

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 20 – 3 CREDITS  
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This course is designed to provide an overview and general background in psychology including the history of psychology and the principles of learning and thinking. You will learn about stress and aggression, the influence of small groups, the status of roles, and some insights regarding neurosis and psychosis. No course in psychology would be complete without some discussion of emotion and behavior.

**\*\*Note that some of the content in this course is sensitive. Several mental illnesses result from abuse and trauma. Other mental illnesses result in behaviors that fall far outside the realm of what society considers acceptable. Information provided is not meant to offend anyone; rather it is offered for educational purposes.**

As well, the term “mental retardation” may be used throughout the course. Other phrases such as intellectually impaired or developmentally challenged may have less negative connotations. However, the term is used as it is the standard terminology found in the medical DSM (diagnostic and statistical manual).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To acquire knowledge about the beginnings of psychology
- Clarify the differences between the main psychology disciplines.
- To understand the hierarchy of needs.
- To understand and explain the basic concepts of the learning process.
- To understand the significance of memory to learning.
- To be aware of the brain processes information.
- To understand the foundations of thinking and reasoning.
- To be aware of problems with brain functions.
- To understand roles.
- To learn about the impact of groups on behavior.
- To learn about how people can be seen according to focus and approach.
- To understand emotions and how they impact our lives.
- To differentiate the types of defense mechanisms.
- To have knowledge of criminal and unhealthy elements of emotions.
- To understand abnormal behaviors.
- To be aware that anxiety is the basis of all neurosis,

- To understand the impact of neurosis on physical, mental, and emotional conditions.
- To understand the major characteristics of psychosis.
- To distinguish the many types of psychosis.
- To identify some of the major treatments for psychotic behavior.

UNITS:

• Introduction to Psychology	4 – 5 classes	25%
• Learning and Cognitive Behavior	6 – 8 classes	25%
• Studying Behavior	12 – 15 classes	40%
• Choices	1 – 2 classes	10%

ASSESSMENT:

Units weighted as above.

Assignment Booklets:	40%
Projects / Movie / Research Projects:	60%

**Course Expectations:**

- Attendance: Please let your teacher know when you will be away for a planned absence. Upon return, please see your teacher for work that you have missed.
- Plagiarism: If students “copy and paste” work and submit it as their own – first instance will require a resubmission. Further plagiarism will result in an awarded mark of 0%.
- Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted, however, depending on the circumstances, may be a different assignment or work may be assessed in a stricter manner. Students with exceedingly late or missing assignments will be required to complete work by a set deadline determined by the teacher. **If more time is needed for an assignment, this matter must be discussed prior to the due date. Not taking advantage of the make-up opportunity may result in a failing grade.**
- Technology and personal devices should be put away – not used, unless otherwise directed by the teacher. Any inappropriate use of technology may result in privilege being suspended.
- When handing in work, please ensure teacher has **initialed** work as being recorded and checked off.
- Please see the student handbook for any other specifics.
- Note: “You do not have to agree with someone’s opinion but please respect their right to have it.”