

PSY 150
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course provides an overview of the scientific study of human behavior. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, sensation, perception, learning, motivation, cognition, abnormal behavior, personality theory, social psychology, and other relevant topics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the science of psychology. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social behavioral science.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- I. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the psychology discipline, including a written explanation of the major theories in psychology, the primary areas of research in psychology, and an explanation of how psychology is applied in everyday life by:
 - a. discussing the history of psychology;
 - b. describing the functioning of the brain and nervous system on both the molar level and the molecular level;
 - c. explaining the difference between sensation and perception and describe how sensation becomes perception;
 - d. identifying operant and classical conditioning and explain how each occurs;
 - e. explaining at least two theories of memory and at least two theories of why we forget;
 - f. using at least one psychological theory to explain motivation;
 - g. defining emotion and stress and explain two theories of how we express emotion;
 - h. explaining Piaget's theory of cognitive development;
 - i. explaining the personality theories of Freud, Erikson, and Rogers;
 - j. describing the variety of abnormal behaviors and contemporary models of abnormal behavior;
 - k. describing at least four different approaches to therapy, including an integrated approach to therapeutic intervention; and
 - l. defining social psychology and provide one theory of attitude formation.

- II. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, the variables that may influence research results, and list and explain the various research methods used by psychologists to study human behavior by:
 - a. presenting a demonstration of an experiment;
 - b. accurately identifying the independent, dependent and extraneous variables, including cross-cultural variables that impact research interpretation;

- c. explaining the difference between experimental data and correlational data; and
- d. evaluating the validity of research results.

III. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and explain theoretical connections and interrelationships between different areas of study in psychology, including recognizing the ways in which research in one area may support and build upon research in another area by:

- a. discussing altered stages of consciousness;
- b. describing the genetics of heredity;
- c. giving a general overall description of human development from conception through old age, emphasizing major milestones;
- d. giving arguments pro and con for the use of intelligence tests; and
- e. identifying the major kinds of personality measures.

CORE CONCEPTS EXAMINED:

- A. History of psychology
- B. Goals of psychology
- C. Critical thinking in science
- D. Methods of data collection
- E. Interpretation of correlation
- F. Elements of Experimentation
- G. Critical thinking in science
- H. Biological influences on behavior and mental processes
- I. States of consciousness
- J. Elements of learning and motivation, and the relationship of learning to motivation
- K. Cognitive processing
- L. Emotional states and stress
- M. Human development
- N. Theories and measurement of Personality
- O. Diagnosis, explanation and treatment of mental disorders
- P. Theories and processes in social psychology

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.