

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



COURSE OUTLINE

PSYC 101 – Introductory Psychology

**Prepared By: Bruce A. Kenna
Reviewed and Modified by Edward Boyd 2012 and 2015**

**School of Business and Liberal Arts
Social Sciences Department
May 2015**

- A. **TITLE:** Introductory Psychology
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** PSYC 101
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to the scientific study of human mind emotion, and behavior from a variety of theoretical perspectives. The focus will be on the development of an objective and critical framework from which to understand the individual alone and in groups from a scientific and multi-model approach.

Major topics may include: biopsychology, cognition, memory, consciousness, learning, development, social psychology, personality, abnormality, sensation, and perception.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

| <i>Course Objective</i> | <i>Institutional SLO</i> |
|--|---|
| a. Identify and apply scientific methods of psychology and their uses and limitations to evaluate claims, identify biases in statements, and differentiate fact from opinion in psychology. | 1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence |
| b. Compare and evaluate a variety of theoretical perspectives. | 1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence |
| c. Describe theories and principles of perception, sleep, learning, motivation, emotion, personality, thinking, social interaction, and development, and apply psychological concepts and principles to example scenarios. | 1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence 4. Interpersonal/Intrapersonal skills |
| d. Critically analyze, interpret, and evaluate personal behavior, media claims and cultural myths related to basic psychology. | 1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence 4. Interpersonal/Intrapersonal skills |
| e. Identify basic principles of learning, memory, and cognition to ones' personal life, in areas such as studying and problem solving. | 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence 4. Interpersonal/Intrapersonal skills |

K. **TEXTS:**

D. Coon (2014). Introduction to Psychology, Cengage Publishing.

L. REFERENCES:

D. Myers (2013). Psychology, Worth Publishers.
S. Ciccarelli and N. White (2013), Pearson Prentice Hall.

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Exams, quizzes, short answer essays, student presentations, writing assignments, and class discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. History of Psychology as a Science

- A. Major schools of thought: Structuralism, Functionalism, Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism, Gestalt, Existential, Humanistic, Cognitive, Evolutionary
- B. Research Methods: Observation, Survey, Case Study Correlation, Experimental
- C. Strengths and Weaknesses, Uses and Misuses of scientific methods.

II. Biopsychology

- A. Structure of a neuron
- B. Division of the nervous system
- C. Hierarchy of the brain
- D. Lobes of the brain
- E. Endocrine System

III. Sensation and Perception

- A. The senses and how they work
- B. Principles of Perception
- C. Perceptual Illusions and their explanations

IV. Learning

- A. Classical Conditioning
- B. Operant Conditioning
- C. Social/Observational Learning
- D. Cognitive Learning
- E. Applications

V. Memory

- A. Biological Theories of Memory
- B. Atkinson Shiffrin Model of Memory
- C. Characteristics of Each Stage of Memory
- D. Memory failures and their explanations
- E. Applications to learning, studying, eye-witness testimony, controversial issues

VI. Cognition

- A. Approaches to Cognition-Piaget, Information Processing
- B. Concepts, concept acquisition, and structures of knowledge
- C. Thinking and Problem Solving
- D. Issues and Controversies - learning disabilities, intelligence, errors in thinking, etc.

VII. Motivation and Emotion

- A. Major theories of Motivation-Hull's Drive Reduction Theory, Maslow's Need Hierarchy, McClelland's Achievement and Power Motives, Cognitive-Expectancy Theory
- B. Applications and Examples of Motivation Theories and principles
- C. Major Theories of Emotion-James-Lange Theory, Cannon-Bard Theory, Schachter-Singer Theory, Plutchik's Evolutionary Theory, Cognitive Views
- D. Issues and Controversies

VIII. Consciousness

- A. Definitions and problems in studying consciousness
- B. Sleep-stages, biological basis, deprivation
- C. Dreams and dreaming
- D. Hypnosis, Meditation, and Altered States
- E. Substance use, abuse, and addiction

IX. Developmental Psychology

- A. Basic issues in a lifespan perspective
- B. Theories of Development-Psychodynamic, Cognitive, Learning, and Humanistic
- C. Stages and Domains of Development

X. Personality

- A. Theories of Personality-Psychodynamic, Trait Theories, Cognitive, Behavioral, Humanistic
- B. Personality Assessment
- C. Controversies in Personality

XI. Abnormal Psychology

- A. Definitions, classifications, and controversies
- B. Health, Stress, and Stress Management
- C. Major Categories of Abnormality
- D. Theories and Therapies

XII. Social Psychology

- A. Interpersonal Influence-Conformity, Obedience, Helping
- B. Cooperation and Competition
- C. Prejudice and Discrimination
- D. Attitudes and Cognitive Dissonance
- E. Attribution
- F. Media Influence

XIII. Other optional topics at the Discretion of the Instructor

- A. Psychological Tests and Measurements-Aptitude, achievement, personality, Sensorimotor
- B. Human Sexuality
- C. Organizational Psychology
- D. Consumer Psychology
- E. Gender Studies
- F. Criminal Psychology and Law
- G. Current Topics and Controversies