

Psychology

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B.S. University of the South, 1996

B.A. MTSU, 2005

Post graduate course work earned at Tennessee Technological University, MTSU 2006-present

Course Fundamentals:

This course is designed to help you grasp the key parts of psychology. Psychology is a very broad discipline. Most students think of psychology as a study of thinking or about counseling. However, psychology actually encompasses learning theory, brain science, research methods, emotions, and much more. The pacing guide for this course follows the TN State Standards for Psychology:

https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/std_ss_psychology.pdf

Classroom Theory:

I like to teach, and I enjoy students of all ages. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing a student learn. I encourage you to enjoy the course and to follow along.

Behavior Requirements:

I treat you with respect and expect the same back from you. Cell phones should be out of sight and put away. All students are expected to treat the teacher and others with respect. The key to remember is that often what we give to others we also receive back. Love on your peers, friends, school leaders, and teachers, and you will receive this back. Kindness to others is one of the basics of healthy psychological functioning.

Grade Determination:

Class work, Homework, and Participation 50%

Final 15%

Tests 35%

Psychology Pacing Guide

The following represents our course of study in psychology:

Philosophical and Historical Background in Psychology (Chapter 1)

- Greek and European philosophers who contributed to psychological thought (Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hobbes)
- Early psychological pioneers Wundt and Titchener
- Structuralism vs Functionalism
- Significant early women in psychology
- The Major Psychological Perspectives

Research Methods (Chapter 2)

- Psychology is a science.
- Types of research (correlational vs experimental)
- Importance of random selection and random sampling
- P values and statistical significance

Biological Psychology (Chapter 6)

- Neurons!
- Mapping and discussing brain function
- Endocrine system

Sensation and Perception (Chapter 8)

- Gestalt psychology
- How the various senses operate (vision, hearing, touch, smell)
- Absolute and difference thresholds

Learning and Memory (Chapters 9 and 10)

- How the brain encodes material
- Learning strategies
- Retrieval cues
- Malleability of memory

2nd Quarter

Developmental Psychology (Chapters 3-5)

- Babies and Prebabies!
- Changes over the life span
- Critical Periods and teratogens
- Erik Erikson
- Theories of morality
- Aging

Personality Theory (Chapter 14)

- Environment or Biology? What creates our personality?

Social Psychology (Chapters 18-20)

- Power of groups on individual behavior
- Stanley Milgram and Obedience
- Solomon Ashe and Conformity

Abnormal Psychology (Chapters 16-17)

- Brief introduction to some types of mental struggles.