

PSYCHOLOGY, SEMESTER A

Credits: 0.5

COURSE OVERVIEW AND GOALS

This one-semester course is intended for you to familiarize yourself with the concepts and theories of psychology.

In Psychology, Semester A, you will trace the history of psychology and examine key psychological theories. You will discuss human development and explain how the nervous and endocrine systems affect human development and behavior. You will explain various theories related to language development and acquisition. You will discuss the influence of heredity, environment, society, and culture on human behavior.

This course consists of 13 lessons organized into five units, each featuring one or more engaging Lesson Activities. You will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing it to sample responses. Additionally, there is one Course Activity and Discussion in each unit. You will submit the Course Activity to your teacher for grading.

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- ❖ Assess the historical development of psychology.
- ❖ Assess how psychological theories are formed and evaluated.
- ❖ Assess the issues and concepts related to human development and growth.
- ❖ Evaluate the roles of the nervous and endocrine systems in development and behavior.
- ❖ Evaluate how sensations and perceptions affect cognition and behavior.
- ❖ Evaluate various concepts and theories of memory.
- ❖ Assess various concepts and theories of consciousness.
- ❖ Assess theories of motivation and emotion and the factors involved in motivation and emotion.
- ❖ Evaluate various theories of intelligence.
- ❖ Analyze theories of language acquisition and development.
- ❖ Evaluate various theories of personality.
- ❖ Analyze the influence of heredity and environment on shaping an individual.
- ❖ Evaluate how society and culture influence behavior and cognition.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND GRADING RUBRIC

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
Pretests. <i>Pretests are optional assessments, typically designed for credit recovery use. If a student shows mastery of a lesson's objective, the student may be automatically exempted from that lesson in the upcoming unit. Typically, teachers do not choose to employ exemptive pretests for first-time credit courses. Pretests are not included as a component of the student's final grade.</i>	5	0%
Module. <i>Each module in this course contains an interactive tutorial and an associated mastery test. Tutorials may include one or more Lesson Activities that constitute tasks associated with the tutorial. This course also includes practice questions to prepare students for the mastery test. The module score comes from a student's score on the mastery test.</i>	13	30%
Discussion. <i>Online discussions allow for higher-order thinking about terminal objectives. An online threaded discussion mirrors the educational experience of a classroom discussion. Teachers can initiate a discussion by asking a complex, open-ended question. Students can engage in the discussion by responding both to the question and to the thoughts of others. Each unit in a course has one predefined discussion topic; teachers may add more discussion topics.</i>	5	15%
Posttest. <i>The posttest appears at the end of the unit and mirrors the pretest in structure, content, and complexity.</i>	5	20%
Course Activity. <i>Course Activities are similar to Unit Activities in scope but may be found at any point in the course, either to prepare the student for new learning or to act as a performance-based activity required for a learning objective. Like Unit Activities, Course Activities include simple rubrics, and sample answers are available for teachers. Course Activities are teacher graded.</i>	5	20%
End of Semester Test. <i>The end of semester test (EOS) appears at the end of the course. Students are delivered a few items from every tutorial in the course in order to assess the major course objectives.</i>	1	15%
Total	34	100%

*Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.

UNIT 1: PSYCHOLOGY'S JOURNEY: HISTORICAL ROOTS AND THE RISE OF KEY THEORIES (DAYS 1 – 17)

In this unit, you will assess the historical development of psychology and how psychological theories are formed and evaluated. You will begin by examining the scope of the social sciences and how psychology differs from related disciplines. Next, you will analyze the historical progression of psychology and explore contemporary perspectives from both global and the United States contexts. You will also analyze the contributions of major psychological theorists to the field. Additionally, you will analyze the distinction between theories and principles and explore how hypotheses and theories are developed. You will examine the core methodologies in psychological reasoning and assess how theories are tested through observation and experimentation. Finally, you will explore statistical concepts such as measures of central tendency and dispersion used to support and evaluate psychological research.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Syllabus and Orientation	Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.
The History of Psychology	Assess the historical development of psychology.
Developing Psychological Theories	Assess how psychological theories are formed and evaluated.
Psychological Theories and Human Behavior	Analyze psychological theories to understand human behavior.

UNIT 2: MIND AND BODY: EXPLORING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIOR (DAYS 18 – 35)

In this unit, you will assess the key concepts in human development and growth, the influence of the nervous and endocrine systems on behavior, and examine how sensation and perception shape cognition and behavior. You will begin by exploring the factors influencing prenatal and newborn development, examining concepts in child social development, and analyzing parenting styles. You will also identify physical changes during adolescence and examine issues such as nature versus nurture, continuity versus stages, and stability versus change. Next, you will analyze the structure and functions of the central and peripheral nervous systems, examine the endocrine system, and assess how both systems contribute to development and behavior. Additionally, you will explore the sensory system, analyze its strengths and limitations, and examine how interactions with the environment shape sensation

and perception. Finally, you will examine the states and levels of consciousness and the information processing model related to cognitive and behavioral responses.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Human Development and Growth	Assess the issues and concepts related to human development and growth.
Biology and Behavior	Evaluate the roles of the nervous and endocrine systems in development and behavior.
Cognition and Behavior	Evaluate how sensations and perceptions affect cognition and behavior.
Home Birth and Hospital Birth	Analyze the pros and cons of home birth and hospital birth.

UNIT 3: THE MIND UNFOLDED: EXPLORING MEMORY AND CONSCIOUSNESS (DAYS 36 – 48)

In this unit, you will analyze the key concepts and theories of memory and consciousness. You will begin by examining different types of memory, analyzing sensory memory, and the processes of encoding, storage, and retrieval of memory. You will also assess the duration and capacity of both short-term and long-term memory, compare true and false memories, and analyze how to do memory construction and enhance memory retention. Next, you will analyze the nature of consciousness and its various states, including sleep and associated disorders. Additionally, you will examine the theories of dreaming and assess the use and applications of hypnosis and meditation. Finally, you will examine the psychological and physiological effects of psychoactive drugs.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Memory	Evaluate various concepts and theories of memory.
Consciousness	Assess various concepts and theories of consciousness.
Effectiveness of Hypnosis	Evaluate the theories, applications, and potential concerns of hypnosis.

UNIT 4: THE MIND IN MOTION: EXPLORING MOTIVATION, EMOTION, AND INTELLIGENCE (DAYS 49 – 67)

In this unit, you will analyze the theories of motivation and emotion, theories of intelligence, and theories of language acquisition and development. You will begin by analyzing the internal and external factors that influence motivation and emotion and examine key theories in both areas. Next, you will explore the concept of intelligence, examine different types of intelligence, and analyze major theories explaining intellectual abilities. Additionally, you will also examine intelligence, aptitude, and achievement tests, comparing their purposes, structures, and limitations. Finally, you will examine the components and structure of language, analyze theories of how language is acquired and developed, and theories of second language acquisition to understand how linguistic abilities evolve.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Motivation and Emotion	Assess theories of motivation and emotion and the factors involved in motivation and emotion.
Intelligence	Evaluate various theories of intelligence.
Language Development	Analyze theories of language acquisition and development.
Self-Introspection and Language Disabilities	Evaluate internal and external motivation, analyze the theory of multiple intelligences, and assess language learning disabilities.

UNIT 5: THE MAKING OF YOU: PERSONALITY, GENETICS, AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES (DAYS 68 – 90)

In this unit, you will examine theories of personality, analyze the influence of heredity and environment on development, and assess how society and culture shape behavior and cognition. You will begin by examining personality theories, personality traits, and analyzing personality tests and their limitations. Next, you will explore the heredity versus environment debate, analyze differing viewpoints, and assess the influence of physical development and the role of caregiver in individual growth. You will also examine how attitudes are formed and influenced, analyze the development of biases and discrimination, and assess how social contexts affect behavior. Finally, you will examine the attribution theory, the concept of altruism, and analyze the psychological and social factors that influence attraction.

Lesson	Lesson Objective
Personality	Evaluate various theories of personality.
Heredity, Environment, and Human Behavior	Analyze the influence of heredity and environment on shaping an individual.
Social and Cultural Influences	Evaluate how society and culture influence behavior and cognition.
Influences on Behavior	Assess the theories and models that influence behavior.