

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi
Department of Human Resources and Organisational Development
PSY 152 Introduction to Psychology
2020-2021, Term 2
Credit: 3 Credits Hours

Course Outline

Information of the Teaching Team

	Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Consultation Hour:	Wednesday 14:30 – 16:30	Thursday 14:00 – 16:00

1. Course Description:

This course introduces basic concepts, and theories in psychological approaches in studying human behaviours. The course also discusses relevant contemporary research findings to facilitate the understanding of human behaviour. In addition to the lectures, mini quizzes will be conducted in class to help students in the teaching and learning processes.

2. Learning Approach:

This course employs an interactive approach of teaching and learning, which comprise lectures and discussions. Students are encouraged to engage in diverse learning activities, such as pre-reading, discussions, mini quizzes, etc., which are designed to enhance their understanding of the business environment.

3. Prerequisites: Not for psychology major students

4. Course Content

Topics	Contents
1. Exploring Psychology	This lecture provides a broad overview of psychology. The lecture discusses what psychology is and different perspective in the study of psychology. The lecture will provide students with knowledge on what professionals in the field do. Lastly, the lecture will also discuss psychology as a science which includes ways that psychologists conduct a scientific research.
2. Understanding Personality	This lecture discusses major theories and research findings in the study of personality and traits. Perspectives such as psychodynamic and humanistic ideas applied by psychologists to study personality will be explored.
3. Human Development	This lecture covers topics in developmental psychology. Topics including stages of parental development, emotional, cognitive and language development will be discussed.
4. Consciousness	This lecture discusses the concept of consciousness by focusing on sensory awareness of the environment. Concepts such as circadian rhythms will be discussed.
5. Cognition	In this lecture, various elements of cognition will be discussed. The lecture covers concepts such as schemas, mental images, subconscious and nonconscious thinking, reasoning and intelligence.
6. Memory	This lecture provides students to understand the reconstruction of the past. The lecture discusses the stages and models of human memory.
7. Learning and Conditioning	This lecture discusses major psychological theories that explain human learning behaviours. Theories such as classical conditioning and operant conditioning will be introduced to students.
8. Sociocultural Influences on Human Behaviour	In this lecture, how social norms and social roles impact human behaviour will be discussed. Major social psychology research on obedience such as the Milgram obedience study and Zimbardo prison study will be discussed.
9. Psychological Disorder	This lecture focuses on mental health issues. Students will be introduced to how psychologists diagnose mental disorders using DSM and other diagnostic tools. In addition, various mental disorders will be discussed.
10. Emotion, Stress and Health	In this lecture, we will focus on components of emotions and how cognitive appraisal plays a role in emotional experiences. Stress and related health issues will also be introduced.

5. Expected Learning Goals

Learning Goals:

1. Understand the major theories and concepts in psychology.
2. Understand the major perspectives in psychology.
3. Understand and identify various professions in psychology.
4. Understand how psychologists conduct psychological research.
5. Understand, apply and relate psychology to everyday life.

6. Attendance & Participation

Attendance and participation are very critical in this course. The course will be considerably difficult for students who miss classes regularly. It is important to emphasize that attendance does not constitute participation. Thus, students are encouraged to attend classes and participate fully.

7. Classroom Environment

It is expected that every student practice mutual respect in class. Students are encouraged to put their phones on silence during class. Please do not text while class is in progress and always wear your nose mask to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Taping and recordings by students of lectures and discussion shall be done ONLY with the permission from the lecturer. Recording of any kind distributed to students shall be restricted to the personal use of the students who have registered for the course only.

8. Assessment scheme:

Assessment Scheme	Description	Weight
Group Assignment/ Participation	You will be required to work in groups to review and submit an empirical article. Details of the assignment will be communicated in a due course.	15%
Mid-Semester Examination	It will consist of 30 multiple choice questions, covering all the topics taught in the first half of the course.	15%
End of Semester Examination	It will be a comprehensive examination, including multiple choice questions and covering all topics taught in class.	70%

9. Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

The university has a strict policy on academic **honesty and plagiarism**. Plagiarism is copying passages and/or ideas from other sources without referencing those sources. Moreover, when you report someone else's ideas/findings you must put it in your own words and not merely copy full sentences or parts of sentences from the source article. Assignments which show evidence of plagiarism will be marked down severely, investigated, and apply disciplinary procedures of the university.

10. Suggested Resources:

Wade, C., Tayris, C., & Garry, M. (2015). *Invitation to Psychology* (6th ed. Global Edition). Pearson Educational Limited.

Rathus, S.A (2017). *PSYCH 5, Introduction Psychology* (5th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Rathus, S. A., (1995). *Psychology in the New Millennium* (6th ed.) Harcourt College Publishers.