

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Psychology
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	3
Course Title:	Foundations in Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 3100
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	30
Seminar / Tutorials:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Introduces students to the major areas within the psychology discipline, through current empirical research and theoretical debate. Topics include scientific methodology; brain functioning; sensation and perception; evolutionary theory; consciousness; development; personality; social psychology; psychopathology; language; and learning. Students discover how psychological research is conducted and how research findings can be applied to understanding human behaviour.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

This course introduces students to the key topics, theories and scientific methods involved in the study of psychology. We will first discuss what is psychology and why scientists are interested in this field. Then we will move on to examine different areas of psychology such as biopsychology, development, eating disorders, personality, memory, psychological disorders, social psychology etc. Special emphasis will be placed on the applications of theories in “real life” and the critical evaluation of these. Also, we will discuss ethical issues in psychology and its current standing as a science.

Programme Outcomes:

Psychology: 3A.i, 3B.i, 3C.i, 3D.i

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the major areas in psychology
- Gain an insight into the scientific methods in psychology
- Appreciate the connections between the theories and their applications in experimentation and “real life”
- Appreciate the links between the different fields of psychology, but also between psychology and other disciplines
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate a line of argument and present it in a written form
- Demonstrate the ability to work in a group to answer critical thinking questions on readings

Indicative Content:

- The field of psychology
- Scientific methods in Psychology
- Biology in Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Stress
- Memory
- Awareness: Dreaming and Psychoactive Drugs

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Group discussions on the reading material
- III. Internet sites related to psychology
- IV. Videos on psychology topics

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Nolen-Hoeksema, S., Fredrickson, B., Loftus, G. & Wagenaar, W.A. (latest edition). *Atkinson and Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology*. Thomson & Wadsworth.

