



Psychology
Northeast College

Introduction to Psychology 2301
3-Hour Lecture/48 hours per semester /16 weeks

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Office hours: By appointment only

For Course Information, go to: <http://learning.nec.hccs.edu/members/taleduc>

Course Goals

The goals of all psychology courses at Houston Community College are as follows:

Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to

1. Succeed in advanced psychology courses that include related content and are required for an undergraduate major in psychology
2. Succeed in advanced psychology and psychology-related courses that include related content and are required in non-psychology majors such as nursing and education
3. Understand and evaluate psychological concepts that are covered in this course and are featured in news reports, self-help materials, and as a part of the process of seeking and engaging in psychotherapy

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge in multiple (8) areas of psychology including concepts, facts and theoretical perspectives.
2. Define and identify the basic research and evaluation methods used in psychology, including the strengths and weaknesses of each method.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of and identify concepts related to personal development and the development and behavior of others.

Apply psychological concepts to the solution of current issues and problems including ethics, coping with stressful events, health and wellness, parenting, learning, memory, and /or evaluation of media presentations.

Learning objectives

OBJECTIVES FOR SLO #1: Demonstrate knowledge in multiple (8) areas of psychology including concepts, facts and theoretical perspectives.
CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY
1. Major schools of thought in psychology
CORE DOMAIN 2: BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR
1. Components of the neuron
2. Components of the synapse



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3. Action potential
4. Major neurotransmitters
5. Medulla
6. Cerebellum
7. Hypothalamus
8. Limbic system
9. Components of the cerebrum
10. Plasticity
11. Endocrine system
CORE DOMAIN 3: LEARNING
1. Learning
2. Reinforcement
3. Punishment
4. Observational learning
CORE DOMAIN 4: MEMORY
1. Characteristics of short-term memory
2. Characteristics of long-term memory
CORE DOMAIN 5: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
1. Phases of prenatal development
2. Piaget's stages of cognitive development
3. Erikson's stages of psychosocial development
4. Alzheimer's disease
CORE DOMAIN 6: STRESS AND HEALTH
1. General Adaptation Syndrome (GAS)
2. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
CORE DOMAIN 7: PERSONALITY
1. Personality
2. Conscious, unconscious, preconscious mind
3. Id, ego, and superego
4. Freud's psychosexual stages
5. Big Five personality traits
CORE DOMAIN 8: ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR AND THERAPIES
1. Phobias
2. Panic disorder
3. Obsessive-compulsive disorder
4. Dissociative identity disorder
5. Schizophrenia
6. Major subtypes of schizophrenia
7. Major depressive disorder
8. Bipolar disorder
9. Personality disorders

OBJECTIVES FOR SLO #2: Define and identify the basic research and evaluation



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methods used in psychology, including the strengths and weaknesses of each method.
CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY
1. Scientific method
2. Descriptive methods
3. Representative sample
4. Experimental method
CORE DOMAIN 2: BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR
1. Methods of studying the brain
CORE DOMAIN 3: LEARNING
1. Methods used by Pavlov, Watson, and Skinner
CORE DOMAIN 4: MEMORY
1. Recall
2. Recognition
CORE DOMAIN 6: STRESS AND HEALTH
1. Social Readjustment Rating Scale (SRRS)
CORE DOMAIN 7: PERSONALITY
1. Objective tests (inventories)
2. Projective tests
CORE DOMAIN 8: ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR AND THERAPIES
1. Purpose, organization, and content of the <i>DSM-IV</i>

OBJECTIVE FOR SLO #3: Demonstrate knowledge of and identify concepts related to personal development and the development and behavior of others.
CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY
1. Differences among the major theoretical perspectives in psychology
CORE DOMAIN 2: BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR
1. Processes that occur when a neuron is activated
2. How neurotransmitters affect behavior
3. Functions of the frontal lobes
4. Difference between the central and peripheral nervous systems
5. Functions of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems
6. How the pituitary gland affects behavior
7. How the adrenal glands affect behavior
CORE DOMAIN 3: LEARNING
1. How classical conditioning modifies an organism's responses to stimuli
2. How operant conditioning modifies an organism's responses to stimuli
3. Difference between positive and negative reinforcement
4. Factors that influence the effectiveness of punishment
CORE DOMAIN 4: MEMORY
1. Information-processing approach to memory
2. Reconstructive memory



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3. The function of schemas
4. Causes of forgetting
CORE DOMAIN 5: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
1. Effects of teratogens and other negative factors on prenatal development
2. Relationship between contact comfort and attachment
3. Differences among the various patterns of attachment
4. Difference between the social learning and gender schema theory explanations of gender role development
5. Process of cognitive development as Piaget explained it
6. Proposed causes of Alzheimer's disease
CORE DOMAIN 6: STRESS AND HEALTH
1. Effects of stress on the immune system
2. Effects of daily hassles on stress
3. Factors that influence individual's capacity for resisting the effects of stress
CORE DOMAIN 7: PERSONALITY
1. Function of defense mechanisms in Freud's theory
2. Views of humanistic theorists regarding the personality
3. Bandura's concept of reciprocal determinism
CORE DOMAIN 8: ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR AND THERAPIES
1. Criteria for abnormal behavior
2. Possible causes of schizophrenia
3. Symptoms of major depressive disorder.
4. Symptoms of Bipolar disorder

OBJECTIVES FOR SLO #4: Apply psychological concepts to the solution of current issues and problems including ethics, coping with stressful events, health and wellness, parenting, learning, memory, and /or evaluation of media presentations.
CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY
<i>Students will apply</i>
1. Ethical standards for psychological research
CORE DOMAIN 2: BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR
<i>Students will apply</i>
1. Principles of behavior genetics
CORE DOMAIN 3: LEARNING
<i>Students will apply</i>
1. Principles of behavior modification
CORE DOMAIN 4: MEMORY
<i>Students will apply</i>
1. Techniques for improving memory
CORE DOMAIN 5: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
<i>Students will apply</i>



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1. Effects of the authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive parenting styles on children's development
CORE DOMAIN 6: STRESS AND HEALTH
<i>Students will apply</i>
1. Difference between problem-focused and emotion-focused coping
CORE DOMAIN 7: PERSONALITY
<i>Students will apply</i>
1. Views of Abraham Maslow regarding self-actualization
CORE DOMAIN 8: ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR AND THERAPIES
<i>Students will apply</i>
Difference between psychologists and psychiatrists

Core Curriculum

Credit: 3 (3 lecture)

PSYC 2301 satisfies the social science requirement in the HCC core curriculum. The HCC Psychology Discipline Committee has specified that address the goals of the core curriculum as follows:

- * **Reading** at the college level means having the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials, books, and document. All students in PSYC 2301 are required to read a college-level textbook.
- * **Writing** at the college level means having the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience. In addition to knowing correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, students should also become familiar with the writing process, including how to discover a topic, how to develop and organize it, and how to phrase it effectively for their audience. All instructors in PSYC 2301 include at least one written assignment in their syllabi.
- * **Effective speaking** is the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience. Students in PSYC 2301 are required to communicate about course content in formal or informal ways as determined by the requirements of each instructor's course syllabus.
- * **Listening** at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication. Students in PSYC 2301 are required to listen to presentations and/or discussions of course content in formal or informal ways as determined by the requirements of each instructor's course syllabus.
- * **Critical thinking** embraces methods for applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking used to address an identified task. Students in PSYC 2301 are required to exhibit critical thinking in formal or informal ways as determined by the requirements of each instructor's course syllabus.
- * **Computer literacy** at the college level means having the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems, and acquiring information. Core-educated students should have an understanding of the limits, problems, and possibilities associated with the use of technology and should have the tools necessary to evaluate and learn new technologies as they become available. Students



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in PSYC 2301 are required to exhibit computer literacy in formal or informal ways as determined by the requirements of each instructor's course syllabus.

REQUIRED TEXT

Plotnik, Rod. *Introduction to Psychology*. Eighth Edition. ISBN: 13:978-0-495-56244-3

Note: This course will place fairly considerable demands on students. Some class time will be devoted to lectures, while others will involve discussions.

READING ASSIGNMENT

Given the nature of the class, reading assignments are discussed during class meetings; therefore, all assigned readings **MUST** be completed before you come to class. **Falling behind in your reading assignments will adversely affect your success in this class.**

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments **MUST** be typed, double-spaced and stapled. **No late work will be accepted.** Assignments not typed, double-spaced or stapled will not be accepted.

GRADING

Over the course of the semester, you will be graded on the class assignments, journal discussions, exams and the department final. Grades for the class will be calculated as follows:

Class Assignments = 100 points
Journals/Discussions = 50 points
4 Exams = 400 points
Paper = 200 points
Comprehensive Departmental Final = 150 points
Extra Credit = 100 points

GRADING SCALE:

1000- 900 = A
899- 800 = B
799- 700 = C
699- 600 = D
599 and Below = F



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LATE WORK

Absolutely **NO** late or make-up work will be permitted on the lecture assignments, exams, paper or final. **Lowest exam or lecture assignments will be dropped at the end of the semester.**

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit assignment is available for the course. Extra credit assignment is worth 100 points..

There are different clips for each area of psychology (learning, personality and memory). **You are only allowed to do one extra credit assignment for the semester; therefore, choose the video clips that you find interesting.**

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university.

You **MUST** visit with a faculty advisor, a counselor or on-line student services prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class and this must be done prior to **Thursday, April 21 at 4:30 PM** to receive a "W" on your transcript. After that deadline, you will receive the grade you are making in the class which will more likely be an "F".

Note: If a student stops attending class **after Thursday, April 21 at 4:30 PM** and does not make arrangements with the instructor for completion of the missed work and/or class, then that student will receive an 'F' for the semester. The Instructor **does not** have the ability to drop any student after **April 21, 2011**. If your name remains on the roll at the end of the semester, you **MUST** receive a grade other than a "W" which will likely be an "F".

The final withdrawal deadline is April 21, 2011 at 4:30pm.

ATTENDANCE

According to state law, students are only allowed to miss 6 class hours in order to receive credit. This equals 4 absences. Absences beyond this allowance are not permitted and may result in your withdrawal from the course. Please discuss absences with the instructor.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit. **"Collusion"** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of "0" or "F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation



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or dismissal from the College System. A recommendation for suspension or expulsion will be referred to the College Dean of Student Development for disciplinary disposition.

STUDENT DISABILITIES

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester.

Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

For questions, contact Donna Price at 713-718-5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college. Visit the ADA Web site at <http://www.hccs.edu/students/disability/index.htm> Faculty Handbook/Faculty Orientation is also available at <http://www.hccs.edu/students/disability/faculty.htm>

- ❖ **TURN OFF or SILENT ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, AND KEEP THEM OFF FOR THE DURATION OF THE CLASS.**
- ❖ **EACH TIMES A STUDENT'S CELL PHONE AND/OR PAGER GOES OFF DURING CLASS LECTURE, TEN POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE STUDENT'S FINAL GRADE.**

Note:

If you do **NOT** understand any of my instructions, it is your responsibility to contact me. Simply saying "I didn't understand after the fact is not acceptable".

I highly recommend you **KEEP** this syllabus with your notes and refer to it as needed.