CODE: PSYC 105  
TITLE: Introduction to Psychology I: Physical & Sensory Aspects

INSTITUTE: Business & Social Science  
DEPARTMENT: Psychology

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will demonstrate an understanding of Psychology as a science. They will complete exercises covering fundamental areas of the discipline: history of psychology, scientific method, sensation and perception, learning and memory, and IQ. Students will gain the ability to examine these subjects from a critical as well as a diverse point of view; the roles of gender, cultural and individual differences are systematically explored. Service learning is an option. PSYC 105 and PSYC 106 may be taken in either order.

PREREQUISITES: None

PREREQUISITES OR COREQUISITES: None

COREQUISITES:

CREDITS: 3  
LECTURE HOURS: 3  
LAB HOURS: 0

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:\nVisit the bookstore at:  
http://www.brookdalecc.edu/college-store/textbooks/

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students successfully completing this course will be able to: (SS)
• Recognize scientific methods and manipulate some components of experiments, as well as gain familiarity with basic statistical information and measurement requirements such as reliability and validity.
• Explain how learning and thinking arise from the human nervous system, starting with neurons, progressing to the brain itself, incorporating the sensory systems and concluding with the act of perception.
• Investigate and explain the cognitive processes of learning, remembering, intelligence, judgment, and decision making.
• Analyze and critically evaluate information that is constantly flowing from the media through a psychological framework.
• Describe the major fields, theoretical perspectives and key concepts within psychology.

Learning outcomes support the (SS) Social Sciences General Education Knowledge Area.

GRADING STANDARD:
100-93% = A  
92-90% = A-  
89-87% = B+  
86-83% = B  
82-80% = B-
79-77% = C+  
76-70% = C  
69-65% = D  
Less than 65% = F

There will be exams and written assignments and lab work is possible (during class). Details vary from instructor to instructor. Re-testing is at the discretion of the instructor.
COURSE CONTENT:
(Individual Instructors may add to the course content below.)

Topics - Unit 1:
- Definition of psychology
  - History of psychology
  - Historical "schools" of psychology
  - Modern psychological perspectives
  - Experimental and applied psychology
  - Careers in psychology
- The scientific method in psychological research
  - Research methods
  - Ethics in psychological research
- Consciousness
  - Circadian rhythms
  - Sleep and sleep disorders
  - Hypnosis
  - Meditation
  - Psychoactive drugs
  - Drug tolerance, addiction, and withdrawal

Topics - Unit 2:
- The nervous and endocrine systems
  - The branches of the nervous system
  - The structures and function of neurons
  - The endocrine system
  - The structures and functions of the brain
  - Brain imaging techniques
- Sensation and perception
  - Psychophysics
  - The anatomy and physiology of the eye
  - The anatomy and physiology of the ear
  - The seven human senses
  - The parts of the brain associated with the seven human senses
  - Bottom-up and top-down processing
  - Perception
  - Perceptual illusions
  - Perceptual set and context effects
  - Gestalt Laws of perception

Topics – Unit 3:
- Learning
  - Classical conditioning
  - Operant conditioning
  - Observational learning
  - Cognitive learning theories
- Memory
  - Encoding, storage, and retrieval
  - Sensory memory
  - Short-term memory
  - Working memory
  - Long-term memory
  - Divisions of long-term memory
  - Memory enhancement techniques
SYLLABUS

- Recall and recognition
- Serial position effect
- Memory interference
- Forgetting
- Amnesia
- Memory construction

Topics – Unit 4

- Basic statistics
  - Measures of central tendency
  - Measures of variability
  - The normal curve
  - Predictive/Inferential statistics
- Intelligence
  - Measuring intelligence
  - Intelligence Quotient
  - Aptitude and achievement testing
  - Theories of intelligence
  - The nature nurture debate regarding intelligence
  - Creativity
- Thinking
  - Judgment
  - Decision-making
  - Cognitive biases that influence judgment and decision-making

DEPARTMENT POLICIES:

- Attendance is expected and contributes significantly to performance in this course.
- You are responsible for any work done in class that you miss.
- Class will begin and end on time. Lateness or early departure is not acceptable behavior, nor is walking in and out of the classroom during class time. Instructors may penalize such activities.
- Instructors may set a limit on the number of absences allowed. Individual instructor addendums detailing specific attendance policies are to be obtained through the psychology department (MAN 127).
- During lecture, periods of class explanation, and when fellow students are speaking to the class, students are expected to use proper courtesy and refrain from using technologies.
- ALL Cell Phones and Beepers must be turned OFF during class time.
- Students are not permitted to use CD players or computers, etc... to play music during class time.
- The use of IRC, AIM and other instant messaging (chat) programs are not permitted during a class.
- E-mail must be professional and well written. As this is a college-level course it is expected that text messages are concise and prepared in full sentence form.
- Any e-mail that does not fully disclose the name of the student will be automatically interpreted as SPAM (unwanted junk mail) and be deleted unopened.
- Copying and pasting from the internet without a reference as well as purchasing materials online and misrepresenting them as your own work is considered plagiarism and is contrary to the BCC student conduct code.

COLLEGE POLICIES:

For information regarding:
- Brookdale’s Academic Integrity Code
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Grade Appeal Process
Please refer to the **STUDENT HANDBOOK** and **BCC CATALOG**.

**NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify, must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 or 732-842-4211 (TTY), provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:**
The Instructor addendum will be distributed on the first day of class. This addendum will contain specific information about instructor information (hours, office, phone, email), the class schedule, required assignments, and individual instructor class policies.

For information on tutoring see [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/tutoring-center/](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/tutoring-center/)