OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the 3-credit courses in psychology are designed to develop within the student the skills and understandings that make it possible for more effective living in our complex environment. The student’s attention will focus on the scientific approach to understanding human behaviour so that he or she may appreciate more fully the reasons that underlie one’s own acts and those of one’s fellows.

PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY 20

CONTENT

Theme 1: Introduction to Psychology
   a. definition
   b. the place of psychology among other sciences
   c. what psychology is not
   d. psychology and hypnosis
   e. parapsychology
   f. methods of psychological study

Theme 2: Personality
   a. the development of personality
   b. theories of personality
   c. scientific techniques for measuring personality
   d. projective techniques

Theme 3: Behaviour
   a. development
   b. physical development
   c. motor development
   d. language development
   e. emotional development
   f. social development

Theme 4: Intelligence
   a. the meaning of intelligence
   b. individual tests of intelligence
   c. group tests of intelligence
   d. practical applications of intelligence tests
   e. mental retardation
   f. intellectually gifted children
   g. criticisms of intelligence tests
PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGY 20 (continued)

Theme 5: Heredity and Environment
  a. inherited characteristics
  b. studies of heredity
  c. heredity and maturation
  d. influences of environment before birth
  e. influences of environment after birth
  f. interaction of heredity and environment

d. convulsive disorders
  e. glands
  f. emotional behaviour
  g. instincts, or species; specific behaviour
  h. the effect of sleep on behaviour

Theme 6: Biological Influences on Behaviour
  a. the nervous system
  b. reaction time
  c. the brain

d. convulsive disorders
  e. glands
  f. emotional behaviour
  g. instincts, or species; specific behaviour
  h. the effect of sleep on behaviour

Theme 7: Understanding Perception
  a. attention
  b. sensation and perception
  c. vision
  d. hearing
  e. other sense fields
  f. sensory deprivation

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 20

CONTENT

Theme 1: History of Psychological Schools of Thought
  a. philosophical origins of psychology
  b. beginnings of modern psychology
  c. major approaches to understanding behaviour

Theme 2: Principles of Learning
  a. what is learning?
  b. trial and error learning
  c. classical conditioning
  d. terms related to classical conditioning
  e. operant conditioning
  f. terms related to operant conditioning
  g. operant conditioning and punishment
  h. operant conditioning and programmed learning
  i. learning by insight
  j. controversial areas of learning

Theme 3: How to Learn Efficiently
  a. transfer
  b. other factors in learning efficiently
  c. the progress of learning
  d. remembering
  e. forgetting

Theme 4: The Process of Thinking
  a. basic elements of thinking
  b. concepts
  c. uncritical thinking
  d. creative thinking
  e. imagining
  f. reasoning
  g. computer versus human thinking
  h. applying principles of learning to taking examinations

Theme 5: Facing Frustration and Conflict
  a. frustration and conflict
  b. types of conflict
  c. desirable ways of responding to frustration and conflict
  d. adjustment mechanisms
  e. cognitive dissonance

Psychology (Senior High) /2
(Revised 1985) ©Alberta Education, Alberta, Canada
GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY 20 (continued)

Theme 6: Emotional Problems of Adolescents
   a. inferiority
   b. daydreaming
   c. thrills and thrill-seeking
   d. family conflicts
   e. dating and romantic love
   f. assuming the roles of men and women

Theme 7: Behaviour Disorders and Their Treatment
   a. behaviour disorders in our society
   b. neurotic behaviour
   c. psychosis
   d. functional psychosis
   e. organic psychosis
   f. personality disorders
   g. the treatment of behaviour disorders

Theme 8: Career Opportunities in Psychology
   a. educational psychology
   b. clinical psychology
   c. physiological psychology
   d. industrial psychology
   e. social psychology

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY 30

CONTENT

Theme 1: Experimental Psychology
   a. psychology as an experimental science
   b. psychological research

Theme 2: Statistics
   a. organizing data
   b. normal distribution
   c. percentiles, deciles, quartiles
   d. measures of central tendency
   e. measures of variability
   f. correlation
   g. validity and reliability

Theme 3: Research Methods
   a. research steps
   b. laboratory experimentation

Theme 4: Research Projects
   a. research; implementation of practical applications
   b. project flexibility
   c. evaluation
   d. suggested design