

276 Psychology

Definition

Psychology is a natural and a social science concerned with the study of human behavior. As such, it is a broad discipline which involves both pure science and practical application of science to matters of everyday living. Although professional level positions generally require a graduate degree, B.A. holders find satisfying careers in a growing number of jobs including paraprofessional positions.

Staff

To access faculty and staff, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit extension.

Program Advisement:

Dr. Tom O'Neil, Dean ext. 6482

Administrative Assistant:

Cindy Kline ext. 6482

Faculty:

Dr. Fredy Aviles ext. 6009

Dr. Irit Gat ext. 6493

Adjunct Faculty:

To access adjunct faculty voice mail, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit number.

	V.M.
Nicholas Betty	2512
Glenn Egbert	2013
Julia Jacobson	2181
Sean Mintz	2999
James Previte	2189
Laurel Johnson	2659
Marina Sangkavichai	2251
Bruce Schreiberfeder	2541
Monica Slone	2003
Dr. George Suel	2122
Dr. Harry Taylor	2215
Anne Taylor-Spitzer	2073
Wanda VanGilder	2172
Annette Vasquez-Sanker	2949

Program Description

The Psychology program is designed to benefit both the student pursuing a career in psychology or related disciplines as well as the student desiring to acquire a personal understanding of psychology as it applies to everyday living.

Distinctive Features

The program includes a variety of courses, and utilizes a number of teaching methods, including those which

emphasize student participation through group and individual activity.

Career Options

Administrator
Community College Instructor
Community College Counselor
Drug Abuse Counselor
Employment Counselor
Human Factors Specialist
Marriage, Family, Child Counselor
Mental Health Worker
Outreach Worker
Personnel Analyst
Personnel Management Specialist
Probation Officer
Psychiatric Aide
Psychometrist
Research Director
Social Services Director
Survey Designer
Student Affairs Officer
Therapist
Training Officer
(Most of these careers require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Certificate Program

Certificate not applicable.

Associate Degree

An associate degree with a major in Psychology is not available. Psychology courses can be included in the 18 units necessary for an associate degree with a major in Liberal Arts and Sciences. (See Graduation/Associate Degree Requirements.)

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at the following Web site: www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course

must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See "Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

Psychology Courses

PSY 101 *GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course provides a scientific study of behavior through an exploration of major concepts, methods and research findings. Topics such as biological basis of behavior; cognitive processes; research methods; learning and motivation; life span development; individual differences; behavioral disorders and therapies; social behavior and applied psychology are included. Students will also develop critical thinking so they may read and write in a scientific manner. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 201 *INTRODUCTION TO PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course explores the concept that both psychological experience and overt behavior are the result of nervous system function. Defining and identifying neuroanatomical and neurological terminology are integral parts of this class. Students will analyze and critique research methodology in physiological psychology. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 211 *INTRODUCTION TO CHICANO/LATINO PSYCHOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course is an introduction to the personal and social behavioral makeup of Chicano/Latino persona. Special emphasis will be on personality development and those factors that contribute to the diverse makeup of Latinos. Latinos, with a major emphasis on Mexican-Americans and the Chicano Culture, will be examined in terms of psychological assessment, interpersonal conflicts, socio-psychological problems such as prejudice, discrimination, and ethnocentrism, and bilingual/bicultural experiences. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 212 *HUMAN SEXUALITY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101 and ENGL 101.

Advisory: Completion of PHIL 105, and Eligibility for College Level Reading.

This course surveys biological, sociological, and psychological influences on current sexual attitudes and behavior. Special emphasis is placed on increasing general sexual knowledge, recognizing values, and becoming more comfortable with the subject matter. Critical thinking skills will be developed through examination and analysis of cultural values, the complex research problems, and a wide variety of sexual behaviors. Example topics include: sexual dysfunction, sexual health, sexually transmitted diseases and variations in sexual behavior. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 215 *PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

A review of relevant psychological theories, research, and research tools that

examine prejudice and discrimination. These tools will then be utilized to better understand historical victims of prejudice and discrimination, as well as others. Emphasis will also be given to the application of these theories in promoting positive change. Students will become aware of their own behavior as it relates to stereotypes and the gaining of tolerance. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 218 *PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course examines the unique psychological, biological, social, and cultural issues affecting female development. A critique of past and present theories regarding women's social development, sexuality, intellectual capacities, and psychology will be examined. An emphasis is placed on critical and creative thinking including a focus on skills and strategies for promoting constructive change and personal integration of content. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 219 *DYNAMICS OF SEX AND GENDER

(formerly same course as SOC 124)

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of PSY 101 or SOC 101, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course examines how gender and biological sex effect a variety of psychological behaviors and attitudes. Some examples include gender differences and similarities with regard to cognitive abilities, emotion, relationships (e.g. work, family, and intimate), physical and mental health issues and treatment. The specific topics will be examined from a variety of theories such as Psychobiology, Developmental, Cognitive-Behavioral, Psychoanalytic and Social Learning. Gender differences and similarities will be addressed throughout using scientific research, as well as an examination of stereotyping

and sexism. Further, course material will be applied to students' current lives. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 230 *SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

(formerly same course as SOC 230)

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101 or SOC 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course studies human interaction and emphasizes the influence of the social context on behavior and experience. Sample topics include social cognition, person perception, attitude formation and change, persuasion, conformity, group processes, aggression, prejudice, attraction and intimacy, gender, and social psychology in the clinic, workplace, and courtroom. Research methods and their ethics will also be addressed. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 232 *THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of PSY 101, and Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

This course examines both classical and contemporary theories of personality and the basic concepts, assumptions, principles, and implications that underlie them. The evidence that validates or supports their proposition will be evaluated. This course will further explore the applicability and relevance of the theories to everyday world events, situations and cross culturally. The origination of the theories and the theorist's biographical data will be considered. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 233 PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 101.

Advisory: Completion of PSY 101, and Eligibility for College Level Reading.

This course emphasizes personal and social adjustment through examination

of the major theories and issues in the field of psychology. Specific focus is placed on self-awareness, personal growth, interpersonal relationships and communication. Students will also examine current topics in the area of personal and social adjustment in scientific journals. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 234 *ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of ENGL 101 and PSY 101.

This course provides an introduction and broad overview to abnormal psychology. The course will begin by distinguishing between “normal” and “abnormal” behavior through a historical lens. Specifically, an introduction to the major psychological disorders listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders will be explored and topics covered will include: assessment, diagnosis, treatment, research and prevention of mental disorders. Students will also be challenged to examine their own stereotypes about “abnormal” behavior. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 235 CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

Introduction to the psychological development of the person from prenatal period through adolescence. A survey of current psychological theories, such as cognitive, behavioral and social cognitive, and psychoanalytic will be examined regarding the emotional, physical, and social development of the child. (CSU, UC, AVC)

PSY 236 *DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 101.

Introduction of the psychological development of the person from the prenatal period through old age. A survey of current theories of development including Psychoanalytic, Behavioral, Cognitive, Socio-cultural, and Epigenetic theory and examination of biosocial, cognitive, and psychosocial development will be included. (CSU, AVC)

PSY 244 INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of PSY 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for College Level Reading and ENGL 099.

This course provides an introduction and broad overview to the field of Counseling Psychology. Primary topics covered include counseling theories, a brief history of this specialty, skills, strategies and processes for working with individuals or groups. Additional topics include an introduction to various mental health professions, ethical guidelines, identifying the characteristics of effective helpers and examining the process of personal bias in the counseling relationship. (CSU, AVC)