



Introductory Psychology: University of Southern Maine

(For a list of materials used in the course, please see http://www.theNCAT.org/R2R/AcadPrac/CM/USM_IntroPsy_Mat.pdf.)

Introductory Psychology is a one-semester, three-credit course that covers the following topics:

Introduction

- History of psychology
- Theoretical perspectives
- Sub-disciplines

Research Methods

- Experimental design
- Correlational research
- Naturalistic observation
- Case studies
- Surveys

Psychobiology

- Neurons
- Neural transmission
- Peripheral nervous system
- Central nervous system
- Brain
- Cerebral cortex structure and function
- Sub-cortical structure and function
- Endocrine system
- Behavioral genetics

Sensory Processes

- Sensitivity and transduction
- Psychophysics
- Vision
- Hearing
- Gustation and olfaction
- Somesthetic senses

Perception

- Selective perception and attention
- Theoretical approaches
- Form and pattern recognition
- Depth and space
- Motion
- Time

States of Consciousness

- Nature of consciousness
- Biological rhythms
- Sleep and dreams
- Hypnosis

Learning

- Classical conditioning
- Operant conditioning
- Cognitive learning
- Social learning

Memory

- Models of memory
- Encoding and retrieval
- Forgetting
- Improving memory
- Biological factors

Thought and Language

- Reasoning
- Problem solving
- Decision-making
- Language structure
- Language and thought
- Language development

Statistics

- Measures of Central Tendency
- Measures of Variability
- Correlation