

**Course Description****PSY2012 | Introduction to Psychology | 3.00 credits**

In this course, students will gain an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Topics may be drawn from historical and current perspectives in psychology. Student learning outcomes: students will be able to identify basic psychological theories, terms, and principles from historical and current perspectives; students will be able to recognize real-world applications of psychological theories, terms, and principles; students will be able to recognize basic strategies used in psychological research; and students will be able to draw logical conclusions about behavior and mental processes based on empirical evidence.

**Course Competencies:**

**Competency 1:** The student will demonstrate knowledge of psychology as an academic discipline and profession by:

1. Describing the historical development of psychology.
2. Comparing the educational background, training, and professional activities of various mental health practitioners and applied psychologists.
3. Identifying various methods of scientific inquiry used in psychology.

**Competency 2:** The student will explain the various theories of personality and human behavior by:

1. Differentiating psychoanalytic/psychodynamic, trait, behavioral, social-cognitive, humanistic, biological, and other psychology theories.
2. Stating the influence of culture on personality.
3. Categorizing major mental illness categories and specific psychological disorders.
4. Connecting various forms of treatments for psychological disorders to theories.

**Competency 3:** The student will assess the biological bases of human behavior by:

1. Classifying related structures and processes of the brain and the nervous system, including recent findings in neurosciences.
2. Comparing the senses and how they function.
3. Critiquing the nature/nurture controversy and its effects on human behavior.
4. Identifying connections between health and stress.

**Competency 4:** The student will investigate the cognitive aspects of human behavior by:

- Applying the concept of consciousness and altered states of consciousness.
- Categorizing the various theories of learning, memory, and intelligence and their influence on behavior.
- Summarizing how language and thinking affect human behavior.

**Competency 5:** The student will formulate conceptualizations of other influences on human behavior such as motivation, emotion, and group membership by:

- Acquiring concepts regarding such influences.
- Citing evidence regarding physical determinants of such behavior.
- Drawing conclusions regarding psychological determinants of such behavior.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information