

Electives: Psychology*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course and will broadly cover several areas. Students will be expected to expand and go further into the topics. Theories and current research will be presented for the student to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit will present the terminology, theories and research that are critical to the understanding of the topic. Assignments and assessments will be included as well as tutorials and interactive drills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- Study the major concepts and theories of psychology.
- Be able to define and use key terms of psychology.
- Understand and be able to demonstrate research, and also be able to interpret and evaluate the validity of the research.
- Develop critical thinking skills to evaluate the vast amount of “psychology” that is presented in everyday literature.
- Be able to apply psychological principles to their own lives.
- Understand the many areas of psychology as both areas of study and possible career options.
- Build on their reading, writing, evaluation and discussion skills.
- Learn about the ethical standards that govern psychological research.

PREREQUISITES: An interest in and a willingness to critically explore the many different areas presented in an introductory course about behavior.

COURSE LENGTH: One semester

REQUIRED TEXT: None

COURSE OUTLINE:

History: Methods of Study

- What is Psychology?
- Early attempts to understand behavior
- First psychology laboratory
- Theories and approaches
- Research methods and ethical concerns

Biological Basis for Behavior

- The brain and nervous system
- The neuron
- Sensation
- Perception
- Consciousness

Learning & Memory

- Classical conditioning
- Operant conditioning
- Social-cognitive learning
- Memory
- Memory applications and errors

Developmental & Individual Differences

- Nature/Nurture
- Child development
- Language Development
- Adult development
- Testing

Psychological Disorders

- Scope of the problem
- History of mental illness
- Stress and mental health
- Major disorders
- Treatments

* 1/2 credit course