

Psychology provides students with a systematic and scientific approach to the study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will explore various aspects of human behavior including theories of personality, aspects of thought processes, states of consciousness, motivation and emotion, and the basic areas of mental illness.

1. Enduring Understandings:

- Psychology is empirical.
- Psychology is theoretically diverse.
- Psychology evolves in a sociohistorical context.
- Behavior is determined by multiple causes.
- Heredity and environment jointly influence behavior.
- Our experience of the world is highly subjective.
- Individuals are driven by internal and external forces.
- Analytical reasoning creates a purpose for research.
- The research process requires the use of a variety of resources to ensure validity.
- Interpreting and analyzing research results will answer a variety of questions.
- Organization is critical to the acquisition, application, and evaluation of information.
- Critical examination and evaluation of data is essential to making informed decisions.
- Examining social issues help to expand ones understanding of them.

2. Course Specific Goals

- Explain what the science of psychology means and how it developed.
- Tell how psychologists conduct research and what research tells us about the mind.
- Describe both biological and environmental influences on development.
- Define abnormal behavior, and discuss the classifications of abnormal behavior.
- Compare various methods of psychotherapy and the purpose of institutionalization

3. Expected Performances

- Students will study the major core concepts and theories of psychology. They will be able to define key terms and use these terms in their everyday vocabulary.
- Students will learn the basic principles of psychological research. They will be able to devise simple research projects, interpret and generalize from results, and evaluate the validity of research reports.
- Students will be able to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. They will be able to recognize psychological principles when they are encountered in everyday situations.

- Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting arguments without careful, objective evaluation.
- Students will build their reading, writing, and discussion skills.
- Students will learn about psychology as a profession and become aware of the educational requirements which must be met to pursue such careers. They will learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.

4. Scope and sequence

I. INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

1. Introduction
2. What is Psychology?
3. Psychological Methods

II. BODY AND MIND

1. Biology and Behavior
2. Sensation and Perception
3. Consciousness

III. LEARNING AND COGNITION

1. Learning
2. Memory
3. Thinking and Language
4. Intelligence

IV. DEVELOPMENT

1. Infancy and Childhood
2. Adolescence
3. Adulthood

V. PERSONALITY

1. Motivation and Emotion
2. Theories of Personality
3. Psychological Tests
4. Gender Roles

VI. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, HEALTH AND ADJUSTMENT

1. Stress and Health
2. Psychological Disorders
3. Methods of Therapy
4. Social Cognition
5. Social Interaction