

# Syllabus

## Psychology, Semester A

### Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended for you to familiarize yourself with the concepts and theories of psychology. This course has 13 lessons and 5 Course Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

In Psychology, Semester A, you will trace the history of psychology and examine key psychological theories. You will discuss human development and explain how the nervous and endocrine systems affect human development and behavior. You will explain various theories related to language development and acquisition. You will discuss the influence of heredity, environment, society, and culture on human behavior.

Your teacher will grade your work on the Course Activities, and you will grade your work on the Lesson Activities by comparing them with the given sample responses. The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson and an end-of-semester test. These tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology-enhanced (TE) questions.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Trace the history of psychology.
- Describe and evaluate psychological theories.
- Examine human development and growth.
- Describe the nervous and endocrine systems, and examine their roles in human development and behavior.
- Analyze how sensations and perceptions affect cognition and behavior.
- Explain key concepts and theories related to memory, consciousness, intelligence, motivation, and emotion.
- Examine various theories related to language development and acquisition.
- Explain various theories related to personality.
- Analyze the influence of heredity and environment on human behavior.

- Examine how society and culture influence behavior and cognition.

## **General Skills**

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- complete basic operations with word-processing software such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs
- complete basic operations with presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation
- perform online research using various search engines and library databases
- communicate through email and participate in discussion boards

*For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.*

## **Credit Value**

Psychology Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

## **Course Materials**

- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

## **Course Pacing Guide**

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

## Course Components and Grading Rubric

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
<b>Module.</b> <i>Each module in this course contains an interactive tutorial and an associated mastery test. Tutorials may include one or more Lesson Activities that constitute tasks associated with the tutorial. The module score comes from a student's score on the mastery test.</i>	13	30%
<b>Discussion.</b> <i>Online discussions allow for higher-order thinking about terminal objectives. An online threaded discussion mirrors the educational experience of a classroom discussion. Teachers can initiate a discussion by asking a complex, open-ended question. Students can engage in the discussion by responding both to the question and to the thoughts of others. Each unit in a course has one predefined discussion topic; teachers may add more discussion topics.</i>	5	20%
<b>Course Activity.</b> <i>Course Activities are similar to Unit Activities in scope but may be found at any point in the course, either to prepare the student for new learning or to act as a performance-based activity required for a learning objective. Like Unit Activities, Course Activities include simple rubrics, and sample answers are available for teachers. Course Activities are teacher graded.</i>	5	30%
<b>End of Semester Test.</b> <i>The end of semester test (EOS) appears at the end of the course. Students are delivered a few items from every tutorial in the course in order to assess the major course objectives.</i>	1	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	<b>Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation</b> <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
4 days: 2–5	<b>The History of Psychology</b> <i>Trace the historical development of psychology.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 6–10	<b>Developing Psychological Theories</b> <i>Describe how psychological theories are formed and evaluated.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 11	<b>Para Jumble</b>	Game
1 day: 12	<b>Course Discussion 1</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 13–15	<b>Course Activity 1</b>	Course Activity
5 days: 16–20	<b>Human Development and Growth</b> <i>Examine the issues and concepts related to human development and growth.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 21–25	<b>Biology and Behavior</b> <i>Examine the roles of the nervous and endocrine systems in development and behavior.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 26	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Game
5 days: 27–31	<b>Cognition and Behavior</b> <i>Explain how sensations and perceptions affect cognition and behavior.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 32	<b>Course Discussion 2</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 33–35	<b>Course Activity 2</b>	Course Activity
5 days: 36–40	<b>Memory</b> <i>Explain various concepts and theories of memory.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 41–44	<b>Consciousness</b> <i>Explain various concepts and theories of consciousness.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 45	<b>Course Discussion 3</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 46–48	<b>Course Activity 3</b>	Course Activity
5 days: 49–53	<b>Motivation and Emotion</b> <i>Discuss theories of motivation and emotion and the factors involved in motivation and emotion.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 54	<b>Thwack-A-Mole</b>	Game
5 days: 55–59	<b>Intelligence</b> <i>Examine various theories of intelligence.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 60–63	<b>Language Development</b> <i>Discuss theories of language acquisition and development.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 64	<b>Para Jumble</b>	Game
1 day: 65	<b>Course Discussion 4</b>	Course Discussion
3 days: 66–68	<b>Course Activity 4</b>	Course Activity
5 days: 69–73	<b>Personality</b> <i>Examine various theories of personality.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 74–78	<b>Heredity, Environment, and Human Behavior</b> <i>Analyze the influence of heredity and environment on shaping an individual.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 79	<b>Course Discussion 5</b>	Course Discussion
5 days: 80–84	<b>Social and Cultural Influences</b> <i>Examine how society and culture influence behavior and cognition.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 85	<b>Space Jumble</b>	Game
3 days: 86–88	<b>Course Activity 5</b>	Course Activity
1 day: 89	<b>Semester Review</b>	
1 day: 90	<b>End-of-Semester Test</b>	Assessment

## Course Map

You will achieve course level objectives by completing each lesson’s instruction, assignments, and assessments. For a detailed look at how the materials meet these objectives, review the [course map for Semester A](#).