



Purpose: It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of Wharton County Junior College, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction.

Course Title – General Psychology

Course Prefix and Number – PSYC 2301

Department - Psychology

Division – Social and Behavioral Sciences

Course Type: (check one)

- Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
- Academic WCJC Core Course
- WECM course (This course is a Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y or N)

Semester Credit Hours # : Lecture Hours # : Lab/Other Hours # 3:3:0

Equated Pay hours for course - 3

Course Catalog Description – General Psychology is a survey of the major topics in psychology. General psychology introduces the study of behavior and the factors (genetic, mental, environmental, and cultural) that determine and affect behavior.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites – TSI Satisfied

List Lab/ Other Hours
Lab Hours
Clinical Hours
Practicum Hours
Other (list)

Prepared by Rebecca McElroy

Date 9-20-13

Reviewed by Department Head Rebecca McElroy

Date 9-20-13

Accuracy verified by Division Chair Amanda Shelton

Date 9-20-13

Approved by Dean or Vice President of Instruction *ggghunt*

Date 9-20-13



- I. Topical Outline** – Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, clinical or other non-lecture instruction):
- A description of what general psychology is, its distinctive characteristics, and how it is traditionally subdivided;
 - An overview of the major psychological approaches to the study of behavior and mental/cognitive processes; including relevant history, philosophy, contributors, methods, research findings, terminology, and current directions;
 - A historical and current review of what psychologists do, including areas of expertise that may be a focus of study and future career option;
 - An overview of the major concepts of psychology including: brain and behavior, sensation and perception, development, learning/conditioning, memory, cognitive and intellectual processes, emotion and motivation, stress and health issues, personality, abnormal psychology, and therapies;
 - An introduction to Social Psychology and relevant new directions in psychology

II. Course Learning Outcomes

<p>Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of this course, students will:</p>	<p>Methods of Assessment</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology. 2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology. 3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology. 4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology. 5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation. 6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online database research for a peer reviewed, scientific, journal article based on an assigned, current topic in psychology will be conducted. A review of this article, inclusive of an evaluation and identification of the hypothesis, population, methods, findings, and possible extensions of the research will be written in APA format. Grading will be by instructor rubric assigning points to accuracy and veracity of summary and APA formatting. 2. Scored test items and departmental comprehensive final questions pertaining directly to related lecture, discussion, text, and peripheral information. 3. Scored test items and departmental comprehensive final questions pertaining directly to related lecture, discussion, text, and peripheral information. 4. Scored test items and departmental comprehensive final questions pertaining directly to related lecture, discussion, text, and peripheral information. 5. Scored test items and departmental comprehensive final questions pertaining directly to related lecture, discussion, classroom demonstrations, text, and peripheral information. 6. Scored test items and departmental comprehensive final questions pertaining directly to related lecture, discussion, text, scientific models, and peripheral information.

III. Required Text(s), Optional Text(s) and/or Materials to be supplied by Student.

Zimbardo, Johnson, and McCann (2012). Psychology: Core Concepts. Pearson. Seventh Edition.
ISBN: 13:978-0-205-18346-3

IV. Suggested Course Maximum – 35

V. List any specific spatial or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

Regular conventional classroom or computer lab, overhead projector, video/DVD projector and television/smart board technology. Instructor must have training in, and access to all appropriate technology for www courses and courses via I-TV.

VI. Course Requirements/Grading System – Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course.

Instructors may use the narrative/lecture method of instruction to impart factual information and to elaborate on the topic areas in order to impart practical application of theory. This method of instruction also encourages and enables class discussion.

Class discussion of theory and its practical application is necessary in order for students to enhance their understanding of the terms used in psychology, and to fully comprehend the relevance and utility of the material. Discussion is fostered by the use of practical examples, readings, video, and the students own research.

Reading assignments are mandatory and include the text, outside readings, and research as assigned.

Students may be required to complete a research paper, using online technology, which will enable the use of relatively recent research taken from peer reviewed journal articles concerning topic areas under study. This will acquaint the student with the technology used in research, relevant topic areas in psychology, and the type of research that is required in the behavioral science field. This research paper may be written using American Psychological Association (APA) style, which may be reviewed in class, by handouts, and in the online library.

Written work may also be required in the form of essay questions on tests and written exercises in class. These requirements are to be designed to challenge the student to analyze and/or critique the material presented in class.

Minimum requirements must include the following:

- Class attendance in accordance with college policy and as stipulated by the instructor
- Completion of reading assignments made by the instructor
- Understanding of research methodology
- Encouragement and opportunity to participate in class discussion
- Completion of assigned tests and departmental final assessment

The grading rubric for all tests, papers, and projects will approximate as follows:

90% to 100%=A

80% to 89%=B

70% to 79%=C
60% to 69%=D
Below 60%= F

Assessment may be conducted using these methods:

- Objective assessment as measured on multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer tests
- Subjective assessment as measured on essay type questions using critical thinking assignments
- Writing, research, interpretation, and application assessment as measured on essays or research paper

The weight, style, and nature of the specific assessment method are left to the discretion of the instructor, but each instructor must include and place emphasis on these competencies. Balance in testing is required in order to foster and accommodate variations in learning styles.

*Overall minimum percentages for all assessments are as follows: 20% Final exam; 20% Written assignment; 40% other assessments, i.e., projects, quizzes, and tests.

VII. Curriculum Checklist

- **Academic General Education Course** (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
No additional documentation needed

- **Academic WCJC Core Course**
Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

- **WECM Courses**
If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix & Competencies Checklist



Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: **Social & Behavioral Sciences** Course Prefix & Suffix: **PSYC 2301**

Core Objective: **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated	Research Methods: Identify research findings through application of the scientific method. OR exhibit and understanding and ability to apply basic research methods in psychology including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.	Online database research for scientific journal articles; Summation and evaluation of hypothesis, methods, findings, and data in prescribed APA format of topical study	-APA Paper: Research and writing assignment scored by instructor rubric assigning points to accuracy and veracity of writing, format, interpretation, and evaluation of findings. -Scored test items pertaining directly to related lecture, text concepts and information
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated	Identify factors of the historical development of the study of human behavior and how they inform current theoretical perspectives prominent in the field of psychology.	Reading assignments and in class lecture, review and discussion inclusive of PPTs, printed handouts, and video peripherals of historical basis, development, and applications of modern day theory	-APA Paper: Research and writing assignment scored by instructor rubric assigning points to accuracy and veracity of writing, format, interpretation, and evaluation of findings. -Scored test items pertaining directly to related lecture, text concepts and information
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			



Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: **Social & Behavioral Sciences** Course Prefix & Suffix: **PSYC 2301**

Core Objective: **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated	Identify terminology unique to the study of psychology.	-Reading assignments and in class lecture, review and discussion inclusive of PPTs, printed handouts, and video peripherals -Writing assignment	-Scored test items pertaining directly to related lecture, text concepts and information -Rubric scored correct usage of terminology in writing assignment (APA paper)
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated	Identify accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation	-Reading assignments and in class lecture, review and discussion inclusive of PPTs, printed handouts, and video peripherals -Writing assignment	-Scored test items pertaining directly to related lecture, text concepts and information -Rubric scored correct usage of approaches and standards in writing assignment (APA paper)
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			



Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: **Social & Behavioral Sciences** Course Prefix & Suffix: **PSYC 2301**

Core Objective: **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**—to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated	Research Methods: Identify research findings through application of the scientific method. OR exhibit and understanding and ability to apply basic research methods in psychology including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.	Online database research for scientific journal articles; Summation and evaluation of hypothesis, methods, findings, and data in prescribed APA format of topical study	-APA Paper: Research and writing assignment scored by instructor rubric assigning points to accuracy and veracity of writing, format, interpretation, and evaluation of findings. -Scored test items pertaining directly to related lecture, text concepts and information
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			



Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: **Social & Behavioral Sciences** Course Prefix & Suffix: **PSYC 2301**

Core Objective: **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated	Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.	-Reading assignments and in class lecture, review and discussion inclusive of PPTs, printed handouts, and video peripherals -Writing assignment	-Scored test items pertaining directly to related lecture, text concepts, and information -APA Paper: Research and writing assignment scored by instructor rubric assigning points to evaluation of scientific studies inclusive of etiology of human behavior, cultural ramifications and situational variables
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			