



**Credit Hours: 3**

**Catalog Course Description:**

General Psychology is a one-semester course designed to provide an overview of the field of psychology and human behavior. The topics of philosophy, history, biology and neuroscience, sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, intelligence, emotion, motivation, social dynamics, abnormal behavior and treatment are covered.

**How Program Site Will Be Incorporated into the Course:**

London, England, with its wide variety of cultural highlights, will readily lend itself to the study of the psychological concepts of sensation, perception, social dynamics, consciousness, emotion, motivation, and how culture affects health, stress, and coping. While in London, students will be introduced to the history of psychology with a trip to Bethlem Royal Hospital, the world's first and oldest institution to specialize in the treatment of the mentally ill. Freud is discussed in the history, personality, and therapy chapters, so it will be very interesting to visit the house he lived in after moving to England from Austria. Students will find the Jack the Ripper walking tour interesting after covering abnormal behavior. Abnormal behavior and treatment will be looked at in cultural and historical contexts.

**Prerequisites:** DSPW 0800 and DSPR 0800 or acceptable placement scores.

**Textbook(s) and Other Courses:**

Portable Psychology by Wood, Wood, and Boyd; ISBN: 0-205-56908-0, ISBN 13: 978-0-205-56908-3

**I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:**

Week 1

Intro, syllabus, and research methods; Chapters 1, 2, 13, 14; **EXAM #1**. Journal entries due (5). Presentations as assigned first day of class for the week. Professional journal article critique due.

Week 2

Chapters 4, 11, 12, 15; **EXAM #2**. Journal entries due (5). Presentations as assigned for the week. Professional journal article critique due.

Week 3

Chapters 5, 6, 7, 9; **EXAM #3**. Journal entries due (5). Presentations as assigned for the week. Professional journal article critique due.

**II. Course Objectives:**

- A. Define psychology from several theoretical perspectives
- B. Recognize and recall significant psychological terminology
- C. Identify major psychological figures in the history of psychology

- D. Analyze and discuss the impact of scientific discovery on human thought, behavior, and biology
- E. Describe, analyze, compare, and contrast the major psychological theories and therapeutic approaches
- F. Apply course content to personal life
- G. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about psychological issues and how geographic and cultural institutions influence individuals
- H. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to articulate ideas and opinions about psychological issues, research methodology, and the ethics of psychological practice

### III. Instructional Processes:

Students will:

- 1. complete a research project (oral presentation and professional journal article critiques) demonstrating their ability to apply course content (**communication outcome, transitional strategy**);
- 2. write daily journal entries incorporating critical thinking skills (**transitional strategy**);
- 3. use teamwork to accomplish in-class group activities utilizing knowledge of course concepts (**active learning strategy**); and
- 4. use the Internet and VSCC library (if possible) to access information and professional journal articles (**technological literacy outcome**).

### IV. Expectations for Student Performance\*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. identify examples of research method terminology (**H**);
- 2. recognize historical founders and goals of psychology (**C**);
- 3. identify the structure of a neuron, the process of neurotransmission, parts of the brain, and techniques for measuring brain function (**B, D, F**);
- 4. demonstrate knowledge of the biological structures of sensation and the process of perception (**B, D, F**);
- 5. identify elements of the sleep process and theories of dreams (**A, B, C, E, F**);
- 6. demonstrate an understanding of conditioning, learning, memory, and intelligence (**A, B, C, D, F, H**);
- 7. identify the process of stress appraisal and understand effects of stress and healthy coping strategies (**B, D, G**);
- 8. recognize differences in theories of personality development (**A, B, C, E, F**);
- 9. demonstrate an understanding of different psychological disorders and their treatment (**A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H**).

\*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

**V. Evaluation:**

- A. Testing Procedures: Three (3) multiple choice exams of 75 questions each will be given (possible 225 points). Students can write on the exam to explain their answers. One bonus discussion question will be given on each exam.
- B. Research Papers: Two (2) professional journal article critiques will be written, worth up to 30 points each (possible 60 points). Rubrics will be handed out the first day of class.
- C. Other Evaluation Methods: Fifteen (15) journal entries related to daily psychological concepts in relation to the culture will be written, worth up to 5 points each (possible 75 points). One (1) class presentation will be given on the psychological topic of choice (possible 20 points). Rubrics will be handed out first day of class.
- D. Grading Scale:

342 – 380	= A
303 – 341	= B
264 – 302	= C
225 – 263	= D
Below 224	= F

**VI. Policies:**

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

C. Cell phone usage is strictly prohibited during class time.

**VII. Instructional Hours:**

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.