

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Psychology
Programme:	Psychology
<i>FHEQ</i> Level:	3
Course Title:	Foundations in Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 3100
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Introduces students to the major areas within the psychology discipline, through current empirical research and theoretical debate. Topics include scientific methodology; brain functioning; sensation and perception; evolutionary theory; consciousness; development; personality; social psychology; psychopathology; language; and learning. Students discover how psychological research is conducted and how research findings can be applied to understanding human behaviour.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

This course introduces students to the key topics, theories and scientific methods involved in the study of psychology. We will first discuss what is psychology and why scientists are interested in this field. Then we will move on to examine different areas of psychology such as biopsychology, development, eating disorders, personality, memory, psychological disorders, social psychology etc. Special emphasis will be placed on the applications of theories in “real life” and the critical evaluation of these. Also, we will discuss ethical issues in psychology and its current standing as a science.

Programme Outcomes:

Psychology: 3A.i, 3B.i, 3C.i, 3D.i

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the major areas in psychology
- Gain an insight into the scientific methods in psychology
- Appreciate the connections between the theories and their applications in experimentation and “real life”
- Appreciate the links between the different fields of psychology, but also between psychology and other disciplines
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate a line of argument and present it in a written form
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a group to answer critical thinking questions on readings

Indicative Content:

- The field of psychology
- Scientific methods in Psychology
- Biology in Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Stress
- Memory
- Awareness: Dreaming and Psychoactive Drugs

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Group discussions on the reading material
- III. Internet sites related to psychology
- IV. Videos on psychology topics

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Nolen-Hoeksema, S., Fredrickson, B., Loftus, G. & Wagenaar, W.A. (latest edition). *Atkinson and Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology*. Thomson & Wadsworth.

LeDoux, J. (2003). *The emotional brain: The mysterious underpinnings of emotional life*. (London: Phoenix).

Pinker, S. (2002). *The Blank Slate*. (London, Penguin Books).

Journals

Journal of Personality and Social

Psychology Journal of Abnormal

Psychology

Cognition and Emotion

Brain

Scientific American Mind

Web Sites

<http://web.uvic.ca/~lalonde/Psyc435A/object/> TED

Talks

<http://www.personalityresearch.org/journals.html>

<http://www.simonslab.com/videos.html>

<http://www.prisonexp.org/>

<http://www.pbs.org/saf/>

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	