

## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Psychology is both a natural and a social science concerned with the study of human behavior, thoughts, and emotions. As such, it is a broad discipline that involves both pure science and practical application of science to matters of daily living. Students planning to transfer to a four-year institution and major in psychology should consult with a counselor regarding the transfer process and lower division requirements.

Core competencies emphasized by courses in this department focus on students being able to:

- 1) Read and retain information.
- 2) Employ vocabulary of the subject studied.
- 3) Find and interpret information.

### PSYCH 052—PRACTICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to apply principles of psychology to their own lives through written examples of these principles in their lives, as assessed by written in- and out-of-class assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate effective communication with others through effective responses to social situations, as assessed by written in- and out-of-class assignments.

### PSYCH 100—GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate theory- and research-based ideas in a variety of psychology subfields and show the ability to apply these ideas to their lives, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze the consequences of different personal behavioral choices by applying psychological theory and research to their lives, as assessed by written assignments.

### PSYCH 100H—GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY--HONORS

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate theory- and research-based ideas in a variety of psychology subfields and show

the ability to apply these ideas to their lives, as assessed by exams and homework assignments, and an Honors Program upgrade of work including a paper based on a minimum of 10 research articles following APA format.

- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze the consequences of different personal behavioral choices by applying psychology theory and research to their lives, as assessed by written assignments and an Honors Program upgrade including a visit to a 4-year college library to develop a reference list of psychology journal articles.

#### PSYCH 102—PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy behavior patterns and show application of this knowledge to their lives, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate different personal management techniques and coping strategies, and show application of this knowledge to their day-to-day living, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.

#### PSYCH 103—PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate the factors contributing to the development of personality, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to understand their own behavior and the behavior of others, as assessed by in-class discussions and written assignments.
- 3) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate the some of the major ideas found in personality theories, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.

#### PSYCH 105—STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to understand such topics as measurement,

frequency distributions and the normal curve, measures of central tendency and variability, sampling and statistical inference, correlation, hypothesis testing, and analysis of variance, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.

- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to apply statistical concepts to real research examples, as assessed by handing in a successfully completed statistical analysis of a research project.

#### PSYCH 110—ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, and compare basic kinds of mental disorders and their symptoms and show application of this knowledge to their lives, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and compare various theories and explanations of mental disorders and show application of this knowledge to their lives, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.
- 3) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, and compare various approaches to therapy, both psychological and biological, and show application of this knowledge to their lives, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.

#### PSYCH 111—DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY; LIFESPAN

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate such lifespan issues as the nature of change, continuity and discontinuity, and genetic and environmental influences on growth, as assessed by exams and homework assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate, current theory and research on lifespan issues, as assessed by a written analysis of the validity of specific research examples.

#### PSYCH 112—DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY; CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate influences on the normal individual from conception through adolescence, as assessed by exams and written assignments.

- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate a variety of developmental stages proposed by classical theorists, as assessed by exams and written assignments.

#### PSYCH 118—HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate research evidence related to a variety of assumptions and attitudes toward human sexuality, as assessed by exams and written assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify a variety of problems that restrict full sexual functioning, as assessed by exams and written assignments.

#### PSYCH 132—COUNSELING TECHNIQUES

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and critically evaluate the effectiveness of a variety of counseling techniques, as assessed by exams and written assignments.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to apply a variety of psychologically healing solutions to their own problems, as assessed by written assignments and in-class discussions.

#### PSYCH 222—SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN PSYCHOLOGY I

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to do self-directed library and fieldwork on self-selected topics, as assessed by both a written summary and an in-office discussion with the supervising professor.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to develop a contract and fulfill this contract to work three hours per week out of class on a self-selected topic, as assessed by an in-office discussion with the supervising professor.

#### PSYCH 223—SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN PSYCHOLOGY II

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to do self-directed library and fieldwork on self-selected topics, as assessed by both a written summary and an in-office discussion with the supervising professor.
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to develop a contract and fulfill this contract to

work six hours per week out of class on a self-selected topic, as assessed by an in-office discussion with the supervising professor.