

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title : Master of Social Sciences in Psychology (Schools and Community Settings)

Course Title : Basic Principles of Psychology*

Course code : PSY6009

Department : Psychological Studies

Credit Points : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Pre-requisite(s) : Nil

Medium of Instruction: English

Level : 6

*Bridging course

Part II

1. Synopsis:

This course is an overview of the major areas in the science of psychology. Students will be able to describe major psychological theories and empirical findings discovered in the West and the local soil, and to apply the theories and empirical findings in the analysis of human behavior and social phenomena in a relevant context. Student will also learn how psychologists think and approach questions on human behaviors.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

CILO₁ Describe and demonstrate their understanding in major theories and empirical findings in different areas of the psychological sciences.

CILO₂ Observe and analyze the results of experiments designed for the study of human behavior in different domains.

CILO₃ Apply psychological theories to explain human behaviours in a relevant context.

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
What is psychology? (history, related disciplines and professions) Research Methods (correlational and experimental research, research ethics)	1, 2	Lecture, case study, online discussion forum
The biological basis of human behavior and emotion (nervous system, brain structures and functions, brain imaging, hemispheric specialization)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Learning (classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Memory (information processing model, short-term and long-term memory, forgetting)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Consciousness and cognition (brain waves, sleep and waking cycle, sleep deprivation, dreams; mental imagery, problem solving and decision making, creativity, language)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Human Development (Piaget's cognitive development, Erikson's psychosocial development, theories of physical and psychological aging)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Motivation and Emotion (theories of motivation, e.g., drive theories and incentive theories; theories of emotion, e.g., James-Lange theory, Cannon-Bard theory and Schacter's two factor theory)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Social psychology (conformity, obedience, bystander effect, social loafing, group polarization, attitude change, person perception, attribution)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum
Personality and Intelligence (personality theories, including trait, psychodynamic, behavioral and humanistic theories, personality inventories and projective tests, theories of intelligence, intelligence testing, test standardization and norms, reliability and validity)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, online discussion forum

Psychological Disorder (anxiety disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia, personality disorders)	1 – 3	Lecture, video, case study, online discussion forum
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4. Assessment

Assessment Task	Weighting (%)	CILO
a. Participation in online discussion	20%	CILO ₁₋₃
b. One short assignment	20%	CILO ₁₋₃
c. One face-to-face quiz	60%	CILO ₁₋₃

Online discussion forum (20%)

Students are expected to participate in all online discussion forums over the entire term. Specific exercises are designed for each session. These activities and exercises are meant to be a fun and interesting way to increase students' comprehension of course materials and to help students applying learning theories/principles to understand everyday life.

Students need to respond to the different discussion questions/exercises for each topic and students are expected to spend 30-45 minutes on the discussion forum for each topic (on top of the time to spend on reviewing videos and lecture notes). A new topic will be released on Moodle approximately every other day (2 July, 6 July, 8 July, 10 July, 13 July, 15 July, 17 July, 20 July, 22 July and 24 July 2015) and students are expected to respond within a week. Students will be graded on the quantity and quality of answers they give. All discussion materials will be posted on Moodle.

Short assignment (20%)

One short assignment is designated to assess student competence in understanding and/or applying theories/principles to analyze hypothetical and/or real life examples.

Deadline of the short assignment is 17 July 2015 (Friday) at 5pm. Please upload your assignment on Moodle before the deadline. Assignment questions will be uploaded to Moodle soon.

Quiz (60%)

One face-to-face quiz which consists of multiple choice questions, are set to assess students' abilities in mastering, applying and synthesizing the theories and concepts explained in this course.

Final quiz is scheduled on 1 August 2015 (Saturday) from 2pm to 5pm in B2-LP-21 Taipo Campus

5. Required Text(s)

Ciccarelli, S. K., & White, J. N. (2015). *Psychology, Global Edition* (4th ed.). England: Pearson Education Limited.

6. Recommended Readings

Feldman, R. S. (2009). *Understanding Psychology* (9th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

- Kalat, J. W. (2011). *Introduction to psychology* (9th ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.
- King, L. A. (2010). *The Science of Psychology: An Appreciative View*. McGraw-Hill
- Gazzaniga, M. S., Heatherton, T. F., & Halpern, D. F. (2010). *Psychological Science* (3rd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton.
- Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2009). *Atkinson & Hilgard's introduction to psychology* (15th ed.). Andover: Cengage Learning.
- 葉郁菁 (2002)。《心理學》。高雄：麗文文化事業股份有限公司。
- 溫世頌 (2000)。《心理學》。台北：三民書局。
- 鄭肇楨 (1989)。《心理學概論》。台北：五南圖書出版有限公司。
- 葉重新 (2004)。《心理學》。台北：心理出版社股份有限公司。

7. Related Web Resources

- American Psychological Association
<http://www.apa.org/>
- American Psychological Society
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>
- Australian Psychological Society
<http://www.psychology.org.au/>
- British Psychological Society
<http://www.bps.org.uk/>
- Hong Kong Psychological Society
<http://www.hkps.org.hk/en/>

8. Related Journals

- American Psychologist*
- Annual Review of Psychology*
- Child Development*
- Developmental Psychology*
- Journal of Abnormal Psychology*
- Journal of Educational Psychology*
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*
- Personality and Social Psychology Review*
- Psychological Bulletin*
- Psychological Inquiry*
- Psychological Review*
- Psychological Science*

9. Others

Nil