

Psychology 101H

Honors General Psychology

3 units; 3 hours lecture

*Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC*

This honors course, intended for students in the Honors Transfer Program, is a survey study of human behavior and mental processes with an emphasis on basic theory and research generated by the scientific method. Major topics include psychobiology, learning, human cognition, personality, lifespan development, psychological disorders, therapeutic approaches, and social psychology. This course is enriched through extensive, rigorous reading, writing, and research assignments.

Note: Students may take either Psychology 101 or Psychology 101H. Duplicate credit will not be awarded.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify early schools of thought in psychology and contrast them to contemporary subfields in psychology.
2. Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research.
3. Describe the different functions of the neural and hormonal systems, emphasizing the functions of brain structures.
4. Explain the basics of genetics and assess the combined influence of genes and environment on a variety of human characteristics.
5. Differentiate between sensation and perception and identify the processes by which organisms recognize, organize, and make sense of stimuli in their environment.
6. Describe and discuss various states of consciousness, such as waking, sleeping, dreaming, and states induced by psychoactive substances.
7. Define learning and compare and contrast classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning.
8. Examine human cognition, focusing on memory, intelligence, and language, as well as the common errors of human thought processes.
9. Describe the forces that motivate human behavior, such as instincts, drives, and needs.
10. Identify and evaluate the major theories of emotion with an emphasis on behavioral, physiological, and cognitive components.
11. Describe processes of stability and change in the domains of biological, cognitive, and psychosocial development across the lifespan.
12. Compare and contrast the major theories of personality and describe and explain methods of assessing personality.
13. Evaluate the concept of “psychological disorder,” and discuss the assessment, classification, and possible causes of psychological disorders.
14. Identify and evaluate psychological and biomedical approaches to the treatment of psychological disorders.
15. Analyze the impact of situational forces on human thought processes and behavior.
16. Discuss the influence of stress, personality, and other psychological phenomena on physical health.
17. Conduct scholarly research independently to enrich multiple reading and writing tasks

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Logic of the Scientific Method

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to identify key elements of the scientific method (e.g., sampling of participants, measurement/manipulation of variables) as applied to mental processes and behavior.

2. Fundamental Principles

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to explain, differentiate, and critique the major theoretical perspectives in psychology (e.g., psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive) as well as describe the historical events leading to the establishment of psychology as a science.

3. Everyday Application

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to apply fundamental psychological principles (e.g., perception, development, memory, conditioning, clinical, group) in their efforts to understand everyday life experiences (e.g., child discipline, eyewitness testimony).

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>