

COURSE OUTLINE

PSYC-101

General Psychology

3 Semester Hours

(Social and Behavioral Science Core)

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description:

Through this introduction to the field of psychology, the student will be able to describe how psychologists do their research and gain an appreciation of how psychologists view people through studying the views of Freud, Skinner, and Maslow. The student will be able to summarize, interpret and evaluate psychological information, especially as it appears in films and non-technical articles. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to describe psychological concepts and facts on the major topics of psychology. Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives:

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

1. Summarize written material by describing the central idea and key points, by analyzing important definitions, and by identifying psychological evidence (Critical Evaluative Reading).
2. Notice, understand, analyze and evaluate psychological information in the mass media (Critical Evaluative Thinking).
3. Apply concepts to their own experiences (Application).
4. State what they have personally learned about selected topics in psychology.
5. Describe important concepts related to psychological research.
6. Describe the problems of defining mental illness, some of the major types of mental illness, and the major ways to treat mental illness.
7. Explain the influences and limitations on how we perceive.
8. Explain how to modify and change attitudes and behaviors.
9. Describe the heredity vs. environment issue.
10. Describe selected topics from social psychological research.
11. Compare the views and criticisms of the major perspectives in psychology:
 - a. The Psychodynamic View
 - b. The Behavioristic View

- c. The Humanistic View
- d. The Cognitive View
- 12. Demonstrate their beginning skills as a researcher and apply the scientific method.
- 13. Apply what they are learning about groups to become cooperative group participants.
- 14. Improve their study skills and time management skills.
- 15. Communicate through writing and avoid plagiarism.

Major Topics:

- I. Introduction to the Field of Psychology
- II. The Research Methods of Psychology
- III. Learning, Memory, and Motivation
- IV. Stress and Adjustment
- V. Abnormal Behavior and Treatments
- VI. The Social Psychology of Individuals and Groups
- VII. Intelligence and Thinking
- VIII. Critical Evaluative Thinking
- IX. The Brain
- X. Personality
- XI. Applying Psychology

Course Requirements:

Grading: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, will be provided the first week of class, and will include the following:

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 2500 words of formal writing (out of class writing). Summarizing from a psychological viewpoint will be one of the types of written assignments.

Periodically students will do writing in class as a means to learn, to integrate information, to review what they have learned, and to clarify their understanding of ideas and issues of psychology.

Critical Evaluative Thinking: Students will be asked to demonstrate their ability to critically evaluate secondary sources in psychology.

Tests, Exams and/or Quizzes: Individual faculty will notify students of the testing procedures to be used.

Comprehensive Final Exam or Project: The course will include either a comprehensive final exam or a comprehensive final project(s).

Final Grades: Final grades will be determined by individual faculty members and will be based on at least five different assessments with an emphasis on written assignments.

Other Course Information:

PSYC-101 is a Social and Behavioral Science core course and an Arts and Sciences elective.