

Miami Dade College

Common Course Number: PSY 2012

Course Title: Introduction to Psychology

Catalog Course Description:

The course provides an overview of psychology as a social science including the history and methodology used in the field. Biological bases of behavior will be examined, as well as theories and concepts that provide explanations in such areas as personality, mental health, memory, intelligence, learning, motivation, and emotions. This course has value in helping students understand their own behavior as well as the behavior of others. This course fulfills the 2,000-word requirement of the Gordon Rule.

Credit Hours Breakdown: 3 lecture hours

Prerequisites and Corequisites: None

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF PSYCHOLOGY AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE AND PROFESSION BY:

- a. describing the historical development of psychology
- b. comparing the educational background, training, and professional activities of various mental health practitioners
- c. contrasting various methods of scientific inquiry used in psychology

Competency 2: THE STUDENT WILL EXPLAIN THE VARIOUS THEORIES OF PERSONALITY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR BY:

- a. contrasting psychodynamic, cognitive/social learning, humanistic and other theories
- b. listing various categories of abnormal behavior and describing their symptoms
- c. distinguishing the various forms of treatment for mental, emotional, and psychological disorders
- d. discovering the influence of culture on personality

Competency 3: THE STUDENT WILL REVIEW BIOLOGICAL BASES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR BY:

- a. identifying the structures and processes of the brain and the nervous system
- b. explaining the senses and how they function
- c. discussing the nature/nurture controversy and its effects on human behavior
- d. identifying connections between health and stress

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Competency 4:

THE STUDENT WILL INVESTIGATE THE COGNITIVE ASPECTS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR BY:

- a. discussing the concept of consciousness and altered states of consciousness
- b. describing the various theories of learning, memory, and intelligence and their influence on behavior
- c. relating how language and thinking affect human behavior

Competency 5:

THE STUDENT WILL EXPLORE OTHER INFLUENCES ON HUMAN BEHAVIOR SUCH AS MOTIVATION, EMOTION, SEXUALITY AND GROUP MEMBERSHIP BY:

- a. acquiring concepts regarding such influences
- b. identifying physical determinants of such behavior
- c. examining psychological determinants of such behaviors