

AP Psychology - EL5180 A		Scope and Sequence
Unit	Lesson	Objectives
SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY		
	What Is Psychology?	Recognize how philosophical and physiological perspectives shaped the development of psychological thought.
	Psychology's Founders	Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in psychology.
	Project: Contributors to Psychology Time Line	Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in psychology.
	Psychology's Seven Modern Approaches	Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior. Recognize the strengths and limitations of applying theories to explain behavior.
	Psychology's Domains and Careers	Distinguish the different domains of psychology.
	How Do Psychologists Study Behavior and Mental Processes?	Discuss the value of reliance on operational definitions and measurement in behavioral research. Differentiate types of research with regard to purpose, strengths, and weaknesses.
	How Do Psychologists Use the Experimental Method?	Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs. Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn. Distinguish between random assignment of participants to conditions in experiments and random selection of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys.

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
	Project: Design Your Own Experiment	<p>Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs.</p> <p>Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn.</p> <p>Distinguish between random assignment of participants to conditions in experiments and random selection of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys.</p>
	Find the Flaw	<p>Predict the validity of behavioral explanations based on the quality of research design.</p>
	How Do Psychologists Use Statistics?	<p>Apply basic descriptive statistical concepts, including interpreting and constructing graphs and calculating simple descriptive statistics.</p> <p>Distinguish the purposes of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.</p>
	Why Are Ethics Important in Research?	<p>Identify how ethical issues inform and constrain research practices</p> <p>Describe how ethical and legal guidelines protect research participants and promote sound ethical practice</p>
	How to Write an Effective Free Response Answer	<p>Write an effective FRQ response.</p>
	Review: Scientific Foundations of Psychology	<p>Recognize how philosophical and physiological perspectives shaped the development of psychological thought.</p> <p>Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in psychology.</p> <p>Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior.</p> <p>Recognize the strengths and limitations of applying theories to explain behavior.</p> <p>Distinguish the different domains of psychology.</p>

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Discuss the value of reliance on operational definitions and measurement in behavioral research.

Differentiate types of research with regard to purpose, strengths, and weaknesses.

Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs.

Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn.

Distinguish between random assignment of participants to conditions in experiments and random selection of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys.

Predict the validity of behavioral explanations based on the quality of research design.

Apply basic descriptive statistical concepts, including interpreting and constructing graphs and calculating simple descriptive statistics.

Distinguish the purposes of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Identify how ethical issues inform and constrain research practices.

Describe how ethical and legal guidelines protect research participants and promote sound ethical practice.

Write an effective FRQ response.

Test

BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR

How Do Nature and Nurture Interact?

Discuss psychology's abiding interest in how heredity, environment, and evolution work together to shape behavior.

Identify key research contributions of scientists in the area of heredity and environment.

Predict how traits and behavior can be selected for their adaptive value.

The Body's Speedy Communication System: The Nervous System

Describe the nervous system and its subdivisions and functions.

Identify basic processes and systems in the biological bases of behavior, including parts of the neuron.

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
		Identify basic process of transmission of a signal between neurons.
	The Body's Slow Communication System: The Endocrine System	Discuss the effect of the endocrine system on behavior.
	Project: Endocrine Amusement Park	Discuss the effect of the endocrine system on human behavior.
	Neurotransmitters and How Drugs Affect Them	Identify the basic process of transmission of a signal between neurons.
		Discuss the influence of drugs on neurotransmitters.
	How Do Drugs Affect the Nervous System?	Discuss the influence of drugs on neurotransmitters.
		Identify the major psychoactive drug categories and classify specific drugs, including their psychological and physiological effects.
		Discuss drug dependence, addiction, tolerance, and withdrawal.
	Functions of the Hindbrain, Midbrain, and Limbic System	Identify the three major sections of the brain.
		Understand the functions of each of the three major sections.
		Identify and understand the different lobes of the brain.
		Understand the location and function of the limbic system.
	Functions of the Cerebral Cortex	Describe the nervous system and its subdivisions and functions in the brain.
		Identify the contributions of key researchers to the study of the brain.

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
	Project: Zombie Brain	<p>Describe the nervous system and its subdivisions and functions in the brain.</p> <p>Identify the contributions of key researchers to the study of the brain.</p>
	Tools for Studying the Brain and Brain Plasticity	<p>Recount historic and contemporary strategies and technologies that support research.</p> <p>Identify contributions of key researchers to the development of tools examining the brain.</p> <p>Discuss the role of neuroplasticity in traumatic brain injury.</p> <p>Discuss the contributions of key researchers to the study of neuroplasticity.</p>
	Sleep and Dreams	<p>Describe various states of consciousness and their impact on behavior.</p> <p>Identify the contributions of major figures in consciousness research.</p> <p>Discuss aspects of sleep and dreaming.</p>
	Review: Biological Bases of Behavior	<p>Discuss psychology's abiding interest in how heredity, environment, and evolution work together to shape behavior.</p> <p>Identify key research contributions of scientists in the area of heredity and environment.</p> <p>Predict how traits and behavior can be selected for their adaptive value.</p> <p>Describe the nervous system and its subdivisions and functions.</p> <p>Identify basic processes and systems in the biological bases of behavior, including parts of the neuron.</p> <p>Identify basic process of transmission of a signal between neurons.</p> <p>Discuss the effect of the endocrine system on behavior.</p> <p>Identify the basic process of transmission of a signal between neurons.</p>

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Discuss the influence of drugs on neurotransmitters.

Identify the major psychoactive drug categories and classify specific drugs, including their psychological and physiological effects.

Discuss drug dependence, addiction, tolerance, and withdrawal.

Identify the three major sections of the brain.

Understand the functions of each of the three major sections.

Identify and understand the different lobes of the brain.

Understand the location and function of the limbic system.

Describe the nervous system and its subdivisions and functions in the brain.

Identify the contributions of key researchers to the study of the brain.

Discuss the role of neuroplasticity in traumatic brain injury.

Discuss the contributions of key researchers to the study of neuroplasticity.

Describe various states of consciousness and their impact on behavior.

Identify the contributions of major figures in consciousness research.

Discuss aspects of sleep and dreaming.

Test

SENSATION AND PERCEPTION

Principles of Sensation

Describe general principles of organizing and integrating sensation to promote stable awareness of the external world.

Discuss basic principles of sensory transduction, including absolute threshold, difference threshold, signal detection, and sensory adaptation.

Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in sensation and perception.

Principles of Perception

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
		Describe general principles of organizing and integrating sensation to promote stable awareness of the external world.
		Discuss how experience and culture can influence perceptual processes.
	Attention	
		Discuss the role of attention in behavior.
	Visual Anatomy	
		Describe the vision process, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.
	Visual Perception	
		Explain the role of top-down processing in producing vulnerability to illusion.
	Project: Perception Cues in Photos	
		Explain the role of top-down processing in producing vulnerability to illusion.
	Auditory Sensation and Perception	
		Describe the hearing process, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.
	Chemical Senses, Touch, and Pain	
		Describe taste and smell processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.
		Describe sensory processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the body senses.
	Sensory Interaction	
		Describe sensory processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the body senses.
	Sensory Impairments	
		Explain common sensory conditions.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Project: Sensory Disorders / Touch Box

Explain common sensory conditions.

Review: Sensation and Perception

Describe general principles of organizing and integrating sensation to promote stable awareness of the external world.

Discuss basic principles of sensory transduction, including absolute threshold, difference threshold, signal detection, and sensory adaptation.

Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in sensation and perception.

Discuss how experience and culture can influence perceptual processes.

Discuss the role of attention in behavior.

Describe the vision process, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.

Explain the role of top-down processing in producing vulnerability to illusion.

Describe the hearing process, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.

Describe taste and smell processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.

Describe sensory processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the body senses.

Describe sensory processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the body senses.

Explain common sensory conditions.

Test

LEARNING

Introduction to Learning

Identify the contributions of key researchers in the psychology of learning.

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
		Distinguish general differences between principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning.
	Classical Conditioning	Describe basic classical conditioning phenomena.
	Applications of Classical Conditioning	Identify the contributions of key researchers in the psychology of learning.
		Apply learning principles to explain emotional learning, taste aversion, superstitious behavior, and learned helplessness.
		Describe basic classical conditioning phenomena.
	Project: Classical Conditioning Gallery	Apply learning principles to explain emotional learning, taste aversion, superstitious behavior, and learned helplessness.
	Operant Conditioning	Predict the effects of operant conditioning.
		Predict how practice, schedules of reinforcement, and motivation will influence quality of learning.
		Interpret graphs that exhibit the results of learning experiments.
	Applications of Operant Conditioning	Predict the effects of operant conditioning.
		Suggest how behavior modification, biofeedback, coping strategies and self-control can be used to address behavioral problems.
	Project: Applying Operant Conditioning	Predict the effects of operant conditioning.
		Suggest how behavior modification, biofeedback, coping strategies, and self-control can be used to address behavioral problems.
	Biological and Cognitive Factors in	

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
	Learning	Describe the essential characteristics of insight learning, latent learning, and social learning.
		Apply learning principles to explain emotional learning, taste aversion, superstitious behavior, and learned helplessness.
		Provide examples of how biological constraints create learning predispositions.
	Observational Learning	Describe the essential characteristics of insight learning, latent learning, and social learning
	Review: Learning	Identify the contributions of key researchers in the psychology of learning.
		Distinguish general differences between principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning.
		Describe basic classical conditioning phenomena.
		Apply learning principles to explain emotional learning, taste aversion, superstitious behavior, and learned helplessness.
		Identify the contributions of key researchers in the psychology of learning.
		Predict the effects of operant conditioning.
		Predict how practice, schedules of reinforcement, and motivation will influence quality of learning.
		Interpret graphs that exhibit the results of learning experiments.
		Suggest how behavior modification, biofeedback, coping strategies and self-control can be used to address behavioral problems.
		Describe the essential characteristics of insight learning, latent learning, and social learning.
		Apply learning principles to explain emotional learning, taste aversion, superstitious behavior, and learned helplessness.
		Provide examples of how biological constraints create learning predispositions.
	Test	

Unit Lesson

Objectives

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction to Memory

Compare and contrast various cognitive processes.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of memory.

Encoding

Compare and contrast various cognitive processes.

Outline the principles that underlie the construction and encoding of memories.

Storage—Part 1

Identify key contributors in cognitive psychology.

Outline the principles that underlie effective storage of memories.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of memory.

Storage—Part 2

Identify key contributors in cognitive psychology.

Outline the principles that underlie effective storage of memories.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of memory.

Biological Bases for Memory

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of short- and long-term memory.

Retrieval

Describe strategies for retrieving memories.

Forgetting and Memory Distortion

Identify the contributions of key researchers in cognitive psychology.

Describe strategies for memory improvement and typical memory errors.

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
	Case Study: Ronald Cotton and Memory Distortion	<p>Identify the contributions of key researchers in cognitive psychology.</p> <p>Describe strategies for memory improvement and typical memory errors.</p>
	Thinking and Problem Solving	<p>Identify problem-solving strategies, as well as factors that influence their effectiveness.</p> <p>List the characteristics of creative thought and creative thinkers.</p>
	Biases and Errors in Thinking	<p>Identify problem-solving strategies as well as factors that create bias and errors in thinking.</p>
	Introduction to Intelligence	<p>Define intelligence and list characteristics of how psychologists measure intelligence.</p> <p>Discuss how culture influences the definition of intelligence.</p>
	Is Intelligence One, Three, or Many?	<p>Compare and contrast historic and contemporary theories of intelligence.</p>
	Essay: Which Theory of Intelligence is Most Accurate?	<p>Compare and contrast historic and contemporary theories of intelligence.</p>
	History of Intelligence Testing	<p>Identify the contributions of key researchers in intelligence research and testing.</p> <p>Debate the appropriate testing practices, particularly in relation to culture-fair test uses.</p>
	Principles of Test Construction	<p>Explain how psychologists design tests, including standardization, strategies, and other techniques to establish reliability and validity.</p> <p>Interpret the meaning of scores in terms of the normal curve.</p>

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe relevant labels related to intelligence testing.

Language

Identify the contributions of key researchers in cognitive psychology.

Synthesize how biological, cognitive, and cultural factors converge to facilitate acquisition, development, and use of language.

Review: Cognitive Psychology

Compare and contrast various cognitive processes.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of memory.

Outline the principles that underlie the construction and encoding of memories.

Identify key contributors in cognitive psychology.

Outline the principles that underlie effective storage of memories.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of short- and long-term memory.

Describe strategies for retrieving memories.

Identify the contributions of key researchers in cognitive psychology.

Describe strategies for memory improvement and typical memory errors.

Identify problem-solving strategies, as well as factors that influence their effectiveness.

List the characteristics of creative thought and creative thinkers.

Identify problem-solving strategies as well as factors that create bias and errors in thinking.

Define intelligence and list characteristics of how psychologists measure intelligence.

Discuss how culture influences the definition of intelligence.

Compare and contrast historic and contemporary theories of intelligence.

Identify the contributions of key researchers in intelligence research and testing.

Debate the appropriate testing practices, particularly in relation to culture-fair test uses.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Explain how psychologists design tests, including standardization?, strategies, and other techniques to establish reliability ?and validity?.

Interpret the meaning of scores in terms of the normal curve.

Describe relevant labels related to intelligence testing.

Identify key contributors in cognitive psychology.

Synthesize how biological, cognitive, and cultural factors converge to facilitate acquisition, development, and use of language.

Test

SEMESTER REVIEW AND EXAM

Semester Review

Recognize how philosophical and physiological perspectives shaped the development of psychological thought.

Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in psychology.

Describe and compare different theoretical approaches in explaining behavior.

Recognize the strengths and limitations of applying theories to explain behavior.

Distinguish the different domains of psychology.

Discuss the value of reliance on operational definitions and measurement in behavioral research.

Differentiate types of research with regard to purpose, strengths, and weaknesses.

Identify independent, dependent, confounding, and control variables in experimental designs.

Describe how research design drives the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn.

Distinguish between random assignment of participants to conditions in experiments and random selection of participants, primarily in correlational studies and surveys.

Predict the validity of behavioral explanations based on the quality of research design.

Apply basic descriptive statistical concepts, including interpreting and constructing graphs and calculating simple descriptive statistics.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Distinguish the purposes of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Identify how ethical issues inform and constrain research practices.

Describe how ethical and legal guidelines protect research participants and promote sound ethical practice.

Write an effective FRQ response.

Discuss psychology's abiding interest in how heredity, environment, and evolution work together to shape behavior.

Identify key research contributions of scientists in the area of heredity and environment.

Predict how traits and behavior can be selected for their adaptive value.

Describe the nervous system and its subdivisions and functions in the brain.

Identify basic processes and systems in the biological bases of behavior, including parts of the neuron.

Identify basic process of transmission of a signal between neurons.

Discuss the effect of the endocrine system on behavior.

Discuss the influence of drugs on neurotransmitters.

Identify the major psychoactive drug categories and classify specific drugs, including their psychological and physiological effects.

Discuss drug dependence, addiction, tolerance, and withdrawal.

Identify the three major sections of the brain.

Understand the functions of each of the three major sections.

Identify and understand the different lobes of the brain.

Understand the location and function of the limbic system.

Identify the contributions of key researchers to the study of the brain.

Discuss the role of neuroplasticity in traumatic brain injury.

Discuss the contributions of key researchers to the study of neuroplasticity.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe various states of consciousness and their impact on behavior.

Identify the contributions of major figures in consciousness research.

Discuss aspects of sleep and dreaming.

Describe general principles of organizing and integrating sensation to promote stable awareness of the external world.

Discuss basic principles of sensory transduction, including absolute threshold, difference threshold, signal detection, and sensory adaptation.

Identify the research contributions of major historical figures in sensation and perception.

Discuss how experience and culture can influence perceptual processes.

Discuss the role of attention in behavior.

Describe the vision process, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.

Explain the role of top-down processing in producing vulnerability to illusion.

Describe the hearing process, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.

Describe taste and smell processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the senses.

Describe sensory processes, including the specific nature of energy transduction, relevant anatomical structures, and specialized pathways in the brain for each of the body senses.

Explain common sensory conditions.

Identify the contributions of key researchers in the psychology of learning.

Distinguish general differences between principles of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning.

Describe basic classical conditioning phenomena.

Apply learning principles to explain emotional learning, taste aversion, superstitious behavior, and learned helplessness.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Predict the effects of operant conditioning.

Predict how practice, schedules of reinforcement, and motivation will influence quality of learning.

Interpret graphs that exhibit the results of learning experiments.

Suggest how behavior modification, biofeedback, coping strategies and self-control can be used to address behavioral problems.

Describe the essential characteristics of insight learning, latent learning, and social learning.

Provide examples of how biological constraints create learning predispositions.

Compare and contrast various cognitive processes.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of memory.

Outline the principles that underlie the construction and encoding of memories.

Identify the contributions of key researchers in cognitive psychology.

Outline the principles that underlie effective storage of memories.

Describe and differentiate psychological and physiological systems of short- and long-term memory.

Describe strategies for retrieving memories.

Describe strategies for memory improvement and typical memory errors.

Identify problem-solving strategies, as well as factors that influence their effectiveness.

List the characteristics of creative thought and creative thinkers.

Identify problem-solving strategies as well as factors that create bias and errors in thinking.

Define intelligence and list characteristics of how psychologists measure intelligence.

Discuss how culture influences the definition of intelligence.

Compare and contrast historic and contemporary theories of intelligence.

Identify the contributions of key researchers in intelligence research and testing.

Debate the appropriate testing practices, particularly in relation to culture-fair test uses.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Explain how psychologists design tests, including standardization, strategies, and other techniques to establish reliability and validity.

Interpret the meaning of scores in terms of the normal curve.

Describe relevant labels related to intelligence testing.

Synthesize how biological, cognitive, and cultural factors converge to facilitate acquisition, development, and use of language.

Semester Exam