RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

PSYC 103H- INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY-HONORS

I. Basic Course Information
   A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 103H Introduction to Psychology-Honors
   B. New or Modified Course: Modified
   C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2010
   D. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, & Education
   E. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
   F. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 Laboratory:0
   G. Prerequisites/Co-requisites: GPA of 3.5 or permission of instructor
   H. Laboratory Fees: None
   I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:
      Kimberly Schirner kschirne@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: GPA of 3.5 or permission of instructor. This Honors course provides an introduction to the major areas of study within the field of psychology. Human behavior and its determinants will be examined from various viewpoints, with an emphasis on scientific inquiry. Students will be required to read original works by noted figures in psychology. Topics covered include research methods, development, neuroscience, perception, learning, memory, intelligence, personality theories, psychopathology, therapy, and social behavior.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course will provide Honors students with an introduction to psychology, the field that seeks to understand why people think, feel and behave the way they do. This course, as part of the Honors College curriculum, will provide advanced students with a more thorough overview of the field than generally occurs in the standard course. Introduction to Psychology is highly transferable.
IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course serves as a General Education course in Social Science
C. This course meets a program requirement for the Honors College
D. This course meets a program requirement for more than a dozen additional programs listed in the present catalog
E. Course transferability; for New Jersey schools go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org. For all other colleges and universities, go to their individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Major Theoretical Orientations
B. Research Methods
C. Neuroscience: The Biology of the Mind
D. Sensation and Perception
E. Learning and Behavior
F. Various States of Consciousness
G. Memory
H. Cognition and Intelligence
I. Human Development
J. Personality and its Assessment
K. Psychological Disorders and Therapies
L. Social Bases of Behavior
M. Emotions and Motivation
N. Stress and Health

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

Students will:

1. Develop an appreciation of the complexity of human behavior and its multiple contributing factors (GE- NJ 5)
2. Write a research paper that demonstrates the ability to analyze, synthesize and evaluate primary source materials. (GE- NJ 1)
B. Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Describe and critically evaluate the major theoretical perspectives within psychology.
2. Comprehend the principles of the various research methodologies and apply this understanding when evaluating current scholarly research and information disseminated through the popular media
3. Analyze connections between psychological theories and everyday experiences.
4. Comprehend sociocultural influences on various aspects of psychology.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work
C. computer-assisted instruction
D. guest speakers
E. student oral presentations
F. student collaboration
G. independent study

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. exams
B. research papers
C. essays
D. in-class presentations
E. scholarly article reviews

IX. Grade Determinants

A. Exams
B. Research projects
C. Essays
D. Presentations
X. Suggested Text and Materials


B. A significant number of both class and contemporary primary source readings

C. Relevant web sites and videos

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

XI. Resources

A. Students will need access to psychological databases in order to locate and retrieve journal articles related to various topics in the field. Online databases and journals are acceptable as long as students are able to access full-text online articles from peer-reviewed research journals.