COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC 340S Psychology Field Experience 1 to 8 CREDITS

PSYC 105 Bust That Psych Myth 4 CREDITS
This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of human cognition, emotion and behavior with an emphasis on debunking popular myths and misconceptions about human behavior. Students will gain a broad understanding of the diverse research areas and specializations in the field of psychological science, the context of the field among other sciences, applications of research to address societal issues and the opportunity to gain hands-on experience conducting research to develop scientific literacy skills for understanding psychological phenomena and behavior. Topics include psychological and behavioral research methods, biological and socio-cultural foundations of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, memory, development, emotion, stress and health, social interactions and behavior, personality and psychological disorders. This course is not intended for students who have already completed an introductory psychology course. (WCore: WCSAM, RE, WCPNW)

PSYC 203 Lifespan Developmental Psychology 4 CREDITS
The psychological study of human development from conception to death. Current theories, research, and social issues relevant to development are addressed.

PSYC 209 Cognitive Psychology and Lab 4 CREDITS
Examines the branch of psychology that studies how people perceive, remember, think, speak, and solve problems. Cognitive psychology utilizes experimental methodology to better understand the components of complex cognitive behaviors. The lab portion of the class will utilize computerized simulations and experiments to recreate classic experiments in cognitive psychology and to illustrate key concepts.

PSYC 216 Social Psychology 4 CREDITS
An investigation of how people interact with and think about others. Areas of focus include research methodology, person perception, attitudes, prejudice, interpersonal attraction, aggression, and group behavior.

PSYC 252 Personality Science 4 CREDITS
Exploration of the biological, psychological, cultural, and social factors affecting personality and individual differences, including scientific methods for assessing personality development, stability and change across diverse life circumstances.

PSYC 255 Career Exploration 2 CREDITS
Students will engage in a process of self-assessment followed by informed exploration of multiple career options for which a psychology major forms a good foundation. Coursework includes skills and practice in writing cover letters and resumes for career-oriented jobs and statements of purpose for graduate programs.

PSYC 270 Scientific Reasoning & Writing 4 CREDITS
This course is designed to develop essential skills in scientific reasoning and writing for psychology. Through interactive lab activities, students will learn principles and concepts of the scientific method for understanding human behavior and develop scientific writing skills to communicate research and ideas effectively. Assignments include using databases such as PsycINFO to locate, read, understand, evaluate, and synthesize psychological/behavioral science experiments and studies; developing data-driven arguments to support/refute claims about behavior; writing a literature review to support a proposed research question and hypothesis; and citing and referencing scientific and scholarly sources according to APA Style. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in scientific reasoning and writing for more advanced, upper-division coursework in the psychology major/minor.

PSYC 301 Child Development 4 CREDITS
Physical, psychosocial, and cognitive development of the individual from birth through 12 years of age. Course includes discussion of current research in child development and an integration of course content with field experience at schools and/or community agencies that serve children.

PSYC 305 Adolescent Development 4 CREDITS
Physical, psychosocial, and cognitive development of the individual from puberty to adulthood. Common adolescent problems are considered from research and clinical perspectives. Course includes discussion of current research in adolescent development and an integration of course content with field experience at community agencies that serve adolescents. Required for secondary education majors.

PSYC 315 Human Services Practicum 4 CREDITS
Students will engage in a structured practicum experience at a local human services agency (any structured organization with a staff that provides direct service delivery to community members) in order to apply psychological principles, experience working with help-seekers and providers, understand the functioning of human service agencies in a sociocultural context, and explore cultural identities. (WCore: EWRLD)

PSYC 318 Health Psychology 4 CREDITS
This course will serve as a general introduction to health psychology. The main goals of the course are (a) to provide an overview of substantive areas of basic research in health psychology, (b) to examine specific contributions of health psychology to understanding acute and chronic diseases, and (c) to illustrate how principles of health psychology may be applied to everyday life. We will become familiar with the biopsychosocial model of health, and begin thinking about health and illness from multiple perspectives, including that of the patient, the caregiver, the health professional, and of course, the scientist/researcher. We will learn not only the psychological approaches to studying health, but also the psychological aspects of being ill, caring for the ill, and the psychological dimensions of health promotion and self-care.

PSYC 323 Service Learning in Psychology 4 CREDITS
In this course, students will gain internship-like hands-on experience in the field: from initial ideas and preferences, to volunteering, to connecting experience with psychology concepts. Course topics will include how to use interests in psychology to find a place to volunteer, how to make contact with organizations of interest, how to connect volunteer experiences to past and/or present coursework for deeper understanding, how to be a successful volunteer, and how to understand and apply ideas from service learning as a discipline, including the ways service learning differs from volunteering by itself.

PSYC 325 Multicultural Psychology 4 CREDITS
A general introduction to multicultural psychology. The main goals of the course are to help students (a) gain a greater self-awareness of their own cultural heritage, (b) identify personal cultural attitudes, values, and beliefs about diverse populations, (c) become knowledgeable about people who make up U.S. society and the global society, and (d) be aware of hidden biases and discriminations prevalent in the current society. We will become familiar with dimensions of culture, dimensions of worldview, cultural identity development models, and sociopolitical issues of psychology. We will learn not only the issues of individual psychology among diverse populations, but also the social psychological aspects related to the cross-cultural encounter in the society.

PSYC 334 Psychology of Masculinities 4 CREDITS
This course examines males' diverse experiences as boys/men and public discourses about men and masculinities. The major goal of this course is to examine how the gendered social order influences men's actions and the way men perceive themselves, other men, women, and social situations. We will also consider how masculinities are produced in various physical/social sites and will evaluate the prospects for social change in how men think, feel, and act. The course addresses issues such as: male socialization and boyhood/guyland culture, media representations of boys and men, male body image, male sexuality, male aggression and violence, men of color and their experiences, and the social construction of masculinities in different historical and cultural contexts.

PSYC 335 Psychology of Women 4 CREDITS
An overview of major theories of women's development, applications of feminist theory, gender-related research and women's health issues across the life span. Psychological issues important to women during childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age are discussed, such as gender role acquisition, pay inequities in the work force, adjustment to menopause and violence against women. Focus is given to research on women in relation to diverse socioeconomic classes, ethnic backgrounds and cultures.

PSYC 340 Psychology Field Experience/Internship 1 to 8 CREDITS
This course offers students the opportunity to integrate academic learning in psychological and behavioral science with practical, hands-on experience working in a voluntary or paid capacity with an organization, institute, company, research laboratory, school, university, or other professional association or entity. This applied field or internship experience is recommended for students that have demonstrated academic achievement in the major, effective interpersonal and time management skills, and is encouraged for students seeking professional experience outside the classroom to further educational and career goals. An average of 3 hours of paid or unpaid volunteer time per week or 42 total hours per credit hour enrolled is required. A maximum of 5-credit hours can be earned to fulfill Electives requirement in the psychology major. Grading criteria: Students will be graded by a combination of site supervisor and faculty advisor performance evaluations, demonstration of progress toward learning goals/outcomes and completing required hours. Requirements: Sophomore standing (transfer students, at least 15 credit hours completed at Westminster or be granted faculty advisor approval); a minimum 2.5 GPA; faculty advisor approval; and approval of a field placement application from the Westminster Career Center. This course is repeatable for credit.

PSYC 345 Learning, Memory, and Motivation 4 CREDITS
The class will emphasize applications of key concepts, models, and strategies related to different theories of learning. These will include behaviorist, cognitive, and socio-cultural perspectives. Students will examine frameworks, issues of transfer, social and cultural influences, as well as motivation and engagement. By looking at a variety of theories, we can identify a range of tools that may be useful in understanding learning and teaching in a variety of settings. My goal is that you are able to design and implement powerful learning experiences by the end of the course. Another facet of the course will focus on learning and memory. Therefore, we will examine the findings from laboratory research to gain a better understanding of the structure and organization of memory. Topics will include working memory, encoding and retrieval processes, implicit memory and multiple memory systems, reconstructive processes in memory, and developmental changes in memory.

PSYC 351 Animal Minds & Human Evolution 4 CREDITS
This course explores how evolution has shaped the way humans and other animals think, feel and behave. Students will explore the amazing diversity of minds and bodies found in nature. The class will cover both familiar (e.g. dogs and cats) and unfamiliar (e.g. mind-controlling parasites and sex-changing fish) species. Highlighting research from feminist and queer evolutionary scientists, we will re-examine our assumptions about what is "natural" and challenge our human-centric biases. Students will also learn how to conduct research involving evolutionary psychological science and have opportunities to contribute to wildlife conservation efforts with local organizations.

PSYC 356 Sources of Social Influence 4 CREDITS
This course will examine the many sources of social influence. These include, but are not limited to the media, politics, persuasion, compliance, obedience, conformity, and culture. We will also take an in-depth look into some of the early social psychological studies that examined social influence. These include the Milgram obedience studies, the Stanford Prison study, and the Robber's Cave study. Students will participate in field experiences that will explore sources of social influence in our own society.

PSYC 358 Methods of Counseling 4 CREDITS
Counseling is one of the most visible forms of applied psychology and the purpose of this course is to unveil the mystery behind the curtain of therapy. Students will learn and practice introductory counseling methods that are informed by psychological science and multicultural inclusion. This course is ideal for students who want to attend graduate school in a helping profession.

PSYC 362 Psychological Disorders 4 CREDITS
This course will provide an overview of psychological disorders, including diagnosis, etiology, typical treatment approaches. Drawing from clinical research in mental health, students will discuss the relative treatment efficacy of various intervention strategies. Students will explore the cultural and societal contexts of psychopathology.

PSYC 363 Exploring Addictions 4 CREDITS
This course provides students with the opportunity to explore the many issues related to the process of addiction. The course will focus on etiological, assessment, treatment, and legal issues with regard to drug use. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about community resources and fellowship meetings.

PSYC 380 Directed Studies 1 to 4 CREDITS
This course is intended for students that wish to pursue one or a combination of learning activities in order to further their studies and goals in the major. Three options are available: (1) Students can gain in-depth study of a particular research topic or area of the field by developing an intensive plan of study, through readings and a literature review, of a particular research topic that is of interest, and, that isn't offered as part of the undergraduate curriculum; (2) Serve as an undergraduate Research Assistant (RA) on a faculty supervised project; and/or (3) Serve as a Course Assistant, aiding a faculty member with the teaching or other instructional aspects of a course. Each option requires faculty advisor, department, and dean approval, and the student must outline a list of learning outcomes, responsibilities, and a timeline for completing all required work for the experience. Depending on which option is pursued, students are required to write a substantial research paper or present other evidence of what was accomplished and learned from the experience (e.g., participating in a poster session or presentation as part of the annual Westminster Undergraduate Research Fair, presenting at a regional or national conference or other professional event). A maximum of 5 credit hours can be earned to fulfill elective requirements of the major. This course is repeatable for credit.

PSYC 388 Environmental Psychology 4 CREDITS
In this course, students will explore theory and research on select topics pertaining to human-environment interactions from a psychological perspective. Through assigned readings, discussions, experiential activities, group projects, occasional lectures, and multi-media presentations students will learn about how people are influenced by and shape their physical surroundings, both in natural and built environments. Students will gain a broad exposure to classic and contemporary topics environmental psychologists study, including: how individuals think about and navigate physical spaces, how urban design and architecture influences behavior, why some individuals are more environmentally proactive than others, whether time spent in natural settings has restorative benefits for health and well-being, and how personal space, territoriality, crowding, and privacy concerns affect how we interact with other people in everyday situations.

PSYC 390 Quantitative Research Methods 4 CREDITS
A survey of scientific research methods used to investigate diverse aspects of human cognition, emotion, and behavior in psychological science. Topics include experimental (causal) and non-experimental research designs (correlational, survey-based, and observational methods), basic descriptive and inferential statistics, data collection and analysis, and ethical issues surrounding research on human populations in laboratory and field settings. Assignments include developing and conducting experiments and studies to demonstrate understanding and applications of behavioral science research, gaining familiarity with data analysis approaches using statistical programs, and interpreting and communicating research findings. Development of an independent research proposal to broaden scientific reasoning and writing skills is also a required component of the course.

PSYC 425 Psychology of Good and Evil 4 CREDITS
Are humans fundamentally good or evil? This class will tackle the best and the worst of human nature. We will explore evidence from social and evolutionary psychology, neuroscience, anthropology and comparative biology in our search to uncover the dark side and the light. We will cover topics such as murder, prejudice, altruism and love. Through in-depth discussions based on the most current evidence, we will come to our own understanding of the psychology of good and evil. Students will also gain valuable experience conducting an independent research project on a topic within moral psychology.

PSYC 428 Psych of Sex & Gender Diversit 4 CREDITS
Psychological scientists are well equipped to answer questions related to the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. Within a psychological framework, students will develop deeper understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity from a variety of perspectives such as development, identity, health disparities, systematic marginalization and within-group differences. Clinical considerations will also be addressed. Prerequisites: PSYC 390 and junior or senior status.

PSYC 429 Psychology of Objectification 4 CREDITS
Western society is rife with messages linking self-worth with physical appearance; this is a phenomenon encapsulated by Objectification Theory. Within a multicultural context, this course explores the process whereby sexual objectification occurs, as well as the resulting psychological consequences. By taking this course, students will increase understanding of all aspects of Objectification Theory, including original theory, primary research, and clinical practice.

PSYC 430 Independent Research Thesis 1 to 4 CREDITS
Students undertake a portion of a research project and learn aspects of scientific inquiry appropriate to the field of psychology. Students write sections of an APA-style research paper appropriate to the scope of the project conducted. Prior planning with and permission of a faculty mentor is required. Requires senior standing, a declared major in psychology, and consent of instructor.

PSYC 431 Community Placement Thesis 2 to 4 CREDITS
Students develop a thesis topic through experience volunteering in the field. The placement experience culminates in an APA-style theoretical paper that includes an extensive literature review and analysis of thesis statement based on literature and field experience. Requires prior planning with and permission of a faculty mentor. Requires senior standing, a declared major in psychology, and consent of instructor.

PSYC 434 Social Neuroscience 4 CREDITS
How is the brain involved in social processes and behavior, and how do our interactions with other people modify and shape the brain? In this course students will learn about the interdisciplinary field of social neuroscience and the study of neural systems underlying social behavior. This course will emphasize basic brain structures, functions, and the neural mechanisms and processes influencing social interactions, and how social behaviors are shaped by biology and experience. Topics include neuroimaging methods and technologies (EEG/ERP, TMS, MRI, fMRI), psychological and behavioral research methods, self/other representations in the brain, intergroup perceptions, stereotypes, prejudice, emotion, motivation, attachment, romantic relationships, social rejection, loneliness, aggression, and prosocial behavior.