

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**PSYC 103
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2015
- D. Effective Term: Spring 2016
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science, and Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
- H. Prerequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with
ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Department Chair: Dr. Stephen Kaufman, skaufman@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

A prerequisite for this course is placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Psychology studies the interaction among biological, social, and personal influences that describe, explain, predict, and control behavior. This course presents a broad survey of basic concepts, theories, and research in the field of psychology. Topics include research methods, development, neuroscience, learning and cognition, personality theories, psychological disorders, and therapy.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course is a standard course offered at virtually every institution of higher learning.
- B. This course generally transfers as a social science general education course. It can also serve as a social science elective or free elective.

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 numerous programs including Nursing/Education/Human Services
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course will cover the following topics:

- A. The History and Science of Psychology
- B. Neuroscience
- C. Consciousness
- D. Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity
- E. Lifespan Development
- F. Sensation and Perception
- G. Learning
- H. Memory
- I. Thinking, Language, and Intelligence
- J. Motivation and Work
- K. Emotion, Stress, and Health
- L. Personality
- M. Social Psychology
- N. Psychological Disorders
- O. Therapy

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the major fields, theoretical perspectives, and key concepts within psychology. (GE-NJ 5, *)
2. Apply psychological principles to everyday life. (GE-NJ 5, *)
3. Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources using scientific and psychological principles. (GE-NJ 3,*)
4. Describe sociocultural influences on mental processes, behaviors, and interactions. (GE-NJ 5, 8, *)
5. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice (GE-NJ 5, ER&A, *)

(*Embedded Critical Thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate among the fundamental principles of the basic schools of thought in psychology,
2. Explain research methods used by psychologists including an analysis of their merits and limitations.
3. Identify ethical issues associated with the research and practice of psychology.
4. Discuss the complex interaction among hereditary, environmental and maturational factors in shaping human behavior.
5. Describe the basic principles of learning and memory.
6. Differentiate the processes that influence sensation and perception.
7. Compare and contrast classic and contemporary theories of personality.
8. Categorize various psychological disorders and associated therapeutic interventions.
9. Examine the social influences on human behavior.

C. Assessment Instruments

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. research papers
- C. in-class presentations
- D. journals
- E. Quizzes
- F. Participation

VIII. Texts and Materials

A standard introductory psychology textbook will be required. The current required textbook for this course is: Psychology 10th Edition in Modules by David G. Myers, Worth Publishers, 2013.

Additional Materials may be required by individual instructors such as articles 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.)

IX.. Resources

- A. Library Databases