

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

PSYC 103 – INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2023
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2024
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work & Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. ☐ Prerequisite (s):
☐ Corequisite (s):
☒ Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s): Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition 1 with ENGL 070 English Composition 1 Workshop, or higher
- I. Additional Fees: None
- J. Name and E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:
Department Chair: Dr. Isabel Gutierrez-Bergman (Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu)
Division Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks (patrice.marks@raritanval.edu)

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

This course will provide students with a basic overview of psychology - the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The course will focus on the interactions among

biological, social, and personal influences that describe, explain, predict, and control behavior. Additionally, students will learn to critically understand and evaluate theories in psychology and how the theories apply to phenomena experienced in people's everyday life. Whenever possible, the course will focus on research with real world implications and the application of psychological concepts to real world scenarios. This course will cover a variety of topics: including research methods, neuroscience, cognition, human development, social psychology, theories of personality, psychological disorders, and therapy.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course provides students with an introduction to one of the social sciences, thereby satisfying a necessary or general program requirement. It also meets the State and College guidelines as a general education requirement.
- B. This course generally transfers as a Social Science General Education course. It can also serve as a social science elective or free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Social Science.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for numerous programs
- D. The course is a prerequisite for other psychology courses.
- E. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course will cover the following topics:

- A. Psychology in Your Life
- B. The Role of Biology in Psychology
- C. Consciousness
- D. Development Across the Lifespan
- E. Sensation and Perception
- F. Learning
- G. Memory
- H. Thinking and Intelligence
- I. Motivation and Emotion
- J. Sex, gender, and Sexuality
- K. Health and Well-being
- L. Social Psychology
- M. Self and Personality
- N. Psychological Disorders
- O. Psychological Treatments

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the major fields, theoretical perspectives, and key concepts within psychology. (GE 5, *)
2. Apply psychological principles to everyday life. (GE 5, *)
3. Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources using scientific and psychological principles. (GE 3, IL, *)
4. Describe biological, sociocultural, and psychological influences on mental processes, behaviors, and interactions. (GE 5, 8, *)
5. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice. (GE 5, ER&A, *)

(*Embedded Critical Thinking)

B. Assessment Instruments

1. Lecture/discussion
2. Small-group work
3. Individual in-class activities
4. Student oral presentations
5. Student collaboration

VII. Grade Determinants

Grade determinants:

- A. Exams
- B. Essays and/or reflection papers
- C. Research papers
- D. In-class presentations
- E. Journals
- F. Quizzes
- G. Participation

VIII. Texts and Materials

Title: Psychology in Your Life

Authors: Grison & Gazzaniga

Edition: 4th

Publisher: W.W Norton & Company

Copyright: 2022

ISBN-13: 978-0393877533

ISBN-10: 0393877531

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Library databases
- B. Other computer-based resources (e.g., websites, links, and videos)
- C. Various journal and applicable articles

X. Honors Options [if relevant]

N/A