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Text Update: Spring 2023
Date Reviewed: Fall 2018
C & GE Approved: January 11, 2019
Board Approved: February 13, 2019
State Approved: February 2019
Semester effective: Spring 2020

Psychology 1500 Introduction to Psychology (3 Units) CSU: UC
[Formerly Psychology 1A]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture + 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning hours)

Catalog Description: This course is an introduction to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes through the exploration of major theories and concepts, methods, and research findings. Topics include the biological bases of behavior; perception; cognition; learning; emotion and motivation; lifespan development; personality; social psychology; psychological disorders; therapy; and applied psychology. C-ID: PSY 110.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Ciccarelli, Saundra, and J. Noland White. *Psychology: An Exploration*, 4th ed., Pearson, 2018. e-Text.

[Spielman, Rose, et al. *Psychology*. OpenStax, 2020.](#)

Additional Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

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

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods, core empirical findings, and historic trends in psychology.
2. Explain (including advantages and disadvantages) and compare major theoretical perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic and socio-cultural);
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following nine general domains: (1) biological bases of behavior and mental processes, (2) sensation and perception, (3) learning and memory (4) cognition, consciousness, (5) individual differences, psychometrics/measurement, personality, (6) social processes (including those related to socio-cultural and international dimensions), (7) developmental changes in behavior and mental processes that occur across the lifespan, (8) psychological disorders, and (9) emotion and motivation;
4. Describe and demonstrate an understanding of applied areas of psychology (e.g., clinical, counseling, forensic, community, organizational, school, health);

5. Draw the distinction between scientific and non-scientific methods of understanding and analysis.
6. Recognize and understand the impact of diversity on psychological research, theory and application, including (but not limited to): age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, socio-economic status, disability, and sexual orientation.
7. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal experience and social and organizational settings.
8. Demonstrate critical thinking skills and information competence as applied to psychological topics.

Course Level Learning Outcomes

Local General Education Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze the influence of major social, cultural, economic, and political forces on human behavior and institutions using the major concepts, models, and concerns developed through the social sciences in contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts.
2. Apply research methodologies employed in social scientific inquiry.
3. Demonstrate the principles, concepts, models of value systems, and ethics framework employed in social scientific inquiry.
4. Engage in citizenship skills; engage in college and community activities; knowledge of self; responsibility in groups settings, and work independently.

Course Scope and Content:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Unit I | The Science of Psychology |
| | A. What is Psychology |
| | B. The Growth of Psychology |
| | C. Human Diversity |
| | D. Research Methods in Psychology |
| | 1. scientific approach |
| | 2. research design |
| | 3. use of statistics |
| | E. Ethics and Psychology |
| | F. Careers in Psychology |
| | G. APA Style |
| | H. Research Papers |
| | I. Locating Credible Sources of Psychological Information |
| Unit II | Biological Foundations of Behavior |
| | A. The Biological Basis of Behavior |
| | B. Neurons |
| | C. The Central Nervous System |
| | D. The Peripheral Nervous System |

- E. The Endocrine System
- F. Genes, Evolution, and Behavior

Unit III Sensation and Perception

- A. Enduring Issues in Sensation and Perception
- B. The Nature of Sensation
- C. Vision, Hearing, and the Other Senses
- D. Perception Organization, Constancies, Distance and Depth, Movement, Visual Illusions and Observer Characteristics

Unit IV States of Consciousness

- A. Enduring Issues in the States of Consciousness
- B. Sleep and Dreams
- C. Drug-Altered Consciousness
- D. Meditation and Hypnosis

Unit V Learning

- A. Classical Conditioning
- B. Operant Conditioning
- C. Cognitive Learning

Unit VI Memory

- A. The Sensory Registers
- B. Short-term and Long-Term Memory
- C. The Biology of Memory
- D. Forgetting
- E. Cultural Influences, Flashbulb Memories, Eyewitness
- F. Testimony, and Recovered Memories

Unit VII Cognition and Mental Abilities

- A. Building Blocks of Thought
- B. Language, Thought, and Culture
- C. Problem Solving
- D. Decision Making
- E. Intelligence and Mental Abilities
- F. Heredity, Environment, and Intelligence
- G. Creativity

Unit VIII Motivation and Emotion

- A. Perspectives on Motivation
- B. Hunger and Thirst
- C. Sex
- D. Emotions
- E. Communicating Emotions

Unit IX Life-Span Development

- A. Prenatal Development
- B. The Newborn
- C. Infancy and Childhood
- D. Adolescence
- E. Adulthood
- F. Late Adulthood

Unit X Personality

- A. Enduring Issues in Personality
- B. Psychodynamic Theories
- C. Humanistic Theories
- D. Trait Theories
- E. Cognitive-Social Learning Theories
- F. Personality Assessment

Unit XI Stress and Health Psychology

- A. Sources of Stress
- B. How Stress Affects Health
- C. Staying Healthy
- D. Extreme Stress
- E. The Well Adjusted Person

Unit XII Psychological Disorders

- A. Perspectives on Psychological Disorders
- B. Mood Disorders
- C. Anxiety Disorders
- D. Psychosomatic and Somatoform Disorders
- E. Sexual and Gender-Identity Disorders
- F. Personality Disorders
- G. Schizophrenic Disorders
- H. Childhood Disorders
- I. Gender and Cultural Differences in Psychological Disorders

Unit XIII Therapies

- A. The Types of Mental Health Professionals
- B. Insight Therapies
- C. Behavior Therapies
- D. Cognitive Therapies
- E. Group Therapies
- F. Effectiveness of Psychotherapy
- G. Biological Treatments
- H. Institutionalization and its alternatives
- I. Client Diversity and Treatment



Unit XIV Social Psychology

- A. Social Cognition
- B. Attitudes
- C. Social Influences
- D. Social Action

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Studying
- 2. Answering questions
- 3. Completing required reading
- 4. Completing written work
- 5. Completing assigned activities related to course content

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Class discussions
- 3. Audiovisual presentations
- 4. Demonstrations
- 5. Group discussions
- 6. In-class/virtual activities

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
 - a. essay exam (s)
 - b. term or other papers using APA style
- 2. Other assessments, including:
 - a. classroom discussions
 - b. research projects
 - c. presentations (individual or group)
 - d. student created product/deliverable
- 3. Other examinations, including:
 - a. multiple choice items
 - b. matching items
 - c. true/false items
 - d. essay questions

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	200100: Psychology, General
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	I: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	CSD: CSU Area D CSE: CSU Area E IG4F: IGETC Area 4F LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci