

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: January 4, 2010

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number: PSY235**
Course Title: Cognitive Psychology
2. **Course Description:** This course defines and explains the major concepts and principles underlying Cognitive Psychology. Topics include the human information processing system, perception and attention, short-term memory, different aspects of long-term memory, judgments, reasoning and problem solving.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
 - A. Knowledge Base of Psychology**
Students who successfully complete the course will identify, explain and apply the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in cognitive psychology. The students will be able to compare and contrast different approaches to the understanding of cognitive psychology. The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests and class discussion.
 - B. Research Methods in Psychology**
Students who successfully complete the course will be able to evaluate research methods used in cognitive psychology by articulating strengths and limitations of various research designs. Students will be able to dissect important topics in cognitive psychology and understand that each topic can be analyzed using a variety of approaches.
 - C. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology**
Students who successfully complete the course will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to cognitive psychology. The student will show the ability to use critical thinking effectively by making linkages and connections between diverse facts, theories, and observations.
 - D. Application of Psychology**
Students who successfully complete the course will understand and apply concepts, theories, and research findings in cognitive psychology as they apply to everyday life. Students will comprehend, apply and relate different known aspects of cognitive psychology, by being able to identify ways in which the human cognitive abilities may be ameliorated.
 - E. Values in Psychology**
Students who successfully complete the course will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of cognitive psychology as a discipline. The student will recognize and respect human diversity and understand that principles of Psychology may vary across populations and contexts. The student will recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of cognitive psychology. In particular, students will understand how some theories in cognitive psychology may help in the understanding and prevention of unwanted behaviors, such as generalizations and stereotyping.
4. **Credits:** Three credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** PSY101
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall, Spring

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: The methods of assessment used to gauge these outcomes are written assignments, tests and class discussion.

9. General Topical Outline (Optional):

- An Introduction to Cognitive Psychology
- The Human Information Processing System
- Perception and Attention
- Short-Term, Working Memory
- Episodic Long-Term Memory
- Semantic Long-Term Memory
- Interactions in Long-Term Memory
- Decision, Judgments and Reasoning
- Problem Solving.