

**Core Curriculum
Course Proposal Cover Sheet**

Department: ***Psychology and Counseling***

College: ***COE***

Department Head: Dr. Robert Newby

Course Prefix & Number: ***PSY 101***

Course Title: ***General Psychology***

Course Description: *An overview of psychology, the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes and the variables that influence these processes. Topics covered in the course include motivation, emotions, intelligence, sensory processes, perception, learning, thinking, mental health, and psychotherapy.*

Please select the THECB Foundational Component Area for which this course is submitted.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

SOCIAL and BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENT AREA JUSTIFICATION FORM

Rationale: Please provide a rationale for the course which explains how the course being proposed fits into this component based on the component's description. For your convenience, the overall description and rationale for this component are included below.

Social and Behavioral Science (from THECB Chapter 4: 4.28)

- Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively
- Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills and Social Responsibility.

- Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Rationale for Inclusion in this Category:

Students enrolled in Psychology 101 are required as part of their final grade to select a scientific research article from a refereed psychology journal, read the selected article and write a 5 – 7 page summary of the selected article. These summaries must be written in the style outlined in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. These summaries are then graded by a faculty committee using a rubric developed by our department. We feel that this project addresses the objectives of critical thinking skills will need to analysis, evaluate and synthesize to adequately complete the summary and communication skills in that they will interpret and express ideas through written communication.

The required writing assignment also addressed the objective of Empirical and Quantitative Skills in that students must be able to summarize the methodology and results sections of scientific journal articles. The students must be able to read, understand, and evaluate the results of statistical analyses. Additionally, the course contains lessons covering the scientific method and different types of scientific methodologies.

Finally Psychology 101 covers material related to Social Psychology that covers social responsibility. Topics covered in this part of the course relate to intercultural competence and knowledge of civic responsibility. We feel that the course itself, provides the students with tools to use to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME ALIGNMENT FORM
Social and Behavioral Science

Course Prefix/Number:

Course Title:

Core Objective: Critical Thinking CT1: Students will evaluate evidence in analysis, interpretation or arguments

Course SLO(s): Students will demonstrate an understanding of experimental findings in psychological literature.

Learning Activities: Students are required to select, read, and summarize and research article published in a refereed psychological journal. The summary paper must be from 5 – 7 pages in length and follow the writing style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

Means of Assessment: A random sample of these summary papers will be selected from students enrolled in PSY 101. This sample will be graded with the use of the attached rubric by a departmental faculty committee. Seventy percent of the selected written assignments should be assigned a grade of 14 or better on the attached rubric.

Core Objective: Critical Thinking CT2: Students will synthesize varied components of information to form a rational conclusion.

Course SLO(s): Students will demonstrate an understanding of experimental findings in psychological literature by deriving conclusions and implications of the experimental research.

Learning Activities: Students are required to select, read, and summarize and research article published in a refereed psychological journal. The summary paper must be from 5 – 7 pages in length and follow the writing style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. The paper will also include a section for them to summarize conclusions and implications derived from their understanding of the article.

Means of Assessment: A random sample of these summary papers will be selected from students enrolled in PSY 101. This sample will be graded with the use of the attached rubric by a departmental faculty committee. Seventy percent of the selected written assignments should be assigned a grade of 14 or better on the attached rubric.

Core Objective: Communication C1: Students will express ideas in written, visual or oral forms to a range of diverse audiences in multiple settings.

Course SLO(s): Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret and synthesize information gathered from a scientific research article.

Learning Activities: Students are required to select, read, and summarize and research article published in a refereed psychological journal. The summary paper must be from 5 – 7 pages in length and follow the writing style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

Means of Assessment: A random sample of these summary papers will be selected from students enrolled in PSY 101. This sample will be graded with the use of the attached rubric by a departmental faculty committee. Seventy percent of the selected written assignments should be assigned a grade of 14 or better on the attached rubric.

Core Objective: Empirical and Quantitative Skills EQS1: Students will gather, interpret or use numerical data/observable facts to arrive at an informed conclusion.

Course SLO(s): Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology including data analysis.

Learning Activities: PSY 101 will contain lessons giving an overview of the scientific method and common research paradigm used in the discipline of psychology. An overview of statistical analysis and the interpretation of these analyses will also be covered.

Means of Assessment: A set of common multiple-choice questions will be used in all sections of PSY 101 to assess the students understanding of the concepts covered. Eighty-five percent of the students will score 90% or higher on these common, embedded questions.

Core Objective: Social Responsibility SR1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of different cultural perspectives.

Course SLO(s): Students will critique concepts of human behavior and how these are affected by cultural and social situations.

Learning Activities: PSY 101 will contain lessons giving an overview of how human behavior is influenced by cultural and social situations. Examples of content include but are not limited to conformity, interpersonal attraction, love, aggression, and altruism.

Means of Assessment: A set of common multiple-choice questions will be used in all sections of PSY 101 to assess the students understanding of the concepts covered. Eighty-five percent of the students will score 90% or higher on these common, embedded questions.

As department head, I will ensure that all faculty that teach this course are aware of the requirements that these core objectives and learning strategies be incorporated into the above referenced course. This action is taken so that Tarleton State University will be in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board foundational component area and core objective requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.

Signature_____

We, the undersigned faculty, support the proposed changes to this course and agree to incorporate them into our section of the above referenced course. This action is taken so that Tarleton State University will be in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board foundational component area and core objective requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.

(Signed document should be kept in department office, listing names below on the electronic document implies acceptance)