OVERALL LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Psychology 1001 & 1002 are intended to be a general introduction to the main topics and methods of psychology and to serve both as a basis for advanced work and as a general overview of the subject for those not proceeding further with it.

PSYCHOLOGY 1001

(SEMESTER 1)

UNIT 1

The Subject Matter and Method of Psychology

1. The emphases and scope of twentieth century psychology: Themes, phenomena and organisms studied; organisation of the discipline into fields; the status of psychology amongst the sciences; cognate disciplines.

2. The development of modern psychology: Origins in British empiricism, European rationalism, phenomenology, evolutionary biology, physiology and psychiatry; the scientific context of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the growth of positivism; the introduction of experimentation and measurement; expansion of the subject matter of psychology; organisation of early psychology into schools (structuralism, functionalism, behaviourism, gestalt psychology, psychoanalysis).

3. Some enduring philosophical issues: Realism/idealism; free-will/determinism; heredity/environment; holism/elementarism; the mind/body relationship; explanation/description.

4. Methods of enquiry: (a) The nature of scientific method; (b) Particular psychological methods (experimental, psychometric, survey, field, case study, clinical, computer simulation).

References:


Basic Statistics and Measurement
1. Psychological measurement and scale types: The distinction between an underlying "construct" of psychological interest and the scale(s) chosen to measure it; construct definition via operationalized measurement. Scale types: Nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio scales; the dangers of overinterpreting scales.

2. Descriptive statistics: The importance of data reduction in perceiving the "information" contained in a group of scores. Graphical summaries of a group of scores; frequency histograms, relative frequency histograms, cumulative histograms. The visual correlates of "location" and "spread". The scientific importance of location and spread.

3. Numerical indices summarizing a group of scores. Indices of location: Mode, median and mean; examples of their limitations. Indices of spread or dispersion: Range, average absolute deviation, variance and standard deviation; examples of their limitations.


References:
To be announced in lectures.

UNIT 2

Psychobiology
1. Introduction and basic concepts of the reception and transmission of information by cells of the nervous system. Synaptic transmission and the effects of drugs of abuse. The Psychobiology of schizophrenia and depression.

2. Functional anatomy of the nervous system. The involvement of various brain areas in sleep and wakefulness, emotionality, sensory and motor function, and language.

4. Biological basis of learning and memory. The effects of experience on the brain, the transfer, facilitation and disruption of memory.

References:


Sensory Processes


3. The vestibular system. Structure and operation of the semicircular canals, the utricle and saccule. The role of vestibular information in stabilizing the eye.

4. Other sensory systems. Pain. The gate-control theory of pain. Taste. Smell. Theoretical approaches to the operation of these systems.


References:


UNIT 3
Social Psychology
1. The nature and scope of social psychology: different perspectives on social behaviour and its analysis;

2. Methods of investigation: Common methods of social research; problems associated with the collection of social data.
3. Social cognition: Impression formation; social inference; schemas; attitudes; stereotypes.

4. Communication: Verbal and non-verbal communication; self-presentation; self-disclosure; persuasion and attitude change.

5. Social Development: Socialisation processes across the life-cycle; acquisition of social skills; social competence; moral development; conformity and obedience.

6. Group Behaviour: Group structure and norms; leadership and hierarchy; decision making in groups; intergroup conflict and prejudice.

7. Relationships: Intimate relationships; families; kin; friendship; work and leisure; pro-social and competitive relationships.

References:


Personality Theory and Systems
1. The concept of personality. The psychoanalytic approach: The development of Freud’s thought; the concept of repression and the unconscious.

2. The tripartite model; introduction to the theory of psychosexual development and defence mechanisms.

3. The behavioural approach: (i) Dollard & Miller; (ii) Bandura’s social learning theory.


5. Personality assessment: typologies and trait perspectives.

6. Phenomenological and cognitive theories of personality: Lewin’s field theory; Kelly’s personal construct theory.

References:


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**PSYCHOLOGY 1002**

**SEMESTER 2**

**UNIT 1**

**Human Development**

1. Research methods in developmental study: Cross-sectional/longitudinal; Experimental/ correlational.

2. Behaviour genetics: Introduction to Mendelian genetics; meiosis and mitosis; dominant and recessive traits; chromosomal effects; twin studies.

3. Pre natal development: Normal development; factors causing abnormality (teratogenic agents etc).


**References:**

