

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Title: Psychology I
Course Number: 10118
Course Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Get ready to delve into some of life’s biggest questions and begin the journey to uncovering those answers for yourself! In this course, you’ll explore the broad scope of psychology from biology’s impact on our psychological makeup to society’s impact on who we become. You’ll look closely at the changing and sometimes conflicting thoughts of researchers and scientists and how the field of psychology has changed. You’ll also explore clinical psychology and how people find treatment. Let’s begin the journey to discovery today!

Suggested Grade Level: Grades 9-12

Length of Course: One Semester

Units of Credit: .5

PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:

CSPG 59

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](#)

Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department: Yes No

WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION

Course Level: Academic

Mark Types: Check all that apply.

F – Final Average MP – Marking Period EXM – Final Exam

GPA Type: GPAEL-GPA Elementary GPAML-GPA for Middle Level NHS-National Honor Society

UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

State Course Code: 04254

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](#), download the Excel file for SCED, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and choose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

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TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:

Title: Edynamic Learning
Publisher: Virtual Learning
ISBN #: Click or tap here to enter text.
Copyright Date: Click or tap here to enter text.
WCSD Board Approval Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Supplemental Materials: Click or tap here to enter text.

Curriculum Document

WCSD Board Approval:

Date Finalized: 4/5/2023
Date Approved: 6/26/2023
Implementation Year: 2023.2024

SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT AND CONCEPTS**Marking Period 1/3**

Unit 1: Why Did She Do That? The Question of Psychology - From the *New York Times*, September 14, 2021: Simone Biles is withdrawing from the Olympics all-around gymnastic competition. The world watched on in disbelief. Simone was the clear favorite to win the competition. Why would one of the best athletes in the world decide to walk away from the most prestigious competition on the planet? The world was shocked. Seeking to understand questions like this is the essence of psychology—a quest to understand why people behave as they do. It is the scientific study of mind and behavior. We are going to get to know some of the main characters of psychology, the role they play, and how they impact your story.

Unit 2: Searching for Answers - In 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was stabbed and killed outside her apartment in Queens, New York, after returning from work. Several neighbors seemed to have heard the commotion, with one neighbor reportedly yelling at the attacker and scaring him off for a time, but the attacker came back, and no one came to her aid until 30 minutes after the attack began. Psychologists, government officials, and healthcare professionals have tried to understand why no one stepped in to help Kitty. The term “bystander effect” was coined to describe a situation in which people fail to help someone in trouble. This is the pattern by which psychological knowledge is expanded. An event takes place. Then psychologists try to understand it through observation, studying the incident, and creating research to further explore and find answers to the behavior.

Unit 3: the Biology of Behavior - Nick Vujicic was born without arms or legs. In many ways, his biology has defined, limited, and challenged him. At one point in his life, his biology impacted his mental state to the point of attempting suicide. After that low point, Nick took what nature had given him and he embraced it, choosing to focus on the good and welcoming life. We are all given a specific genetic composition at birth, with our own limitations and challenges. Throughout life, biology impacts our environment, which, in turn, molds our biology. Nick is now physically active and happily working as a public speaker inspiring millions of people. How will your biology impact your behavior?

Unit 4: How You Learn - If you ever get to meet Brad Pitt, there’s a good chance he won’t remember you. Pitt reportedly suffers from prosopagnosia, or face blindness. He can’t remember the faces of the people he meets. Memory and learning are activities we engage in regularly, and when something goes wrong in that process, it can create some major difficulties.

Marking Period 2/4

Unit 5: Language and Intelligence - Genie Wiley was 13-years old when she was rescued from a horrific home life; she had spent most of her time strapped naked to a potty chair and was

beaten whenever she made a noise. At 13-years old, she had few skills, unable to even dress herself. With assistance from teachers and researchers, she was able to acquire many essential skills, but one concept she was never able to grasp beyond the level of a four-year-old was that of language. Her case study led researchers to conclude that there is a critical period for language development that, if missed, will forever impact an individual's ability to learn a language.

Unit 6: Development Over the Lifespan - In one of the first scenes in *The Lion King*, Rafiki holds baby Simba up for all the animal kingdom to see. Elton John serenades in the background about the circle of life. This song poetically describes the path of human development, as the circle of life is not just a story for the animal kingdom but for humanity as well. Everyone follows a developmental pattern from conception in the womb until death, and just as in *The Lion King*, it's a cycle that repeats itself generation after generation.

Unit 7: Stress, Coping, and Mental Health - "That was the greatest night in the history of television," Chris Rock proclaimed after being slapped by Will Smith while presenting at the 2022 Oscar ceremony. Chris Rock had just finished telling a joke about Will Smith's wife but many others in the audience had been the subject of his other jokes. What led to Will Smith's violent reaction? And how was Chris Rock able to avoid retaliation and continue as a presenter for the rest of the night? Our behavior and reactions are impacted by the stress we feel and how we have learned to cope with that stress. One-quarter of all adult Americans, including celebrities like Britney Spears and Pete Davidson, struggle to maintain a healthy mental state. It's not always easy, and there is a high likelihood there will be times in your life when difficulties will challenge your mental health. Fortunately, there are skills that anyone facing challenges can incorporate into their lives for more positive outcomes.

Unit 8: Psychological Disorders - Like cancer, mental illness simply does not discriminate. It is found in individuals with tragic, sad, lonely lives and those who have full, healthy, abundant lives. There is no singular cause of psychological disorders. They have impacted individuals from Charles Dickens to Lady Gaga, from veterans experiencing homelessness to millionaires. "One of the most important things you could realize is that you're not alone," Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson said. "You're not the first to go through it; you're not going to be the last to go through it. And oftentimes—it happens—you just feel like you're alone. You feel like it's only you. . . . I wish I had someone at that time who could just pull me aside and [say], 'Hey, it's gonna be OK. It'll be OK.'" Psychological abnormalities are a part of the human condition that thousands of caring individuals are fighting to cure or heal every single day.

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Standards/Eligible Content and Skills

Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Understand and evaluate personality and the main theories of personality		
Identify assessment techniques used to identify individual personality		
Identify and understand factors that influence personality		
Understand and evaluate theories of motivation and factors that influence motivation		
Understand and evaluate theories of emotion and factors that influence the emotional experience		
Become familiar with factors influenced by your social world		
Understand the emergence and evolution of psychology as a discipline		
Map the historical roots of psychology and identify and understand main psychological perspectives		
Identify subfields of psychology and career opportunities available in the discipline		
Understand the role of psychological research in the study of mind and behavior		
Identify the components of a research study and ways to implement them to conduct research		
Understand the basic components and function of neurons		
Become familiar with advances in neuroscience and the tolls used to study the brain		
Understand the basic process of the functions of the nervous and endocrine systems		
Identify the relationship between genetics, heredity, and the environment		
Describe how sensation and perception occur		
Understand the states and levels of consciousness		
Describe the principle of classical conditioning and necessary components in the process		
Describe the principle of operant conditioning and how learning occurs		
Describe the principles of observational and cognitive learning and the important role it plays		
Identify and explain the process of encoding in memory		
Identify and explain the process of storage and retrieval and the role it plays in memory		
Discuss types of memory disorders		
Articulate the principles and theories of cognitive development		
Define the processes involved in problem-solving, decision-making, and judgements		

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Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Evaluate the acquisition of language		
Describe the structure and function of language and its relationship with thought		
Differentiate types of intelligence and analyze associated testing		
Distinguish methods used to study human development over the lifespan		
Outline prenatal and infant development and important milestones		
Describe human development in childhood and significant changes		
Identify developmental milestones and markers in adolescence		
Identify and discuss developmental changes that occur in adulthood until death		
Articulate what stress is and how it impacts individuals		
Identify ways stress can be beneficial or detrimental and how to properly manage stress		
Explain essential elements for good mental and physical health and understand how government programs can assist individuals		
Identify methods to optimize mental and physical health		
Analyze the role of technology in today's world and evaluate the impact it has on personal development		
Understand what abnormal behavior is and different historical and cultural views of abnormal behavior		
Describe different psychological disorders and the various symptoms and causes of the disorders		
Outline available biomedical treatments and how treatment options and efficacy vary		
Identify psychological treatments and the theories they are based on as well as how the treatments are used by practitioners		
Discuss the impact of psychological disorders and the stigma associated with diagnosis		

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ASSESSMENTS

PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content: The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

Formative Assessments: The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

Effective formative assessments for this course include: Quizzes, homework, and discussion

Summative Assessments: The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

Effective summative assessments for this course include: Tests and semester exam