OVERALL LEARNING OBJECTIVE OF PSYCHOLOGY 1

Psychology 1001 & 1002 together 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 SYLLABUS

NEUROSCIENCE

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 neuroscience 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:
3) http://www.yh.org/Providers/Textbooks/BrainAnatomy/TOC.html
4) http://www.sfn.org/content/Publications/BrainBriefings/index.html

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY: ABNORMAL & HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

1. Introduction to Abnormal Psychology: Defining abnormal behaviour; the classification of psychological disorders; DSM multiaxial classification system; criticisms of classification; models of psychopathology.
2. Focus on the Anxiety Disorders: Components of the anxiety response and desynchrony; basic distinctions among anxiety disorders; the relation of two-factor theory to the behavioural treatment of anxiety disorders.
3. Focus on Addiction: The definition of addiction; the disease model of addiction; sociocultural, psychological and biological variables related to substance abuse and dependence.
4. Introduction to Health Psychology: What is health psychology; models in health psychology (health belief models; biopsychosocial model in health).
5. Psychology and Health: direct influences on illness (stress, depression); prevention of illness (health behaviours).
6. Psychology and Illness: coping with illness; psychological comorbidity; a role for psychological treatments and interventions in managing illness.

References:
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. Nature and scope of psychology: definition of social psychology; the main causes of human social thought and behaviour
2. Social cognition I: definition of attribution theory; Kelley's (1972) theory of causal attribution; cognitive errors in attribution theory; impression formation; impression management
3. Social cognition II: schemas, heuristics
4. Attitudes and persuasion: the structure and function of attitudes; the relationship between attitudes and behaviour; the formation of attitudes; changing attitudes (persuasion)
5. Group behaviour: intragroup processes (obedience, bystander effect); intergroup processes (prejudice and discrimination)
6. Affiliation & Attraction: definition of affiliation; factors that influence need to affiliate (Bowlby's attachment theory; Harlow's research on early deprivation); definition of attraction; factors that influence attraction
7. Aggression: definition of aggression; theories regarding the origin of aggression; causes of aggression; prevention and control of aggression

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:
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. Z scores and areas under the normal curve.


References: