



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Psychology I
(SO 2900)

One-half elective credit, one semester

Grades 10-12

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychology I examines such topics as the principles of learning, processes of thinking, development of personality, measurement of intellectual ability, theories of learning and memory and the effects of heredity and environment on human behavior.

Psychology I is a one-semester elective course offered to students in grades ten through twelve and carries one-half unit of credit

PREREQUISITE

None

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Psychology II or
Any other semester elective

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Psychology: Principles in Practice (Holt McDougal, 2010)

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose to supplement the textbooks with materials to extend and enrich the student's understanding of course topics. These materials will be drawn from daily newspapers, periodicals, television and other visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs and online resources.

VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

PSYCHOLOGY I

Unit 1: Introduction to Psychology

- PSYI.1.1 Define the purpose and goals of psychology.
- PSYI.1.2 Trace the historical development of psychology.
- PSYI.1.3 Describe how the psychological perspectives explain behavior.
- PSYI.1.4 Describe the research methods of observation utilized by behavioral scientists.
- PSYI.1.5 Describe the components of an experiment.
- PSYI.1.6 Identify ethical issues in research studies.
- PSYI.1.7 Investigate career opportunities in the fields of psychology.
- PSYI.1.8 Explain the difference between a psychologist and a psychiatrist.

Unit 2: Biological Bases of Behavior

- PSYI.2.1 Describe the structure and functions of the neuron.
- PSYI.2.2 Identify the major divisions of the nervous system.
- PSYI.2.3 Describe the function of the peripheral nervous system.
- PSYI.2.4 Describe the structure and function of the major regions of the brain.
- PSYI.2.5 Identify the methods used to analyze brain activity.
- PSYI.2.6 Explain the function of the right and left hemispheres.
- PSYI.2.7 Describe the parts and function of the endocrine system.
- PSYI.2.8 Assess the effects of heredity and environment on human behavior.

Unit 3: Sensation and Perception

- PSYI.3.1 Explain the concepts of threshold, adaptation and constancy.
- PSYI.3.2 Describe the operation of sensory systems.
- PSYI.3.3 Identify examples of principles of perception.
- PSYI.3.4 Identify factors that influence sensation and perception.
- PSYI.3.5 Assess controversies related to sensation and perception.

Unit 4: Learning

- PSYI.4.1 Describe the origins, principles and applications of classical conditioning.
- PSYI.4.2 Describe the origins, principles and applications of operant conditioning.
- PSYI.4.3 Describe the origins, principles and applications of observational learning.

Unit 5: Thinking and Language

- PSYI.5.1 Describe the process of encoding.
- PSYI.5.2 Describe the three types of information storage.
- PSYI.5.3 Describe the process of retrieval.
- PSYI.5.4 Describe unusual types of memory.
- PSYI.5.5 Describe causes of forgetting and methods to improve memory.

Unit 6: Memory

- PSYI.6.1 Explain and give examples of the components of thinking.
- PSYI.6.2 Describe methods of problem solving.
- PSYI.6.3 Analyze obstacles that inhibit problem-solving.
- PSYI.6.4 Identify the basic elements of language.
- PSYI.6.5 Describe factors affecting language acquisition.

Unit 7: States of Consciousness

- PSYI.7.1 Describe the physiological and psychological functions of sleep.
- PSYI.7.2 Describe the stages of sleep.
- PSYI.7.3 Describe sleep disorders.
- PSYI.7.4 Describe artificial variations of consciousness.

Unit 8: Developing Child

- PSYI.8.1 Assess the effect of maternal behavior on pre-natal development.
- PSYI.8.2 Describe the process of physical development.
- PSYI.8.3 Describe the process of social development.
- PSYI.8.4 Describe the process of cognitive development.
- PSYI.8.5 Describe the process moral development.

CITIZENSHIP GOALS

- Accepting responsibility for completing assignments and tasks
- Valuing the worth and dignity of all individuals
- Appreciating individual differences
- Respecting the rights, property, beliefs and opinions of others
- Resolving conflicts with mutual respect and reason
- Accepting the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Developing a positive self-image
- Understanding the behavior of self and others
- Accepting responsibility for their behavior and its consequences

SKILLS

- **Study Skills**
 - Taking organized and useful notes from lectures, discussions and varied sources of information
 - Using varied and diverse sources of information
- **Chart/Graph Skills**
 - Drawing inferences from charts, graphs, tables and maps
 - Using charts, graphs, tables and maps to organize, display and depict data
- **Problem-Solving/Decision-Making Skills**
 - Using the problem-solving approach to find a possible solution to a psychological problem
 - Stating hypotheses, analyzing and interpreting data, drawing conclusions
- **Critical Thinking Skills**
 - Recognizing stated and unstated assumptions on which an argument is based
 - Determining the validity of assumptions

- Evaluating conflicting sources of information
- **Communication Skills**
 - Preparing oral and written reports, projects and presentations
 - Listening actively to the ideas and thoughts of others
 - Contributing ideas and thoughts to class discussion
 - Communicating research findings in both written and oral forms

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For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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CHARTING THE COURSE

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