

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: February 20, 2010

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

1. Course Number: PSY241

Course Title: Selected Topics in Psychology

2. Description: This course serves as a vehicle to either deepen students' knowledge of subjects addressed in Psychology introductory courses or explore issues outside the traditional curriculum.

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Knowledge Base of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work should be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in a selected topic in psychology. In particular, the student will demonstrate knowledge and comprehension in a selected content area of psychology, which may include any of the following: learning and cognition; individual differences and personality; biological bases of behavior and mental processes; developmental changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion, and small group activity.

B. Research Methods in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work should be able to understand basic research methods in psychology. Students will characterize the nature of the selected topic in psychology as a discipline and as a science; comprehending the primary objectives of psychology: describing, understanding, predicting, and controlling behavior and mental processes. The student will articulate strengths and limitations of different research methods used by psychologists. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion, and small group activities.

C. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work should be able to respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. The student will identify and evaluate the source, context, and credibility of information and avoid being swayed by appeals to emotion or authority. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion, and small group activities.

D. Application of Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work should be able to understand and apply psychological principles to the area of study in the topic selected in psychology. The student will describe major applied areas of the topic selected in psychology (e.g. clinical, industrial/organizational, school, forensic, health). Students will identify appropriate applications of psychology in solving problems, such as, the pursuit and effect of healthy lifestyles, psychological tests and measurement, classification of abnormal behavior. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion, and small group activity.

E. Values in Psychology

Students who successfully complete the course work should be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline. The student will recognize and respect human diversity and understand that psychological explanations may vary across populations and contexts. The student will recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests, class discussion, and small group activity.

4. Credits: Three credits

5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisites:** PSY101
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Spring
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** The final grade consists of written papers, class participation, examinations and small group activity.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
An intensive look at a selected topic in psychology may include any of the following: Personality; Development; Learning; Memory; Cognition & Intelligence; Biological Bases of Behavior; Sensation and Perception Motivation and Emotion; Health, Stress, and Coping; Mental "Disorders"; Therapies: Techniques for Alleviating Mental Disorders; Social Thought and Social Behavior; Social Psychology.