

College of San Mateo Course Outline

- New Course
 Update/No change
 Course Revision (Minor)
 Course Revision (Major)

Date: March 21, 2006

Department: Psychology Number: 100

Course Title: General Psychology Units: 3.0

Hours/Week: Lecture: 3.0

Lab:

By Arrangement:

Length of Course

- Semester-long
 Short course (Number of weeks ___)
 Open entry/Open exit

Grading

- Letter
 Credit/No Credit
 Grade Option (letter or Credit/No Credit)

1. **Prerequisite** (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)

None.

2. **Corequisite** (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)

None.

3. **Recommended Preparation** (Attach Enrollment Validation Form.)

Eligibility for ENGL 848 or 838 and completion of READ 400 or 405 or 415 with a grade of C or higher OR concurrent enrollment in READ 400, 405, or 415 OR appropriate skill level as indicated by the reading placement tests or other measures.

Survey of major topics, theories, and research methods of contemporary psychology. Covers personality, social behavior, memory, motivation, emotion, perception, learning, and biological basis of behavior. (CSU/UC) (CAN PSY 2)

4. **Catalog Description** (Include prerequisites/corequisites/recommended preparation.)

Recommended Preparation: eligibility for ENGL 848 or 838 and completion of READ 400 or 405 or 415 with a grade of C or higher OR concurrent enrollment in READ 400, 405, or 415 OR appropriate skill level as indicated by the reading placement tests or other measures.

5. **Class Schedule Description** (Include prerequisites/corequisites/recommended preparation.)

Introduction to psychology; perception, motivation, emotion, learning and thinking, observation of behavior, and measurement.

Recommended Preparation: eligibility for ENGL 848 or 838 and completion of READ 400 or 405 or 415 with a grade of C or higher OR concurrent enrollment in READ 400, 405, or 415 OR appropriate skill level as indicated by the reading placement tests or other measures. (CSU/UC) (CAN PSY 2)

6. **Student Learning Outcomes** (Identify 1-6 expected learner outcomes using active verbs.)

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. discuss the historical, philosophical and scientific bases of the discipline of psychology;
2. compare and contrast different explanations of human and animal behavior;
3. evaluate critically claims and evidence in psychological research;
4. discuss biological aspects of human behavior;
5. demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method and experimental analysis.

7. **Course Objectives** (Identify specific teaching objectives detailing course content and activities. *For some courses, the course objectives will be the same as the student learning outcomes. If this is the case, please simply indicate this in this section).*

In addition to the student learning outcomes above, the course has this further objective:
to prepare the future psychology major or the non-major for further coursework in psychology.

8. **Course Content** (Brief but complete topical outline of the course that includes major subject areas [1-2 pages]. Should reflect all course objectives listed above. In addition, you may attach a sample course syllabus with a timeline.)

See attached topical outline.

9. **Representative Instructional Methods** (Describe instructor-initiated teaching strategies that will assist students in meeting course objectives. Include examples of out-of-class assignments, required reading and writing assignments, and methods for teaching critical thinking skills.)

Lecture/discussion. Required readings. Written/oral reports. Films, videotapes, DVDs, CDs, etc., to supplement lectures and reinforce course material.

10. **Representative Methods of Evaluation** (Describe measurement of student progress toward course objectives. Courses with required writing component and/or problem-solving emphasis must reflect critical thinking component. If skills class, then applied skills.)

Examinations: objective, short answer and essay. Periodic quizzes on assigned readings and lectures.

11. **Representative Text Materials** (With few exceptions, texts need to be current. Include publication dates.)

Neil R. Carlson et al., Psychology: The Science of Behavior, 6/E (Allyn & Bacon/Longman, 2007)
Lefton/Brannon, Psychology, 9/E (Allyn & Bacon/Longman, 2006)
Kosslyn/Rosenberg, Psychology in Context, 3/E (Allyn & Bacon/Longman, 2007)
Zimbardo/Johnson/Weber, Psychology: Core Concepts, 5/E (Allyn & Bacon/Longman, 2006)
Gerrig/Zimbardo, Psychology and Life, 17/E (Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005)
Dennis Coon, Psychology: A Journey, 2/E (Thomson/Wadsworth, 2004)

Prepared by: _____
(Signature)

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Submission Date: _____

8. Course Content. Psychology 100, General Psychology.

PURPOSE: This course is required for psychology majors and is intended to parallel introductory courses in psychology at four-year colleges and universities. It introduces the student to basic principles and concepts of psychology, particularly the experimental method and the evaluation of evidence.

TOPICS:

- I. Psychology as a science
 - Terminology
 - Experimental method
 - Statistics
- II. History of psychology: Aristotle to the present
- III. Approaches to psychology
 - Psychoanalytic, humanistic, behavioral and cognitive approaches
 - Heredity and environment
- IV. The brain and the nervous system
- V. Perception
 - The sense organs
 - The nature of "reality"
- VI. Learning: From behaviorism to cognitive psychology
- VII. Intelligence
 - Convergent and divergent thinking
 - Insight and creativity
- VIII. Child development: From Freud to Piaget
- IX. Memory
 - Brain structures
 - Short- and long-term models
 - Theories of forgetting
 - Mnemonic devices
- X. Emotions and motivation
- XI. Theories of personality
- XII. Social psychology
- XIII. Attitudes and attitude change
 - Propaganda
 - Critical thinking
- XIV. Etiology and sociobiology
- XV. Abnormal psychology
- XVI. Systems of psychotherapy