

Luzerne County Community College

Course Syllabus

Course Number: PSY 103

Course Title: General Psychology

Department: Social Science/History

Credits: 3 Lecture hours: 3
 Laboratory hours: 0
 Clinical hours: 0

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the study of psychology as the science of behavior and mental processes. The biological roots of behavior as well as the environmental influences which shape behavior will be explored. Psychological theories which explain behavior and mental processes will be examined utilizing current research findings. Throughout the course, critical thinking will be encouraged.

Course Goals:

This course provides students the opportunity to:

1. acquire a basic understanding of the scientific methods, theories and concepts utilized in psychology.
2. understand the physiological basis of behavior and mental processes.
3. explore the psychological processes of perception, learning, memory, thinking, language, intelligence, emotions and personality.
4. apply critical thinking skills to course content.

Student Learning Objectives or Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Goal 1:

- 1a. identify the different schools of thought in psychology such as humanism, behaviorism, social cognitive, and psychoanalysis.
- 1b. describe and distinguish between the scientific methods utilized in psychology.

Goal 2:

- 2a. identify the various structures of the brain involved in mental processes and behavior.
- 2b. explain the concept of behavioral genetics and its influence on behavior and mental processes.

Goal 3:

- 3a. define and identify a basic understanding of the principles and concepts of cognitive psychology including perception, learning, and memory.
- 3b. describe the affective domains of psychology including personality, emotions and motivation.

Goal 4:

- 4a. demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the schools of thought and scientific methods used in psychology.
- 4b. demonstrate the application of course content to personal and vocational endeavors.

Sequence of Learning Topics or Activities

1. What is Psychology?
2. Theories of Psychology
3. The scientific methods of studying psychology
4. Neuroscience and Behavior
5. Personality & Motivation
6. States of Consciousness
7. Learning
8. Memory
9. Intelligence
10. Human Development
11. Psychological Disorders
12. Therapy

Assessment and Grading

The following are acceptable assessment methods for this course:

1. Exams consisting of both multiple choice and essay questions will be used to assess student comprehension of the subject matter. Students will be responsible for material from class lectures and reading assignments. Attendance at exams is mandatory. If the student should miss an exam due to extenuating circumstances such as a death in the family or a medical emergency, the student must contact the professor before the next class to schedule a make-up exam. All make-up exams will be given the last week of classes.
2. Quizzes consisting of multiple choice and/or true/false items will be given during the semester. It is hoped that these quizzes will better prepare students for the major exams. Quizzes will be announced. No make-up quizzes will be given. Points equivalent to the missed quiz can be acquired by completing two article reviews (see the following).
3. Journal review of articles of relevance to the field of psychology. The articles and the review format will be provided by the instructor. A non-graded practice review will be assigned prior to the graded review.

Reference, Resources, and Learning Materials

Sample Texts:

Myers, D.E. (1999). *Exploring Psychology*. (4th ed.). New York: Worth.

Straub, R.O. (1999). *Discovering Psychology: A Guide to Active Study*. New York: Worth.

Additional reading assignments will be provided by the Instructor.