

# **Common Course Outline**

## **PSYC 101**

### **Introduction to Psychology**

**3 Semester Hours**

## **The Community College of Baltimore County**

### **Description**

#### Introduction to Psychology

Surveys the science of psychology; addresses research methods, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, motivation and emotion, language, lifespan development, intelligence, stress and health, social behavior, personality, abnormal behavior and treatment; applications of psychology in a culturally diverse world.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 052 or LVE 2) or (ESOL 052 or LVE 2) and (RDNG 052 or LVR 2), MATH 081

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate they have learned the fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary and methods used in each of the topics listed in the “Major Topics” section of this syllabus.
2. Critically analyze and apply data derived from psychological research with humans and animals in evaluating alternatives and making personal and workplace decisions.
3. Evaluate the validity of the source, as they analyze basic psychological information found in film, television, radio, or information technology resources.
4. Apply psychological concepts to their own experiences, the workplace, and a culturally diverse community.
5. Communicate their understanding of psychological concepts/issues in written and oral or signed formats.
6. Describe the relevance of religion, race, class, gender, age, and ethnicity to the formation of cultural differences in behavior, attitudes, and perceptions.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of information technology tools for accessing, interpreting and expressing psychological principles in a rapidly changing world.
8. Develop the skills to analyze their strengths and weaknesses as learners.
9. Recognize that psychological information is continually evolving which requires the ability to pursue lifelong learning both independently and collaboratively.
10. Explain different psychological constructionist viewpoints about knowledge as either independently and/or socially constructed by the learner.

## **Major Topics**

Topics addressed in Introduction to Psychology will include:

1. The evolution of modern psychology
2. Research methods and ethical issues in psychology
3. The sub-fields of psychology
4. Biological bases of behavior and mental process
5. Sensation and perception
6. States of consciousness
7. Basic principles of learning
8. Memory
9. Language and intelligence
10. Human development
11. Motivation and emotion
12. Personality theories and assessment
13. Stress: its causes, effects and control
14. Mental disorders: their nature and causes
15. Prevention and treatment of mental disorders
16. Social psychology
17. The nature of cultural and gender diversity in the human experience

## **Course Requirements**

### **Grading:**

Faculty will provide numerous feedback opportunities to students including:

- a) At least three exams.
- b) A critical thinking written assignment (at least 1000 words) based on psychological research articles, infotech sources, film, television, print, or a service learning project relating to PSYC 101 topics. This paper must use accepted citation format demonstrating an integration of psychological vocabulary, perspectives and principles.
- c) At least one additional written or oral presentation resulting from a collaborative classroom, computer or laboratory activity pertaining to Introduction to Psychology.
- d) Completing learning styles/learning modalities activities to assess their strengths and weaknesses as learners.

## **Other Course Information**

- a) PSYC 101 is a Social and Behavioral Sciences General Education core course and an Arts and Sciences elective
- b) Students are responsible for conforming to the college attendance and conduct policies.

Date Revised: 06/17/00