ♦Classical Conditioning ♦Operant Conditioning ♦Observational Learning
- ♦Cognitive, Biological, and Cultural Factors in Learning

Week 7: Memory

- ♦Nature of Memory and Encoding ♦Memory Storage ♦ Retrieval and Forgetting ♦Memory and Study Strategies

Week 8: Thinking and Language

- ♦The Cognitive Revolution ♦Forming Concepts and Solving Problems ♦Thinking Critically, Reasoning, and Making Decisions ♦Language Development ♦Language, Culture, and Cognition

Week 9: Intelligence

- ♦Defining Intelligence ♦History of Assessment ♦Intelligence Tests ♦Controversies and Issues in Intelligence: Heredity vs. Environment, Culture and Ethnicity ♦Extremes of Intelligence and Creativity

Week 10: Human Development

- ♦Prenatal Development ♦Physical Development ♦Cognitive Development ♦Socioemotional Development ♦Adolescence ♦Adulthood and Aging ♦Death and Dying

EXAM #2

Week 11: Motivation and Emotion

- ♦Biological, Cognitive, and Behavioral/Social/Cultural Influences ♦Hierarchy of Motives ♦Hunger ♦Sexuality ♦Achievement ♦Defining Emotions ♦Cognitive, Behavioral, Sociocultural Dimensions

Week 12: Personality

- ♦Perspectives on Personality ♦Freud and the Psychoanalytic Perspective ♦Behavioral and Social Cognitive Perspectives ♦Humanistic Perspective ♦Trait Perspective ♦Assessing Personality

Week 13: Abnormal Psychology

- ♦Defining and Classifying Abnormal Behavior ♦Categories of Mental Disorders: Anxiety, Somatoform, Dissociative, Mood ♦Schizophrenia ♦Personality Disorders

Week 14: Therapies

- ♦Nature and History of Psychotherapy ♦Approaches to Psychotherapy: Psychodynamic, Humanistic, Behavioral, Cognitive, Group ♦Evaluating the Psychotherapies ♦Biomedical Therapies: Drugs, Electroconvulsive Shock Therapy, Psychosurgery

Week 15: Social Psychology

- ♦Social Thinking: Attribution and Attitudes ♦Social Influence: Conformity, Compliance, and Obedience ♦Cultural and Ethnic Influences ♦Social Interaction and Relationships: Aggression, Altruism, and Attraction, Love, & Relationships

EXAM #3

FINAL EXAM

4. Evaluation of student learning

a. Achievement of student learning will be evaluated based on the following:

- In addition to a cumulative Final, an exam will be given during the 5th, 10th, and 15th weeks of the semester. Exams will have objective questions and allow evaluation of **critical thinking**.
- Three written assignments will be completed during the 4th, 9th, and 14th weeks of the semester; these will consist of a series of essay questions about chapter materials during that 1/3 of the course. Written assignments will allow evaluation of **writing, critical thinking, and citizenship**.
- The grade for each student will be determined using the following criteria:

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%

Exam #3	20%
Written Assignments	20%
Final Exam	20%

- b. This course satisfies the criteria for a writing active course through the writing-to-learn assignments and several brief, in-class, writing exercises of opinion or content-oriented material.

5. Rationale

- a. **Segment**: This course is designed for the **Social and Behavioral Sciences** segment of the general education program. In meeting the requirements of this segment, the course will help students understand the application of psychological theory, methodology, and empirical findings to the study of behavior and mental processes. On a more general level, it will help students gain insight into contemporary social issues, and understand the impact of individual and social behavior on the future.
- b. **Level and Prerequisites**: Because the course serves as a basic introduction to the discipline of psychology, students should take it in their first or second year of college. There are no prerequisites for the course.
- c. **Similarity to Existing Courses**: This is a revision of PSY 1879C and should maintain the same curriculum I.D. as PSY 1879C. It will replace PSY 1879C–Principles of Psychology in the undergraduate psychology curriculum.
- d. **Required/Elective**: As an introduction to the discipline of psychology, this course is required of all psychology majors and minors, and is a prerequisite for all other psychology courses. Because it is the basic course in psychology, it is required or recommended for a variety of other majors and programs for which an elementary knowledge of the principles of behavior is necessary.

6. Implementation

- a. **Faculty member to whom the course will be assigned**: Psychology Department faculty will be assigned to teach this course including, but not limited to, Dr. William Addison, Dr. Caridad Brito, Dr. Russell Gruber, Dr. Assege HaileMariam, Dr. Linda Leal, and Dr. Joseph Williams.
- b. **Text**: Santrock, J. (2000). Psychology (6th ed.). New York:McGraw-Hill. Other textbooks [e.g., Weiten, W. (1998). Psychology: Themes and variations (4th ed.). Boston:Brooks/Cole.] maybe used, depending on faculty.
- c. **Additional costs to students**: None
- d. **Term to be first offered**: Spring 2001

7. Community College Transfer

- A community college course may be judged equivalent to this course.

8. **Date approved by the department:** March 31, 2000

9. **Date approved by the college curriculum committee:** April 7, 2000

10. **Date approved by CAA:** October 19, 2000

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INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY, HONORS

1. Catalog Description:

- a. **Course Level:** PSY 1890G
- b. **Title:** Introductory Psychology, Honors
- c. **Credit:** 3-0-3
- d. **Term to be Offered:** F, S
- e. **Short Title:** Intro Psych Hnrs
- f. **Course Description:** An integrated overview of the basic methods and principles of psychology, including natural and social science contributions to the understanding of behavior and cognitive processes.
- g. **Prerequisites:** Admission to the Honors Program
- h. The course is writing-intensive