

Montgomery County Community College  
 PSY 101  
 Introduction to Psychology  
 3-3-0

An examination of the vocabulary, theories and research methods common to the various branches of the science of psychology. The course surveys psychology from its early history to important new advances in brain research. The principles of psychology are applied to learning, to mental health, and to everyday life.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

None

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Utilize course specific vocabulary to discuss the discipline of psychology.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities Website Review Article Review Research Proposal and Classroom Presentation Nature vs. Nurture Debate Tests Written Papers	Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
2. Identify the characteristics of the scientific method.	Lecture Discussion Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities Website Review Article Review Research Proposal and Classroom Presentation Nature vs. Nurture Debate Tests Written Papers	Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Explain the logic and uses of descriptive, experimental and correlational research.	Lecture Discussion Small Group Learning Activities	Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
4. Describe the basic structures of the brain and the functions associated with each.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Small Group Learning Activities	Tests Written Papers Classroom Presentation
5. Identify the key parts of the neuron, the functions of neurotransmitters, and the effects of psychoactive drugs on the central nervous system.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials	Tests Written Papers Classroom Presentation
6. Differentiate among behavioral, psychoanalytic, humanistic, and cognitive approaches in psychology based on their origins, basic assumptions, key thinkers and enduring contributions.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Small Group Learning Activities	Tests Written Papers Classroom Presentation
7. Identify applications of psychological principles in everyday life.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Website Review Article Review Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
8. Describe the basic characteristics of disorders of thought and mood; identify key characteristics of schizophrenia and the mood disorders.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Website Review Article Review Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
9. Analyze research methods in psychology and the conclusions that may and may not be validly drawn from each.	Lecture Discussion Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Article Review Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
10. Distinguish between peer-reviewed scientific findings and “pop psychology”.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Website Review Article Review Research Proposal and Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
11. Describe major theories and research findings in the psychological study of human behavior.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Website Review Article Review Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
12. Identify the influences of individual, interpersonal, and societal factors on human behavior in at least two of the following: development, mental disorders, learning, and personality.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Website Review Article Review Research Proposal and Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers
13. Discuss the impact of the social-cultural context on key aspects of human development, human behavior (including mental illness and its treatment), the uses of psychology in a range of areas, including advertising, education, health care, and business.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources Small Group Learning Activities	Website Review Article Review Classroom Presentation Tests Written Papers

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

## SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Introductions, Goals, Issues in the Study of Psychology
2. Overview
3. The Neurons and Neurotransmitters
4. Biology and Behavior II
5. The Major Structures and Systems in the Brain
6. Lobes of the Brain
7. Hemispheres of the Brain
8. The PNS and Endocrine System
9. Sleep
10. Psychoactive Drugs
11. Health and Stress
12. The Stress Response
13. Theories of Stress
14. Stress and the Immune System
15. Psychological Disorders
16. Issues in Diagnosis
17. Mood Disorders
18. Memory
19. Remembering: Processes & Systems
20. Kinds of Memory
21. Forgetting: Causes
22. What Helps Memory?
23. Theories of Intelligence
24. The Learning Theories
25. Classical Conditioning
26. Operant Conditioning
27. The Learning Theories III
28. Social-Cognitive Approaches
29. Theories of Personality
30. Freud and the Neo-Freudians
31. Trait and Learning Theories
32. Humanistic Theories
33. Human Development
34. Social-Emotional Development
35. Attachment Theory
36. Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development
37. Issues in Current Research

## LEARNING MATERIALS:

Licht, D.M., Hull, M.G., and Ballantine, C. (2016), *Presenting Psychology*. Worth Publishers/Scientific American.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

**COURSE APPROVAL:**

Prepared by: Ann Marie Donohue	Date: 9/2005
Revised by: Ann Marie Donohue	Date: 4/2009
Revised by: Ann Marie Donohue	Date: 9/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 10/8/2012
Revised by: Ann Marie Donohue	Date: 7/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 7/22/2013
Revised by: Ann Marie Donohue	Date: 12/14/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 12/15/2017



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College’s mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*