

**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, Plutchick'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