

The course descriptions contained in this document are sourced from the 2016-2017 West Virginia State University Catalog. Students may need to consult their respective WVSU Catalog based on when they started their education at WVSU.

Psychology Course Descriptions

Note: All courses are three credit hours unless noted otherwise.

PSYC 151. General Psychology

A general survey of principles, theories and fields of psychology with emphasis on application. (Course is designed for the student who wishes to gain a greater understanding of human behavior, both adaptive and non-adaptive.) Prerequisite(s): eligibility for ENGL 101.

PSYC 175. Psychology as a Profession (1 credit hour)

An overview of psychology as an undergraduate major, as well as an introduction to post-baccalaureate educational and career opportunities in the field. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151, eligibility for ENG 101.

PSYC 200. Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (4 credit hours)

A basic course designed to teach the major statistical concepts, procedures, techniques and interpretations to beginning students in the behavioral sciences. Emphasis is on application rather than theory. Prerequisite(s): Completion of MATH 120,111 or 119.

PSYC 207. Psychological Adjustment

Dynamics, development and problems of human adjustment with emphasis on the normal personality. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 215. Community Mental Health

Introduction to the concepts of mental health and primary prevention with emphasis on the effect of social systems on mental health and performance. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 245. Sex Roles

This course examines sex roles from a gender and psycho-social perspective. The major impact of sex roles and sex role expectations upon major areas of psycho-social functioning will be examined. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 304. Lifespan Developmental Psychology

An examination of the major theories, research and methods of lifespan developmental psychology. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151. (Formerly PSYC 411)

PSYC 300. Social Psychology

Survey of theories and evidence regarding social influences on behavior. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 301. Tests and Measurements

Theory of psychological testing; emphasis on statistics of test construction, reliability and validity. Includes a critical evaluation of the more common intelligence, achievement, aptitude, interest and personality tests. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151 & 200.

PSYC 303. Physiological Psychology

A study of the physiological and neuroanatomical mechanisms underlying human behavior. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 305. Intermediate Behavioral Statistics

Data analysis procedures and multivariate research design. Topics include analysis of variance, multiple regression analysis, simple discriminant function, factor analysis and computer application. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 200 and permission of the instructor.

PSYC 306. Health Psychology

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of health psychology and behavioral medicine; to outline the basic activities of clinical health psychologists; and to provide an understanding of the topography of disease and illness in the twenty-first century. The leading causes of death worldwide and in the United States will be examined, as well as risk factors for these illnesses. Students will also have the opportunity to explore their individual health status and embark on the journey to a healthier lifestyle. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 307. Forensic Psychology

This course will provide students with an overview of the role psychologists play in the criminal justice system. Course topics will include psychological factors in civil and criminal trials, criminal profiling, interrogation, competence to stand trial, the insanity defense, risk assessment, and the reliability of eyewitness testimony. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 308. Psychology of Human Differences

The study of age, sex and environmental influences on individual differences. The course will also cover research and theory dealing with the interactions of genes and environment in the development of individual differences. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151 and 200.

PSYC 309. Motivation and Emotions

Classical and contemporary theories of motivation and emotion. Includes investigation of basic human biological, social and affiliative motives and the relationship of those motives to emotional states. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 310. Learning and Memory

This course involves an examination of the basic principles of learning theory and the nature, structure and processes of human memory. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 312. Industrial and Organizational Psychology

This course involves the application of psychological principles, particularly of systems and organizations, to behavior in industrial, business and managerial environments. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 315. History and Systems of Psychology

A review of the history of psychology, including a survey of the philosophical and scientific antecedents of contemporary psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 320. Sensation and Perception

This course includes an examination of the structure and function of the major sensory systems and their relationship to basic and complex perceptual processes. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151.

PSYC 321-322. Special Problems in Psychology (1-3 Credit Hours)

Independent work on a special problem with any member of the psychology faculty. For majors only. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing in psychology and permission of the instructor and chairperson of the department. (Maximum of six hours may be earned.)

PSYC 325. Comparative Behavior

A review of the various effects of evolution, structure and physiology on both innate and learned aspects of animal and human behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 330. Special Topic Seminar (1-3 Credit Hours)

Seminars on special topics of psychological interest will be provided for majors and non-majors, as determined by need and availability of staff. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 335. Abnormal Psychology

This course is a study of the etiology, classification and treatments of abnormal behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 335H. Abnormal Psychology Honors

This course is designed to introduce students to the distinction between normal and abnormal behavior, the current classification system for psychopathology, principles of assessment, and behavioral characteristics of the most common psychological disorders. Students will also conduct a literature review on an approved topic and submit a paper written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. Prerequisite(s): Psychology 151, permission of instructor and admission to and participation in the Honors Program.

PSYC 340. Clinical Psychology

Course is designed to introduce the students to the concepts, methods, and profession of Clinical Psychology. Focus is on professional issues, assessment and diagnostic techniques and methods of therapeutic intervention. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 390. Research Methods (4 credit hours)

This course includes an intensive study of the use of research methods in psychology. Additional topics include ethics, effective library utilization, professional writing and oral presentations. Students devise individual research projects to develop necessary skills in these areas.

Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151, 175, 200 or permission of instructor.

PSYC 398. Clinical Field Experience in Psychology

Placement of qualified upper-level students in local mental health agencies/hospitals for the purpose of supervised observation and clinical service delivery commensurate with the student's educational level. Students will incorporate and integrate knowledge and skills obtained in coursework into applied situations. May be repeated to a maximum of six credit hours. Prerequisite(s): 30 hours earned, with a minimum of 9 credit hours in Psychology; PSYC 335 or 340; minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75; or permission of instructor.

PSYC 400. Childhood Psychopathology

This course is a study of the etiology, classification and treatments of abnormal behavior in childhood and adolescence. Prerequisite: PSYC151.

PSYC 401. Psychology of Personality

The study of classical and contemporary theories of personality including relevant research. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 404. Aging and Adulthood

The psychological study of the aging process, covering the social, emotional, cognitive, and biological changes that occur throughout adulthood and later stages in life. Prerequisite: PSYC 151.

PSYC 412. Senior Seminar

A capstone course designed to prepare psychology majors for employment and/or graduate training in the discipline. Emphasis is on the skills that are essential to the practice of psychology, such as written and verbal communication, library utilization and expansion of knowledge base. Assignments include completion of a written senior thesis, oral defense of same and a comprehensive exam based on courses already completed. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 151, 175, 200, 315, 390 and senior standing.

PSYC 412H. Senior Seminar Honors

A capstone course designed to prepare psychology majors for employment and/or graduate training in the discipline. Emphasis is on the skills that are essential to the practice of psychology, such as written and verbal communication, library utilization, and expansion of knowledge base. Assignments include completion of a written senior thesis, oral defense of same and a comprehensive exam based on courses already completed. Senior Seminar Honors requires honor students to engage in a creative collaborative mentorship with the designated faculty for the completion of all parts of the senior thesis. This creative component can involve various professional aspects of psychology such as the production of research. This added honors course requirement will require an additional 20 percent more coursework than Psychology 412 to satisfy the honors

requirements of this course. Prerequisite(s): Psychology 151, 175, 200, 315, 390, senior standing and admission to and participation in the Honors Program.

Psychology Faculty

Francis, Rebecca S. (1979), Professor of Psychology. B.S. University of Dayton; M.S. University of Bridgeport; Ph.D. University of Tennessee, 1979. Areas of research: Cognitive Predictors of Proenvironmental Behaviors.

McCoy, Paula M. (2001), Associate Professor of Psychology. B.A. West Virginia University; M.A. Marshall University; Ph.D. University of North Texas, 2001. Areas of research: Stress, health and coping; Psychotherapy outcomes.

Perdue, Charles W. (1987), Professor and Program Coordinator of Psychology. B.A. Denison University; M.A. Princeton University; Ph.D. Princeton University, 1983. Areas of research: Health-related quality of life (e.g., the impact of obesity and other chronic health problems).

Seyedmonir, Mehdi (2007), Associate Professor of Psychology. B.A. West Virginia State University; M.A. West Virginia University; Ed.D. West Virginia University, 2000. Areas of research: Conceptual change; self-directed learning and behavioral change; learning strategies and problem solving; and efficacy of technology-enhanced learning and instructional approaches.