

Psychology Course Descriptions

PSY 101 General Psychology

A basic introduction to psychology with emphasis given to such ideas as measurement, testing, learning, motivation, emotions, attitudes, social influences on behavior, personality, behavior disorders, mental health and psychotherapy. Three credits.

PSY 220 Child Development

This course focuses on the study of the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of children from conception through adolescence. Individual differences and developmental issues as they relate to all area of the child's life will be emphasized. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 308 Experimental Methods in Psychology

This course examines the basics of research design. Emphasis is placed on formulating, conducting, analyzing and reporting psychological research. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and MATH 207. Three credits.

PSY 310 Abnormal Psychology

A survey of the description, causes and treatment of abnormal or maladaptive behaviors. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 312 Theories of Personality

A critical examination of the major theories, past and present, that have been proposed to explain individual differences in behavior. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 322 Adolescent Development

This course provides students with an understanding of the biological, cognitive and socioemotional changes occurring during adolescence, and factors that may individually influence these changes, such as the family, culture, gender, peer group, media and school. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 324 The Adult Years and the Aging Process

This course is a study of the stages and processes of adult development from young adulthood until death. Developmental theories and research from many disciplines are used to investigate the continuity and change that define the journey of adulthood. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 325 Psychology in the Classroom

This course applies the principles of psychology and psychological research methods to the teaching and learning processes in the classroom. Theories of learning and motivation as well as strategies for classroom management, effective teaching and student assessment are examined with regards to both children exhibiting "typical" development and children with exceptionalities. Socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic and gender influences also are emphasized. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 330 Behavior Modification

Learning theories and their application to therapeutic situations are presented. Classical conditioning, operant conditioning and social learning are presented and applied to clinical settings. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 355 Social Psychology

An investigation of how individuals interact with each other in varying social contexts, including emphasis on social cognition and social influence. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 360 Biopsychology

This is a course about the biology of behavior. Special attention is given to sex, drug action and addiction, perception, sleeping and eating. Other topics include: the neural substrates of eating disorders, schizophrenia, memory and autism as well as what happens when sexual differentiation goes wrong. This course also includes an optional field trip to an area cadaver lab to examine human brains. A background in biology is helpful, but not required. Prerequisite: PSY 101 or any class in biology. Three credits.

PSY 391 Topics in Psychology

Investigation of specific topics or issues within the field of psychology. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits. Recent topics have included Children and the Media and History and Systems.

PSY 401 Practicum

An opportunity for psychology majors to integrate classroom experiences in applied psychological settings. Prerequisites: Twelve (12) credit hours in psychology and permission of instructor. Three credits.

PSY 405 Research Practicum

An opportunity for psychology majors to work under the direct supervision of a psychology faculty member on a research project within the field of psychology. Prerequisites: PSY 101, PSY 308 and permission of instructor. Three credits.

PSY 411 Foundations of Counseling and Counseling Theories

An introduction to the profession of counseling with emphasis upon relevant personal, situational, ethical and legal aspects of the counseling process, as well as traditional and contemporary theories of counseling. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 412 Clinical Helping Skills

This course provides an introduction to the basic helping and interviewing skills that apply to a broad range of helping professions. The format of the course emphasizes experiential learning in meeting course objectives. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 423 Social and Personality Development

This course addresses the theory and research related to social and personality development, from infancy to young adulthood. Through readings and discussion, students will examine the complex interplay between nature and nurture with regards to the formation of first attachment relationships and their influence on later social and personality development. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 425 Psychology, Gender and Culture

This course examines gender and culture drawing examples from the fields of psychology, anthropology, religion and history. Special attention is given to how biological and cultural factors work in concert with our psychological perceptions to shape our definitions of sex/gender and how this impacts our daily lives. Topics include gender identity whether male, female or other, gender diversity in stereotypes and roles, relationships, sexuality, gendered rituals and gender portrayals in myth and religion. Prerequisite: PSY 101 or WST 100. Three credits.

PSY 428 Children's Thinking

This course focuses on how children perceive, understand and learn about the world. Topics highlighted include language, social cognition, theory of mind, the influence of culture and the importance of play. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and PSY 220 . Three credits.

PSY 430 Psychology and Animal Behavior

This upper-division course is intended for students interested in exploring animal behavior and research literature with an emphasis on primates and cetacea (porpoises, dolphins and whales). Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 465 Cross-Cultural Psychology

This upper-division course is intended for students interested in exploring how culture affects and interacts with the entire range of psychology and human behavior, from our senses and perception to development, emotions, cognition and learning. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.

PSY 480 Advanced Data Analysis

The course provides the students with a practical, hands-on approach to learning how to use computers to enter, "clean," manipulate, statistically analyze and interpret a wide variety of real-world social science data. Data to be analyzed will come from a variety of sources, including those you will collect using your own forms, as well as data sets provided by SPSS and me. It is second in the two-course methodology requirement for psychology majors. Prerequisite: PSY 101. Three credits.