

**Date:** March 2006

- I. **Course Name:** Introduction to Psychology  
**Prefix and Number:** PSY 100  
**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours - 3 contact hours

**Catalog description:**

This course is a comprehensive overview of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. It will familiarize students with the scientific methods used in the field of psychology. It will also introduce various topics within the field, such as consciousness, motivation, learning, memory, cognition, development, personality, psychological disorders and their treatments, social psychology, and the biological bases of behavior.

**II. Course objectives and outcomes**

**Learning outcomes:**

- Develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the methods used to explore psychological phenomena, including descriptive, correlational and experimental research, hypothesis testing, and analysis and interpretation of empirical evidence.
- Gain knowledge of some of the major concepts, models, and issues of psychology. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) learning, memory, cognition, personality, stress and health, psychological disorders, social behavior, development, and the biological bases of behavior.
- Other outcomes may include the development of skills in critical thinking, problem solving, collaborative teamwork, reading, oral and written communication, and ethics/values.

**Relationship to academic programs and curriculum:**

This course fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement of 3 credits of an introductory-level Social Science course and it fulfills a Social Science required elective. Furthermore, the course is specifically required for a degree in Human Services, Chemical Dependency Counseling, Criminal Justice, Nursing, Therapeutic Massage, Tourism Management, and potentially others.

**College competencies addressed by the course:**

The course will address a subset of the following competencies:

- Writing
- Oral communication
- Reading
- Computer literacy
- Problem solving
- Ethics/values
- Information resources

**III. Methods of instruction**

**Types of course materials:**

The textbook and other course material will be selected by the instructor and listed on the course outline. Students may be required to obtain the assigned textbook and any relevant

supplements, such as a student study guide and/or a text-based CD-ROM. In addition, students may be required to obtain a WebCT account, necessitating access to the Internet.

**Methods of instruction:**

The course may be taught in any of a number of formats suitable to the specific topic being presented. These formats may include (but are not limited to) lectures, discussions, collaborative teamwork, demonstrations, active-learning activities, and/or on-line activities.

**Methods of evaluation:**

Students may be evaluated via a number of different formats suitable to each specific topic. These formats may include (but are not limited to) multiple choice, short-answer, and/or essay tests and quizzes administered in class and/or via the Internet; homework assignments; research projects, term papers; and/or collaborative work.

**Assessment measures:**

The course will be evaluated via course-embedded measures as specified in the collage's General Education course assessment plan.

**IV. General outline of topics covered**

The course will cover the scientific methodologies used in the field of psychology along with a subset of the following topics:

- Introduction to and overview of the field of psychology.
- The biological bases of behavior
- Sensation and perception
- Consciousness
- Learning
- Memory
- Thought
- Language
- Intelligence
- Motivation
- Emotion
- Development
- Health
- Stress
- Personality
- Psychological disorders
- Treatment of psychological disorders
- Social psychology