

Indian Institute of Technology Mandi

Proposal for a New Course

Course Number	:	HS 252
Course Name	:	Introduction to Psychology
Credit	:	3-0-0-3
Prerequisites	:	Instructor's consent
Intended for	:	B.Tech
Semester	:	Even/Odd
Distribution	:	HSS Elective-Social Competence

Preamble

Psychology is formally defined as the study of mental processes, experiences and behaviour. The range of phenomena it studies is spread over several levels, viz. individual, dyadic, group, and organisation. This course is an introduction to some of the important areas of psychology. The emphasis here is to expose the students to a broader area of psychology.

Course Content

- 1. Nature of Psychology** (2 Hours)
Adding to what we know: The process of psychological research.
- 2. A brief history of psychology** (2 Hours)
Psychology's family album
- 3. Biopsychology** (2 Hours)
Concepts of biopsychology, reductionism,
Neuron, synapses, neurotransmitters, nervous system,
Hemisphere function
- 4. Learning** (4 Hours)
Classical Conditioning: Learning Predictable Signals
Operant Conditioning: Learning what does what.
Observational Learning: Learning from the behaviour and outcomes of others.
- 5. Cognitive Processes** (4 Hours)
Nature, emergence and stages, methods of study
- 6. Attention and Consciousness** (6 Hours)
Types: Selective, Divided and sustained

Theories: Early and late selection, Capacity and Mental efforts model
Consciousness

7. Memory (5 Hours)

What is memory?

Sensory Memory, Short term memory, and working Memory

Long Term Memory: Where past lives live!

8. Perception (6 Hours)

Attention- What is attention? Methods of studying attention.

Perceptual Constancies and Perceptual Organization.

Psychophysics, Theory of Signal Detection, Pattern/Object Perception and recognition)

9. Individual Differences (7 Hours)

Theories of Intelligence; The most (?!) controversial concept in Psychology.

The measurement of Intelligence.

Nature vs. Nurture Debate.

The Psychodynamic Perspective: Excavating the iceberg, the Trait perspective,

Learning Theory Perspective; Social-Cognitive Theory, the Humanistic Existential Perspective; the Socio-Cultural Personality

Assessing Personality.

Genetic and Environmental Component in Various Psychological Processes.

10. Affective Processes: Emotions (4 Hours)

Emotions: Adding Colour to life.

Theories of Emotions.

Text Book:

Baron, Robert A (2002). *Psychology* (5th Edition). Allyn and Bacon

Recommended Reading:

Zimbardo and Gerrig. *Psychology and Life*. Prentice Hall

Coon, D., & Mitterer, J.O. *Introduction to psychology: Gateways to mind and behaviour*. Wadsworth (Cengage Learning).

Atkinson and Hilgard's *Introduction to Psychology*. Cengage Learning.

Similarity Content Declaration with existing courses



None. This course was passed by convocation Senate, i.e. one time approval. This is a revised version of the old course for perpetual acceptance.

Other Faculty Members interested in teaching this course:

Proposed by: Shail Shankar

School: Humanities and Social Sciences

Signature _____ Date _____

The course proposal has been duly circulated and comments are attached/ no comments were received.

_____ (Dean (Academics)) Date: _____

Approved / Not Approved

Chairman, Senate

Date: _____

