Montgomery County Community College
PSY 101H
Introduction to Psychology, Honors
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.

This Honors course fosters high-achieving students’ growth towards learning outcomes such as: problem solving, often with creative approaches; critical reading, artistic literacy, or original data analysis; forming judgments based on evidence, often from alternative modes of inquiry or integrative learning; clear, persuasive research writing; oral presentation; and articulate reflection on personal growth. Honors courses are more likely to utilize student-driven active learning, emphasizing exploration and discovery, rather than the acquisition of specific knowledge; faculty might provide projects with no pre-determined conclusion, but with real-world application.

REQUISITES:
Previous Course Requirements
None

Concurrent Course Requirements
None

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OUTCOMES</th>
<th>LEARNING ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EVALUATION METHODS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</td>
<td>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</td>
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1. Utilize course specific vocabulary to discuss the discipline of psychology.
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<td>2. Identify the characteristics of the scientific method.</td>
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<td>3. Explain the logic and uses of descriptive, experimental and correlational research.</td>
<td>Lecture Discussion Small Group Learning Activities</td>
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<td>4. Describe the basic structures of the brain and the functions associated with each.</td>
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<td>5. Identify the key parts of the neuron, the functions of neurotransmitters, and the effects of psychoactive drugs on the central nervous system.</td>
<td>Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials</td>
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<td>6. Differentiate among behavioral, psychoanalytic, humanistic, and cognitive approaches in psychology based on their origins, basic assumptions, key thinkers and enduring contributions.</td>
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<td>8. Describe the basic characteristics of disorders of thought and mood; identify key characteristics of schizophrenia and the mood disorders.</td>
<td>Lecture, Discussion, AV/Multimedia Materials, Research Resources, Small Group Learning Activities</td>
<td>Website Review, Article Review, Classroom Presentation, Tests, Written Papers</td>
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<td>9. Analyze research methods in psychology and the conclusions that may and may not be validly drawn from each.</td>
<td>Lecture, Discussion, Research Resources, Small Group Learning Activities</td>
<td>Article Review, Classroom Presentation, Tests, Written Papers</td>
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<td>10. Distinguish between peer-reviewed scientific findings and &quot;pop psychology&quot;.</td>
<td>Lecture, Discussion, AV/Multimedia Materials, Research Resources, Small Group Learning Activities</td>
<td>Website Review, Article Review, Research Proposal and Classroom Presentation, Tests, Written Papers</td>
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<td>12. Identify the influences of individual, interpersonal, and societal factors on human behavior in at least two of the following: development, mental disorders, learning, personality.</td>
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### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Lecture
- Discussion
- AV/Multimedia Materials
- Research Resources
- Small Group Learning Activities

### EVALUATION METHODS

- 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. Hemispheres of the Brain
7. The PNS and Endocrine System
8. Sleep
9. Psychoactive Drugs
10. Health and Stress
11. The Stress Response
12. Theories of Stress
13. Stress and the Immune System
14. Psychological Disorders
15. Issues in Diagnosis
16. Mood Disorders
17. Memory
18. Remembering: Processes & Systems
19. Kinds of Memory
20. Forgetting: Causes
21. What Helps Memory?
22. Theories of Intelligence
23. The Learning Theories
24. Classical Conditioning
25. 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:

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: Samuel Clay Wallace Date: 4/6/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 4/14/2017

Revised by: Ann Marie Donohue Date: 2/26/2018
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 2/27/2018

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.