PSYCHOLOGY (PSY)

PSY 101. Psychology Of Self. 3 Credits.
By applying behavior principles to everyday human activities, students achieve insight into the way individuals operate in their environment. By exploring psychological theory as it relates to self-assessment and personal growth, students gain extensive understanding of his or her values, interests, behaviors, motivations, abilities, personality, and communication skills. Students will also investigate various career/interest assessments which will help in making career and life decisions. The classroom is used as a laboratory, with workshops, discussion groups, and simulations of various social relationships and interactions to enhance the student’s self-understanding. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

PSY 105. Introduction To Psychology. 3 Credits.
Students are introduced to the basic concepts and methods of psychology. Course content surveys scientific methods, the brain and nervous system, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning and memory, personality, psychological disorders, and treatment. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

PSY 108. Child Development. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the development of the young child from the time of conception through prenatal development, infancy, early childhood, and the school years up to adolescence. Emphasis is placed on studying the "whole child" by addressing physical/motor, psychosocial, sociocultural, cognitive, and language aspects of development. Current theories of child development based on research will be presented, as well as strategies for incorporating theory into practice. Students will develop an understanding of how to facilitate the development of the child. The students are required to observe a young child throughout the semester and complete a child study. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

PSY 110. Human Growth And Development. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on lifespan development through an examination of the biological, cognitive, and social domains and their interdependency. Students will study developmental changes from conception to late adulthood and will gain an understanding of how current research theories of human development translate into practice. Prerequisite: PSY 105.

PSY 143. Group Dynamics. 3 Credits.
Students will examine the science of group dynamics, including the basic concepts and major theorists. Course content includes group development and socialization, structure, conformity, influence, power and leadership, decision-making, teamwork and productivity as well as communication, conflict, and collective behavior. Students learn about group interaction through readings, lecture, and as members of a functioning group practicing skills and theory. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

PSY 240. Abnormal Psychology. 3 Credits.
Students study the symptoms, causes, treatments, and prognoses of behaviors categorized as "abnormal." Topics include: historical perspectives on abnormal behavior; the emotional; social, psychotic, and organic disorders; and treatment. Abnormal behavioral patterns are discussed in theory and illustrated by case example. Prerequisite: PSY 105.

PSY 244. Children With Special Needs. 3 Credits.
This course explores ways of understanding the strengths and needs of children with differing abilities. Emphasis will be on combining information about specific disability categories with evidence based practices for instruction and behavioral support. This course covers evolving social/cultural dimensions of disability as well as legislation and policies supportive of children with special needs and their families. Students are required to observe special needs children in an educational setting. ECC and ECT students must earn a C or better in the course. Prerequisites: PSY 108 or PSY 110.

PSY 246. Psychology And The Law. 3 Credits.
This course examines the role of the forensic psychologist in the criminal justice system as well as the personality traits, thoughts, and action patterns of the criminal mind. Using research in the field of forensic psychology and case histories, students will gain an understanding of the characteristics commonly identified in individuals who engage in a criminal lifestyle. They will also be able to identify common patterns of behavior that allow one to develop a profile of individuals who have committed certain types of crime (rapists, murderers, mass killers, etc.). Other areas of discussion include eyewitness testimony, jury selection, competency to stand trial, and battered wife syndrome. Prerequisite: PSY 105.

PSY 280. Psychology Of Death And Dying. 3 Credits.
Students examine the experience of dying from psychological, sociological, and historical perspectives. Topics include: the issues of loss and the grieving process; the research of Elizabeth Kubler-Ross; terminal illness and the hospice concept; the funeral process and bereavement; life after life experiences; and the philosophical meaning of life and death. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement.

PSY 290. The Psychology Of Aging. 3 Credits.
Students will examine older adults from a developmental and interdisciplinary perspective. Such a view allows students to understand the psychology of aging through an analysis of biological, cognitive, and sociocultural contexts. Detailed attention will be given to
the areas of cognition, emotional adjustment, intelligence, creativity, wisdom, motivation, perception, psychopathology, learning, and memory. Prerequisites: ENG 098, FYE 101, RDG 098, or placement. Spring.