

**NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE IDENTIFICATION**

Course Code/Number: PSYC 155

Course Title: General Psychology

KRSN: PSY1010- Introduction to Psychology  
(Kansas Regents Shared Number)

Please visit the Kansas Board of Regents website for more information.

Division:  Applied Science (AS)  Liberal Arts (LA)  Workforce Development (WD)  
 Health Care (HC)  Lifetime Learning (LL)  Nursing  Developmental

Credit Hour(s): 3

Effective Date: FA 2015

Assessment Goal Per Outcome: 70%

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed as an introduction to the field of psychology and will emphasize a variety of content areas including, but not limited to, the philosophical basis of psychology, underlying principles of scientific methodology, neuroscience, learning, intelligence, sensation/perception, memory, consciousness, personality, life-span development, and psychopathology and treatment. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have a fundamental knowledge of the broad field of psychology in the aforementioned areas, among others.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS/PREREQUISITES AND/OR COREQUISITES**

None

**TEXTS**

The official list of textbooks and materials for this course is found on *myNeosho*.

<http://www.neosho.edu/ProspectiveStudents/Registration/CourseSyllabi.aspx>

## GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

1. Practice Responsible Citizenship through:
  - identifying rights and responsibilities of citizenship,
  - identifying how human values and perceptions affect and are affected by social diversity,
  - identifying and interpreting artistic expression.
2. Live a healthy lifestyle (physical, intellectual, social) through:
  - listing factors associated with a healthy lifestyle and lifetime fitness,
  - identifying the importance of lifetime learning,
  - demonstrating self-discipline, respect for others, and the ability to work collaboratively as a team.
3. Communicate effectively through:
  - developing effective written communication skills,
  - developing effective oral communication and listening skills.
4. Think analytically through:
  - utilizing quantitative information in problem solving,
  - utilizing the principles of systematic inquiry,
  - utilizing various information resources including technology for research and data collection.

## COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES (as Required)

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

**Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

OUTCOME No. 1: Identify historical foundations and current trends in psychology.

- a. Identify and describe the underlying principles and principal proponents of the psychoanalytic, behavioral, humanistic, cognitive, biological/evolutionary, and feminist perspectives.
- b. Identify those individuals whose contributions are historically and contemporaneously significant in psychology.

OUTCOME No. 2: Distinguish methods of research in psychology.

- a. Identify and describe the various methods of descriptive research.
- b. Identify and describe the correlational method of research.
- c. Identify and describe the experimental method of research.
- d. Identify the principles involved in conducting ethical research.

OUTCOME No. 3: Identify the biological basis of behavior including physiology of the brain.

- a. Identify and explain the function of the nervous system, to include the electrochemical processes involved in an action potential and the function of the major neurotransmitters.
- b. Identify and describe the function of the central nervous system to include the functions of the brain stem, limbic system, and cerebral cortex.

- c. Identify and describe the peripheral nervous system to include the somatic and autonomic nervous systems.
- d. Identify and explain the function of the endocrine system, including hormonal influences on behavior and mental function.
- e. Identify and explain the various brain-imaging technologies used in psychology.
- f. Identify the physiology and function of the major sensory systems and explain the concepts of absolute threshold and just noticeable difference (JND).
- g. Identify the primary Gestalt principles related to sensory and perceptual processes.

**OUTCOME No 4:** Distinguish principles and theories of learning and cognition.

- a. Define consciousness.
- b. Identify the various processes involved in attention.
- c. Identify the stages of the sleep cycle.
- d. Identify the most common sleep disorders.
- e. Identify the major theories of dreams.
- f. Identify and explain the major classifications of psychoactive drugs including their effects on behavior and mental function.
- g. Demonstrate an understanding of the information-processing model of memory.
- h. Identify common memory enhancement processes/techniques.
- i. Identify and define contemporary theories of intelligence.
- j. Identify contemporary forms of intelligence testing.
- k. Identify and describe common aptitude tests.
- l. Explain the role that reliability, validity, and standardization play in psychological tests.
- m. Identify, and demonstrate an understanding of, classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observation learning.

**OUTCOME No. 5:** Recognize theories and applications of motivation and emotion.

- a. Identify the various theories of human motivation.
- b. Describe Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the concept of self-actualization.
- c. Describe and explain the stages of the human sexual-response cycle.
- d. Describe and differentiate between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, including the effects of external rewards.
- e. Identify and describe the physiological, expressive, and cognitive components of emotion.

**OUTCOME No. 6:** Demonstrate an understanding of human life-span development.

- a. Identify and explain the stages and related concerns of prenatal development.
- b. Identify the primary characteristics of Piaget's stages of cognitive development.
- c. Describe the significance of the nature/nurture debate as it relates to human development.
- d. Demonstrate an understanding of basic genetic and reproductive processes.
- e. Identify and explain the major theories of sexual orientation.
- f. Describe dementia, including Alzheimer's disease and its primary characteristics.
- g. Explain the steps of coping with death identified by Kubler-Ross.
- h. Identify various end-of-life issues including hospice care, advanced directives, bereavement, and assisted suicide.

OUTCOME No. 7: Identify the major theories of personality.

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of the psychoanalytic approach including the Freudian concepts of the psyche, psychosexual stages of development, and defense mechanisms.
- b. Describe the trait approach to personality and demonstrate an understanding of the “five-factor model”.
- c. Identify the major theoretical approaches to personality.

OUTCOME No. 8: Recognize categories of psychological disorders and treatments..

- a. Identify major psychological disorders as outlined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Text Revision* (DSM-IV-TR).
- b. Identify the primary types of treatment of psychological disorders.

OUTCOME No. 9: Recognize the major theories and findings in social psychology.

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of the issues of attribution, conformity, group dynamics, and social interaction.
- b. Describe the significance of cultural diversity, ethnicity, and prejudice/racism.

## **MINIMUM COURSE CONTENT**

The following topics must be included in this course. Additional topics may also be included.

1. The Science of Psychology
2. The Biological Perspective
3. Sensation and Perception
4. Consciousness: Sleep, Dreams, Hypnosis, and Drugs
5. Learning
6. Memory
7. Cognition
8. Development Across the Life Span
9. Motivation and Emotion
10. Sexuality and Gender
11. Stress and Health
12. Social Psychology
13. Theories of Personality
14. Psychological Disorders

## 15. Psychological Therapies

### **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION**

#### INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

For specific instructional methods see the syllabus supplement on the syllabus page for this class on *myNeosho*.

#### STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION

A = 90–100% B = 80–89% C = 70–79% D = 60–69% F = 0–59%

For specific instructional methods see the syllabus supplement on the syllabus page for this class on *myNeosho*.

### **ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT GAIN**

The purpose of assessing student learning at Neosho County Community College is to ensure the educational purposes of the institution are met and appropriate changes are made in program development and classroom instruction to allow for student success. The instructor(s) of this course will determine the methods of assessment most appropriate and complete an assessment report at the end of the course.

#### **Attendance Policy**

1. NCCC values interactive learning which promotes student engagement in the learning process. To be actively engaged, the student must be present in the learning environment.
2. Unless students are participating in a school activity or are excused by the instructor, they are expected to attend class. If a student's absences exceed one-eighth of the total course duration, (which equates to one hundred (100) minutes per credit hour in a face-to-face class) the instructor has the right, but is not required, to withdraw a student from the course. Once the student has been dropped for excessive absences, the registrar's office will send a letter to the student, stating that he or she has been dropped. A student may petition the chief academic officer for reinstatement by submitting a letter stating valid reasons for the absences within one week of the registrar's notification. If the student is reinstated into the class, the instructor and the registrar will be notified. Please refer to the Student Handbook/Academic Policies for more information
3. Absences that occur due to students participating in official college activities are excused except in those cases where outside bodies, such as the State Board of Nursing, have requirements for minimum class minutes for each student. Students who are excused will be given reasonable opportunity to make up any missed work or receive substitute assignments from the instructor and should not be penalized for the absence. Proper procedure should be followed in notifying faculty in

advance of the student's planned participation in the event. Ultimately it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the planned absence.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

NCCC expects every student to demonstrate ethical behavior with regard to academic pursuits. Academic integrity in coursework is a specific requirement. Definitions, examples, and possible consequences for violations of Academic Integrity, as well as the appeals process, can be found in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and/or Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices not being used for class activities must not be accessed during class times unless the instructor chooses to waive this policy.

## **NOTE**

Information and statements in this document are subject to change at the discretion of NCCC. Students will be notified of changes and where to find the most current approved documents.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you are a student with a disability who may need accommodation(s), in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, please notify the Dean of Student Services in the Student Services Office, Sanders Hall, 620-432-0304, on the Chanute Campus, or the Dean for the Ottawa and Online Campuses, 785-248-2798, on the Ottawa Campus as soon as possible. You will need to bring your documentation for review in order to determine reasonable accommodations, and then we can assist you in arranging any necessary accommodations.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The following link provides information related to the non-discrimination policy of NCCC, including persons with disabilities. Students are urged to review this policy.

<http://www.neosho.edu/Departments/NonDiscrimination.aspx>

## **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY (TITLE IX)**

At NCCC, it is the responsibility of an instructor to help create a safe learning environment in the classroom, including both physical and virtual classrooms. All instructors are considered mandatory

reporters at NCCC, therefore any information regarding sexual misconduct that is shared by a student in one-on-one meetings with the instructor must be reported to appropriate personnel at the College. Instructors will keep the information private to the greatest extent possible, but it is not confidential. Generally, climate surveys, classroom writing assignments or discussions, human subjects research, or events such as Take Back the Night events do not provide notice that must be reported to the Coordinator by employees, unless the reporting party clearly indicates that they wish a report to be made.

The following link provides information related to the sexual misconduct policy of NCCC, including resources, reporting options, and student rights. Students are urged to review this policy.

<http://www.neosho.edu/TitleIX.aspx>

## **COURSE NOTES**

In order to achieve an optimum learning environment, students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner, and to avoid introducing hazardous materials or inciting disruptive behaviors into the classroom. These issues, as well as others, may be addressed in the Syllabus Supplement of each individual instructor.