

**Murrieta Valley Unified School District
High School Course Outline
April 2011**

Department: Social Science

Course Title: Psychology

Course Number: 1900

Grade Level: 10-12

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites: None

UC/CSU (A-F) Requirement: G

I. Goals

The students will:

- A. Analyze the role of the brain in controlling behavior.
- B. Identify major psychological theorists and analyze their contributions to the field.
- C. Compare and contrast various elements in theories on learning, perception, personality development and emotions.
- D. Analyze and identify various abnormal psychological states and the theories behind their causes and treatment.
- E. Identify and describe the characteristics of behavior and crises of each stage of human development from early childhood through old age.
- F. Utilize the basic skills of psychological research.
 - 1. Devise simple research projects.
 - 2. Utilize basic statistical analysis.
 - 3. Interpret and generalize from results.
- G. Analyze the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists.
- H. Maintain high ethical standards and sensitivity in applying the principles of psychology to themselves, other people, and other organisms.

There are currently no standards specified for this course in the California State Social Science Framework; however, the course is based on the national standards for the teaching of high

school psychology developed by the American Psychological Association.

II. Outline of Content for Major Areas of Study

Semester 1

- A. Methods, Approaches, History
 - 1. Logic, Philosophy, and History of Science
 - 2. Approaches
 - a. Biological
 - b. Behavioral
 - c. Cognitive
 - d. Humanistic
 - e. Psychodynamic
 - 3. Ethics in Research
- B. Biological Bases of Behavior
 - 1. The Nervous System
 - 2. Functional Organization of the Nervous System
 - 3. Neural Transmission
 - 4. Endocrine System
 - 5. Heredity and Environment
- C. Sensation and Perception
 - 1. Thresholds
 - 2. The Senses
 - 3. Sensory Adaptation
 - 4. Attention
 - 5. Perceptual Processes
 - 6. Extrasensory Perception
- D. States of Consciousness
 - 1. Sleep and Dreaming
 - 2. Hypnosis, Biofeedback and Meditation
 - 3. Psychoactive Drug Effects
- E. Learning
 - 1. Biological Factors
 - 2. Classical Conditioning
 - 3. Operant Conditioning
 - 4. Social Learning
 - 5. Cognitive Processes in Learning
- F. Cognition
 - 1. Memory
 - 2. Language
 - 3. Thinking
 - 4. Problem Solving and Creativity

Semester 2

- A. Motivation and Emotion
 - 1. Biological Bases
 - 2. Theories of Motivation
 - 3. Hunger, Thirst, Sex, and Pain
 - 4. Social Motives
 - 5. Theories of Emotion
 - 6. Stress

- B. Developmental Psychology
 - 1. Infancy and Childhood
 - 2. Dimensions of Development
 - a. Physical
 - b. Cognitive
 - c. Social
 - d. Moral
 - 3. Heredity-Environment Issues
 - 4. Adolescence
 - a. Developmental Theories
 - b. Sex Roles, Sex Differences
 - 5. Adulthood and Old Age

- C. Personality
 - 1. Personality Theories and Approaches
 - 2. Research Methods
 - 3. Assessment Techniques
 - 4. Self-concept, Self-esteem
 - 5. Growth and Adjustment

- D. Testing and Individual Differences
 - 1. Standardization and Norms
 - 2. Reliability and Validity
 - 3. Types of Tests
 - 4. Ethics and Standards in Testing
 - 5. Intelligence
 - 6. Heredity/Environment and Intelligence
 - 7. Human Diversity

- E. Abnormal Psychology
 - 1. Definitions of Abnormality
 - 2. Theories of Psychopathology
 - 3. Diagnosis of Psychopathology
 - 4. Anxiety Disorders
 - 5. Somatoform Disorders
 - 6. Mood Disorders
 - 7. Schizophrenic Disorders

8. Organic Disorders
 9. Personality Disorders
 10. Dissociative Disorders
- F. Treatment of Psychological Disorders
1. Treatment Approaches
 - a. Insight Therapies
 - b. Psychodynamic/Phenomenological Approaches
 - c. Behavioral Approaches
 - d. Cognitive Approaches
 - e. Biological Therapies
 2. Modes of Therapy
 - a. Individual
 - b. Group
 3. Community and Preventive Approaches
- G. Social Psychology
1. Group Dynamics
 2. Attribution Processes
 3. Interpersonal Perception
 4. Conformity, Compliance, Obedience
 5. Attitudes and Attitude Change
 6. Organizational Behavior
 7. Aggression/Antisocial Behavior

III. Accountability Determinants

- A. Attendance is a must in a discussion oriented course.
- B. Completion of a psychology portfolio which includes in-class reflective writing assignments.
- C. Participation in large and small groups is a necessity.
- D. Completion of reading and homework assignments.
- E. Unit multiple-choice and essay tests and/or research projects and presentations.
- F. Final exam multiple-choice and essay tests and/or research projects and presentations.
- G. Preparation and presentation of prepared speeches and debates.

IV. Required Text

Introduction to Psychology. Plotnik 7th Edition. Thomson, Wodsworth 2005.

V. Supplementary Materials

Selections from the original writings of the major psychologists and current research articles in the field.