OVERALL LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Psychology 1001 & 1002 are intended to be a general introduction to the main topics and
texts 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 emphasis 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:
& writing in psychology. Sydney: UNSW Press.
University of Queensland Press.
Press.
599-604.
Dorsey Press.
377-378.
Press.
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. Z scores and areas under the normal curve.


References:


and other references to be presented 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
1. Introduction to sensation and sensory processing. History and development of sensory processing in psychology, and Muller's Doctrine.


3. Audition and the auditory system. Structure and operation of the ear. Encoding pitch, loudness, and location.


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:


PSYCHOLOGY 1002

(SEMESTER 2)

UNIT 1

Human Development

1. Introduction to Human Development and its research methods: Naturalistic Methods; Cross-sectional/longitudinal; Experimental/ correlational.

2. Genetic contributions to development: Introduction to Mendelian genetics; meiosis and mitosis; dominant and recessive traits and disorders; chromosomal effects; twin studies.

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

(5) Postnatal development (i): Language development; stages of phonetic, syntactic and semantic development; Theories of language development.


References:

Note: Earlier editions would also be appropriate