

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Education and Wellness, Legal and
Protective Services

Course Number and Title

PSYC 2003 General Psychology

Catalog Description

An investigation into basic principles and theories of behavior in the areas of learning, memory, perception, development, biological basis of behavior, motivation and emotion, personality, stress, abnormal behavior, and social and interpersonal relationships.

Prerequisites

College level reading scores or successful completion of College Reading.

Credit hours/Contact hours/Load hours: 3

Target Audience/Transferability

General Psychology is a course designed to serve as an introduction to the field of psychology, highlighting its breadth and diversity. It is a transferable course within the Arkansas State transfer system, and will transfer to most colleges and universities as the basic introduction to psychology course. It is also required or recommended for AAS programs. This course is a prerequisite for PSYC 2043 and PSYC 2103.

Student Learning Outcomes

Theory and Content of Psychology

- Explain why psychology is a science and describe the different research methods used by psychologists
- Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology

Application of Psychology

- Apply psychological theories and principles to everyday life and contexts

Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology

- Respect and use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes
- Identify and evaluate the source, context, and credibility of information and distinguish between research designs that permit causal inferences from those that do not

Topics

This course begins with the history of psychology as a science and an overview of commonly used research methods.

Various topics under the following content areas are covered:

- History of Psychology and Research Methods
- Theories of Personality
- Life Span Development
- Biological Basis of Behavior
- Consciousness
- Sensation and Perception
- Thinking and Intelligence
- Memory
- Learning
- Social and Cultural Influences on Behavior
- Psychological Disorders and Treatment
- Emotion, Stress, and Health
- Motivation

These topics are presented with a special emphasis on critical thinking skills.

Forms of Assessment