Course Syllabus

Department: Social Science

Date: March 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: PSY 100

Course Name: Introduction to Psychology

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: 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. There are no pre- or co-requisites for this course.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will demonstrate understanding of the methods used in psychology to explore social phenomenon, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, models, and issues in psychology.

Students will identify, analyze, and evaluate psychological perspectives and theories by applying the concepts of the field.

Students will perform the basic operations of personal computer use.

Students will understand and use basic informational research techniques, and will locate, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:
This course fulfills the SUNY General Education requirement of 3 credits of a Social Science course. It also fulfills a Social Science elective at the introductory level.

The course is required for a degree in the following programs: Chemical Dependency Counseling, Childhood Education (Teacher Education Transfer), Criminal Justice, Emergency Medical Technician–Paramedic, Human Services, Marketing, Nursing, Physical Education Studies, Respiratory Care, Therapeutic Massage/Integrated Health Care, Tourism Management, and potentially others.

The course is required for a certificate in the following programs: Criminal Justice, Teaching Assistant, and potentially others.

The course is required in the following Liberal Arts and Sciences degree advisement areas:
American Sign Language, Psychology, Social Science, Sociology, Teacher Education Transfer (Adolescent), and potentially others.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- [ ] writing
- [ ] oral communications
- [x] reading
- [x] mathematics
- [x] critical thinking
- [ ] computer literacy
- [ ] ethics/values
- [ ] citizenship
- [ ] global concerns
- [ ] information resources

**III. Instructional Materials and Methods**

**Types of Course Materials:**

At a minimum, students are required to obtain the textbook common to all sections of the course. Students may also be required to obtain additional materials, such as a study guide and/or access to relevant websites or software. In addition, students may be expected to have access to a computer (including word processing software) and the Internet as well as to learn to navigate the course’s ANGEL site.

**Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):**

The course may be taught in any of a number of formats suitable to each specific topic being presented. These formats may include (but are not limited to) lectures, discussions, a limited number of relevant videos, collaborative teamwork, demonstrations, case studies, active-learning activities, online activities.

**IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):**

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

To assess understanding of methods used in psychology to explore social phenomenon, students will complete objective tests and/or exercises (which may include multiple-choice and/or short-answer items) and/or subjective assignments that demonstrate understanding of the general methods of psychological inquiry. These methods of inquiry may include hypothesis development and testing, qualitative and quantitative techniques for conducting descriptive, correlational and experimental research, and the analysis and interpretation of empirical evidence.

To assess knowledge of major concepts, models and issues in psychology, and reading, and critical thinking, student will complete objective tests and/or exercises (which may include multiple-choice and/or short-answer items) and/or subjective assignments that demonstrate understanding of the principles of psychology. These principles may include the biology of behavior and mental processes, learning, memory, development, health and stress, personality, psychological disorders, and/or social behaviors and mental processes.

To assess computer literacy and information resources, students will review examples of
research findings and will locate a study through Internet or full-text database searching that either confirms or refutes those findings. Students will prepare a summary of this in an appropriate format.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

The course will cover the following topics:
- The major theories of and approaches to psychology
- Research methods in psychology
- Biology and behavior
- Learning
- Memory
- Thought, language, and intelligence
- Human Development
- Personality
- Health, stress, and coping
- Social psychology

The course will also cover a subset of the following topics:
- Sensation and perception
- Consciousness
- Motivation and emotion
- Psychological disorders
- Treatment of psychological disorders