Course Descriptions
MASTERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

PSY604 - DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)
3 credits
This course covers life span psychology. Theories of development, as well as issues in studying development, are addressed. Topics include cognition, language, physical, and social development.

PSY608 - COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY (MA)
3 credits
Community Psychology is an action-oriented movement. It is characterized by innovative approaches to problems based upon an ecological and interactionist view of behavioral dynamics in the community. This course covers the development of community psychology as a specialty area in both theory and application, including the central assumptions in methodology of the field. Contributions of an ecological model, and emphasis on prevention, competence building, population focus, and related research and interventions will be discussed. It emphasizes community interventions and the theories and principle needed to help people in various settings achieve maximum mental health.

PSY612 – NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (MA)
3 credits
This course will be a basic introduction into the field of Neuropsychology, which focuses on how behavior is related to brain structures and systems. Emphasis will be placed on brain anatomy and various elements of cognition such as attention, memory, and language. The functions of specific parts of the brain, as well as disabilities that may arise will also be explored. The roles that Clinical Neuropsychologists play in today’s health system will also be discussed. This is a course geared to teach the foundations and applications of Neuropsychology, and is not intended for training in neuropsychological assessments.

PSY615 - RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS 1 (MA)
3 credits
The primary goal of this course is to develop critical thinking skills necessary for students to (1) evaluate primary, empirical research in psychology, (2) translate theoretical ideas into testable research hypotheses, and (3) test these hypotheses by means of a logically developed statistical plan. Material to be covered include scientific methodology and major statistical techniques used in analyzing behavioral data (i.e., correlation/regression analyses, contrast models, analysis of variance, non-parametric procedures). Statistical analyses and graphical representations of data via the computer are required of students.
Prerequisite: Undergraduate psychology statistics and/or experimental psychology

PSY616 - RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS 11 (MA)
3 credits
This course builds on the critical thinking skills developed in PSY 615. Materials to be presented include (1) complex experimental designs (including quasi-experimental design appropriate to field settings) (2) advanced statistical techniques (i.e., multiple regression analysis, mixed model analysis of variance, multivariate techniques). Students are required to carry out statistical analyses and graphical representations of data via the computer.
Prerequisite: PSY615 or consent of the Instructor

PSY617 - HUMAN LEARNING (MA)
3 credits
This course introduces both basic and advanced principles and theories of learning and motivation, including cognition. Conditioning, behavior systems, generalization and discrimination, information processing, and complex cognitive functioning are some of the topics discussed. Research on learning theory and their general application to a variety of contexts will also be covered.
Prerequisite: Undergraduate learning course
PSY618 - COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH: PHILOSOPHY AND CONCEPTS (MA/MSED/PSYD)
3 credits
This course covers the development of community mental health as a specialty area in both theory and application. It emphasizes the development and implementation of preventive interventions in the school and for the community.

PSY619 - COMMUNITY RESOURCES: INTERAGENCY COORDINATION IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES (MA/MSED/PSYD)
3 credits
This course is designed to acquaint the student with the range of community facilities that are available to draw upon in urban and rural areas. Specific federal, state, and municipal agencies will be explored. In addition, private foundations and religious service agencies will be examined with the aim of securing an awareness of appropriate assistance for clients.

PSY621 - PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT (MA)
3 credits
This course covers basic psychological measurement theory. An introduction to scaling, reliability, validity and other measurement topics is provided.

PSY623 - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)
3 credits
This course will cover social psychology including attitudes, behavior change, group processes, multicultural and gender issues, and social perceptions. Focus will be on methods of studying social behavior and theories of social behavior.

PSY624 – COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY 1 (MA)
3 credits
This graduate-level course examines cognitive processes, often called "higher mental processes" which includes topics such as perception, memory, language, and thinking. This course will give you an appreciation of research and theory in cognitive psychology, an understanding of the methods used to gather and evaluate evidence about cognitive processes, and an understanding of the ways in which knowledge of these processes has been applied to solve problems and improve the quality of life. Discussion of key research on cognition is covered.

PSY625 - PERSONALITY THEORIES (MA)
3 credits
This course covers personality theories. Personality factors throughout the lifespan are addressed.

PSY626 – FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (MA)
3 credits
This course is an introduction to the interaction between psychology and the legal system, which may include the roles and responsibilities of forensic psychologists, the selection/training/evaluation of police, criminal profiling, and hypnosis and lie detection in criminal investigation. Other related issues may include eyewitness identification procedures, police interrogations and confessions, alternative dispute, trial preparation, jury selection, and death penalty trials and appeals.

PSY646 - CRITICAL THINKING: FOUNDATION
3 credits
This course emphasizes the enhancement of skills of observation and evaluation in various personal and work-related situations. Through demonstrations, interactions and role-playing, participants will explore and study the following basic operations: intuiting, feeling, categorizing, analyzing, synthesizing, explaining and arguing, influencing, cooperating, competing, deciding, committing to values, participating-observing.
Prerequisite: Baccalaureate degree

PSY656 – DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (MA/MSED/PSYD)
3 credits
This course focuses on developmental disabilities in human development. Factors in vulnerability from infancy to later age levels will be covered, including genetic and environmental variables. Research and theory in
developmental disabilities are the main aspects of this course.

**PSY667 – MULTICULTURAL/GENDER ISSUES (MA/MSED/PSYD)**
3 credits
This course considers the range of multicultural and gender issues involved in human development and learning. The focus in this course is on development and related multicultural and gender issues.

**PSY680 - PROGRAM EVALUATION (MA/MSED/PSYD)**
3 credits
This is an advanced course in evaluation research emphasizing both traditional and non-traditional designs. The course examines how to evaluate social programs along with different orientations to program evaluation. Program evaluation within a variety of contexts will be reviewed.

**PSY681 - ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)**
3 credits
This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of topics, including theories, related research findings and their practical implications in the field of organizational psychology. Topics will include a history of organizational psychology, work attitudes, work motivation, group processes, and leadership.

**PSY682 - PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY (MA)**
3 credits
This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of topics, including theories, related research findings and their practical implications in the field of psychology. Topics will include job analysis, employee selection and classification, performance appraisal and feedback, criterion theory and development training, and legal issues.

**PSY683 – ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MA)**
3 credits
This course provides students with an overview and fundamental understanding of theories, techniques, and research about facilitating change in individuals, groups and organizations to improve their effectiveness. Topics covered include issues such as institutional entry and contracting, assessment and feedback, and intervention and evaluation.

**PSY684 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY (MA)**
3 credits
This course introduces the field of occupational health psychology and to raise awareness about career possibilities. The overarching goals are to train future professionals to create a healthy and safe workplace, and to improve productivity and profits by decreasing the costs associated with hazards. In addition, it addresses the role of occupational health and safety research in increasing worker protection from physical and psychosocial sources of injury, methodologies used to evaluate existing worksite hazards, effective control measures, identification and prevention of negative consequences of emerging hazards.

**PSY691 – PRACTICUM IN PSYCHOLOGY (MA)**
3 credits
The aim of this course is to allow the students to observe psychologists in their work settings. It should also allow students to get a sense of the many ways in which the knowledge gained from the psychology courses relate to how psychologists function in their work settings. Students select sites that closely match the kind of work they hope to do, or if not sure, try for a broad spectrum experience. Students are not paid by the sites they choose.

With the approval of the appropriate faculty member and the M.A. Program Coordinator and/or the Director of Psychology Graduate Programs, this course offers relevant field observation and related experience for MA students involving an agreed upon number of supervised hours in an approved agency. Evaluations are made of student performance by supervising personnel of the agency and by faculty supervisors. The MA Faculty supervisor assists students in contacting the fieldwork coordinator prior to the semester of actual placement.

Prerequisite: 3 course credits in the MA program.
PSY695 – INDEPENDENT STUDY (MA)
1-3 credits
With the approval of the designated faculty member, student’s advisor, and/or M.A. Program Coordinator, students may elect to do collaborative work with faculty, which may include research, teaching, and other scholarly endeavors which do not duplicate the requirements of PSY691 (Practicum in Psychology) or PSY699 (MA Thesis). The student meets regularly with the faculty member to review progress. A written paper or project must be submitted by the student at the end of the semester. (This course may only be taken once.)
Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

PSY696 – SPECIAL TOPICS (MA)
3 credits
This course provides master’s level students with an overview of a selected topic or topics in psychology. The course will address current research and methodologies related to the topic(s). A sample of topics would include psychology of women and work, history of psychology, sports psychology, and cross-cultural psychology.

PSY699 – M.A. THESIS (MA)
3 credits
Students who seek greater research experience (research concentration) through the program may choose to take this course upon consultation and approval of their advisor, the MA in Psychology Coordinator, or the Director of Graduate Psychology Programs. The M.A. thesis requires students to conduct an original research project with the supervision of a faculty member. The student selects a faculty advisor, then meets regularly with the advising faculty member to receive guidance and to review progress on the research project. A research paper must be submitted upon completion of the course. Those who plan on taking this course must work closely with their designated faculty thesis advisor.
Prerequisites: Research Design and Statistics I (PSY615) and Research Design and Statistics II (PSY616) PSY616 may be taken concurrently with PSY699.

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