

## University of Houston-Downtown

**Course Prefix, Number, and Title:** PSY 1303: Introduction to Psychology

**Credits/Lecture/Lab Hours:** 3/3/0

**Foundational Component Area:** Social and Behavioral Science

**Prerequisites:** Enrollment in or completion of ENG 1301

**Co-requisites:** None

**Course Description:** *Introduction to Psychology* is a survey of the essential subject areas, major theories, and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Special attention will be given to Research Methods, Biological Psychology, Lifespan Development, Memory and Cognition, Social Psychology, and Personality.

**TCCNS Number:** PSYC 2301

### Demonstration of Core Objectives within the Course:

Assigned Core Objective	Learning Outcome Students will be able to:	Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome	Method by which students' mastery of this outcome will be evaluated
Critical Thinking	Evaluate assumptions and develop defensible conclusions based on interpretation and analysis of information relevant to course content.	Through lecture, PowerPoint presentations, and material presented in the textbook, students will be introduced to assumptions about human development that underpin developmental theory (e.g., active vs. passive, quantitative vs. qualitative change, etc.), and they will be challenged to evaluate, interpret, and analyze theory from the various assumptions.	Students will answer multiple-choice items on exams that require them to evaluate assumptions held within various developmental theories and draw conclusions based on their theoretical underpinnings.
Critical Thinking Communication	Synthesize and deliver organized and well-constructed arguments about course content using multiple modalities (including written, oral, and visual formats) to include the use of technology.	Lecture and instructional technology presentations will provide directions for use of technology tools such as PowerPoint, <i>Scopia</i> , or <i>Jing</i> . Tool selection may vary based on technological innovations.	Students will gather information from their textbook and credible internet sources to develop PowerPoint presentations (both written and visual) about psychology subfields, which will be orally presented in-class or online, with online

			students using additional technology tools for their online oral presentations, such as <i>Scopia</i> or <i>Jing</i> .
Critical Thinking  Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning	Analyze or interpret empirically derived information and infer logical conclusions.	Lecture, PowerPoint presentations, material covered in the textbook and additional assigned readings will introduce students to psychological research and theory, and the various ways that psychological concepts are scientifically investigated.	Students' abilities to interpret and infer logical conclusions based on presented research findings will be assessed using multiple-choice items on exams, and/or a written response to an online psychological assessment, online or in-class discussions, debates, reaction papers, or application papers.
Critical Thinking  Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning	Apply theory or findings from empirical research to a contemporary social problem.	Through lecture, PowerPoint presentations, material presented in the textbook throughout the course, and additional assigned readings, students will be introduced to a variety of theories that seek to explain social problems such as prejudice and discrimination, or violence.	Students will answer multiple-choice items on exams that assess their ability to apply theory or research findings to a contemporary social problem, and/or students will complete a written or oral assignment such as a written response to an online psychological assessment, online or in-class discussions, debates, reaction papers, or application papers.
Social Responsibility	Identify the interplay among individuals, groups, institutions, and events within the context of society and culture.	Through lecture, PowerPoint presentations, and material covered in the textbook students will be familiarized with the interrelations among individual mental health and groups, institutions, and events within the context of society and culture.	Students will complete a written or oral assignment such as a written response to an online psychological assessment, online or in-class discussions, debates, reaction papers, or application papers to demonstrate mastery of this learning outcome.

**Additional Course Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends associated with the following areas of psychology: research design, biological psychology, human development, human learning, memory, cognition, social psychology, personality, and others.
- Recognize the core values accompanying psychology including the value of empirical evidence, the ability to tolerate ambiguity, the importance of acting ethically, and the role of diversity in the psychological sciences.
- Evaluate and apply basic research methods in psychology including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
- Understand the importance of, and exhibit an ability to use, critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and when possible, the scientific approach to solving problems related to behavior and mental processes.

**Course Topics:**

- The Science of Psychology
- Development across the Life Span
- Sexuality and Gender
- Stress and Health
- Learning
- Memory
- Cognition
- Motivation and Emotion
- Social Psychology
- Theories of Personality
- Biological Perspective
- Consciousness
- Sensation and Perception
- Psychological Disorders
- Therapies

**Grading/Course Content which Demonstrates Student Achievement of Core Objectives:**

<i>Course Grade</i>	<i>A: 90-100</i>	<i>B: 80-89</i>	<i>C: 70-79</i>	<i>D: 60-69</i>	<i>F: 0-59</i>
<b>Summary of Course Exams, Quizzes, Activities, and Final</b>					
Exam 1					17%
Exam 2					17%
Exam 3					17%
Exam 4					17%
Presentation					16%
Online IAT					16%
Total Points					100%