

**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: Spring Year: 2020
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2020
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: GPA of 3.5 or permission of instructor; placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I or higher.
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Department Chair: Prof. Brandyn Heppard, brandyn.heppard@raritanval.edu;
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites for this course include: GPA of 3.5 or permission of instructor; placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I 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 included, but not limited to: research methods, development, neuroscience, learning and cognition, social theories, personality theories, psychological disorders, and therapy. 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.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course is a standard course offered at virtually all community colleges, four-year colleges and universities.
- 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 the Honors College
- D. This course meets a program requirement for the programs below:
 - Criminal Justice, AS
 - Early Childhood Education, AAS and Certificate
 - Education P-12, AA
 - Exercise Science, AS and Exercise Science – Option in Sports Management, AS and Option in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, AS
 - General Science/Pre-Health Professional, AS
 - Health Information Technology, AAS
 - Health Science, AS
 - Human Services/Pre-Social Work, AS
 - Human Services, Certificate
 - Interface Design and Web Development, AS and AAS
 - Nursing, RN and PN/AD, AAS programs
 - Ophthalmic Science (Opticianary), AAS
 - Pre-Medicine/Pre-Pharmacy, AS
 - Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Treatment, AS
 - Social Sciences, AA
- E. 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. Research Methods and Ethics
- C. Neuroscience
- D. Consciousness
- E. Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity
- F. Lifespan Development

- G. Sensation and Perception
- H. Learning
- I. Memory
- J. Thinking, Language, and Intelligence
- K. Emotion, Stress, and Health
- L. Social Psychology
- M. Personality
- 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, IL, *)
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

1. Lecture/discussion
2. Small-group work
3. Computer-assisted instruction
4. Research papers
5. Student oral presentations
6. Essays
7. Student collaboration

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Essays
- B. Research papers
- C. In-class presentations
- D. Quizzes
- E. Exams
- F. Participation

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

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

VIII. Texts and Materials

A standard introductory psychology textbook will be required. The current required textbook for this course is: Grison, S., & Gazzaniga, M.S. (2019). *Psychology in your life* (3rd edition). New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

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
- B. Other computer-based resources (e.g., websites links and videos)