

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Humanities & Social Sciences

Programme: Psychology

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Introduction to Psychology

Course Code: PSYC 4101

Total Hours: 160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 15

Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credit 16 UK CATS credits

8 ECTS credits

4 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the major areas within the psychology discipline, through current empirical research and theoretical debate. Students discover how psychological research is conducted and how research findings can be applied to understanding human behaviour. Topics include scientific methodology in psychology, and key contemporary areas of research, such as biopsychology, brain functioning; sensation and perception; evolutionary theory, development, personality, memory, consciousness, stress, psychological disorders, language, learning and social psychology.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the key theories, topics, and scientific methods involved in the study of psychology.
- To introduce students to substantive areas of research in psychology, such as biopsychology, brain functioning; sensation and perception; evolutionary theory, development, personality, memory, consciousness, stress, psychological disorders, language, learning and social psychology.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of psychology.
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:

4AI; 4BI; 4CI; 4DI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrates broad knowledge and understanding of the core theories and methods in psychology.
- Demonstrates a broad understanding of key substantive areas of contemporary study in psychology.
- Demonstrates broad communication skills (including digital literacy) in deploying ideas and information to in a range of different formats and media.

Indicative Content:

- The discipline of psychology and its major sub-fields
- Scientific methods in psychology
- Theories in psychology and their application to experimentation and 'real life'
- Key areas of research focus in psychology (i.e. biopsychology, brain functioning; sensation and perception; evolutionary theory, development, personality, memory, consciousness, stress, psychological disorders, language, learning and social psychology).

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:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Glassman, W.E., & Hadad, M. (2013). *Approaches to Psychology* (6th ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.
- Nolen-Hoeksema, S., Fredrickson, B., Loftus, G.R. & Wagenaar, W.A. (2016). *Atkinson and Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology* (16th ed). Cengage Learning.
- Spielman, R.M., Jenkins, W.J. and Lovett, M.D. (2020). *Introduction to Psychology* (2nd edn). RICE University.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	Nov 2024	