

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: PSY 200 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: Principles of Psychology

Course Description:

Surveys the basic concepts of psychology. Covers the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, research methods, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, developmental psychology, learning, memory, thinking, intelligence, personality, social psychology, and psychological disorders and treatment. The assignments in the course require college-level reading fluency and coherent communication through written reports. This is a Passport and UCGS transfer course. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits

General Course Purpose:

PSY 200 explores the history, major theories, perspectives, and methods of the field of psychology and apply them to human individuals and groups. This course introduces general topics of psychology that will be foundational for advanced courses in psychology.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Science of Psychology: Perspectives in Psychological Science

- Define psychology as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.
- Identify and explain the primary objectives of psychology (e.g. describing, understanding, predicting, and controlling behavior and mental processes).
- Describe how psychology emerged and evolved as a scientific discipline.
- Identify overarching themes, persistent questions, or enduring conflicts in psychology, such as the interaction of heredity and environment.
- Identify and describe the major contemporary perspectives of psychology (e.g. psychodynamic, behavioral, humanistic, biological, and cognitive).

Science of Psychology: Research Methods

- Describe the scientific method and its role in psychology.
- Explain the strengths, limitations, and conclusions that can be drawn from various research designs and data collection methods (including case study, observation, survey, correlational, and experiment).
- Describe systematic procedures used to improve the credibility of research findings (e.g. blind or double blind designs, control or placebo groups, peer-review, replication).
- Explain the ethical obligations of researchers toward their research participants, both human and animal.

Science of Psychology: Critical Thinking

Discern differences between personal views and scientific evidence in understanding behavior.

Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings as these relate to everyday life.

Science of Psychology:

