



## Psychology & Sociology

# Psychology Overview

Psychology is the branch of health science dedicated to the study of the functions of the human mind, with a special focus on factors that influence behavior. Sociology is the science that focuses on the study of social relationships and the human psyche. This course provides a path starting from the elements that make up the human mind and the conception of self, and ending with an explanation of how that self is placed within a societal structure.

In this course, the student will be introduced to how humans sense and understand their environment. Moreover, factors that influence behavior as well as the concept of self-identity, social interactions, social thinking, and social structures will be discussed. For optimal comprehension, the student is required to have a good grasp of the physiology of the neurosensory organs, endocrine organs, and sleep, and a thorough understanding of the pharmacology of addictive substances.

Importance of the subject for the medical career and field in general: Under the biopsychosocial model of disease, physicians can positively affect the psychological health of their patients, at the very least, by providing the emotional support needed to overcome the psychological stress of being burdened with a disease. Furthermore, a competent physician must understand that all individuals play important roles in societal structures that they are a part of, and that disease processes can hinder their ability to adequately respond to the obligations inherent to their role. A working knowledge of psychology and sociology enables physicians to address these aspects and maximize the effectiveness of interventions.

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#### Sensing the Environment

- Thresholds Sensory Processing (PSY, BIO)
- Weber's Law Sensory Processing (PSY, BIO)
- Signal Detection Theory Sensory Processing (PSY, BIO)
- Psychophysics and Fechner's Law Sensory Processing (PSY, BIO)
- Sensory Pathways Sensory Processing (PSY, BIO)
- Types of Sensory Receptors Sensory Processing (PSY, BIO)
- Structure and Function of the Eye Vision (PSY, BIO)
- Photoreceptors: Rods and Cones Vision (PSY, BIO)
- Visual Processing Vision (PSY, BIO)
- Structure and Function of the Ear Hearing (PSY,BIO)
- Auditory Processing Hearing (PSY,BIO)
- Hair Cells and Sensory Reception Hearing (PSY,BIO)
- Hearing Damage and Sensory Perception Hearing (PSY,BIO)
- Somatosensation Other Senses (PSY, BIO)
- Taste (Gustation) Other Senses (PSY, BIO)
- Smell (Olfaction) Other Senses (PSY, BIO)
- Proprioception and Vestibular Sense Other Senses (PSY, BIO)
- Perception (PSY)

#### Making Sense of the Environment

- Selective Attention Attention (PSY)
- Divided Attention Attention (PSY)
- Information-Processing Model Cognition (PSY)
- Cognitive Development and Biological Factors Cognition (PSY)
- Problem Solving and Decision Making: Types, Approaches and Barriers to Effective Problem Solving – Cognition (PSY)

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- Problem Solving and Decision Making: Heuristics, Biases, Intuition and Emotion – Cognition (PSY)
- Intellectual Functioning Cognition (PSY)
- Introduction esp. Alertness Consciousness (PSY, BIO)
- Stages of Sleep Consciousness (PSY)
- Sleep, Circadian Rhythms and Dreaming Consciousness (PSY, BIO)
- Sleep-Wake Disorders Consciousness (PSY)
- Hypnosis and Meditation Consciousness (PSY)
- Consciousness Altering Drugs: Depressants Consciousness (PSY)
- Consciousness Altering Drugs: Stimulants and Hallucinogen – Consciousness (PSY)
- Drug Addiction and the Reward Pathway of the Brain Consciousness (PSY)
- Encoding Information Memory (PSY)
- Types of Memory Storage Memory (PSY)
- Semantic Networks and Spreading Networks Memory (PSY)
- Retrieval Memory (PSY, BIO)
- Forgetting Memory (PSY)
- Forgetting: Aging and Memory Dysfunctions Memory (PSY)
- Forgetting: Decay and Interference Memory (PSY)
- Forgetting: Memory Construction and Source Monitoring Memory (PSY)
- Changes in Synaptic Connections Underlie Memory and Learning – Memory (PSY,BIO)
- Theories of Language Development Language (PSY)
- Influence of Language on Cognition Language (PSY, BIO)
- Brain Areas that Control Language and Speech Language (PSY, BIO)

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#### Responding to the World

- Three Components of Emotion Emotion (PSY)
- Universal Emotions and Adaptive Role of Emotion Emotions (PSY)
- Theories of Emotion: James-Lange, Canon-Bard and Schachter-Singer - Emotion (PSY)
- The Role of Biological Processes in Perceiving Emotion: Brain Regions and the Limbic System – Emotion (PSY, BIO)
- The Role of Biological Processes in Perceiving Emotion: Emotion and the Autonomic Nervous System – Emotion (PSY, BIO)
- The Role of Biological Processes in Perceiving Emotion: Physical Makers of Emotion (Signatures of Emotion) – Emotion (PSY, BIO)
- The Nature of Stress Stress (PSY)
- Different Types of Stressors Stress (PSY)
- Effects of Stress on Psychological Functions Stress (PSY,BIO)
- Sympathetic Nervous System Stress (PSY)
- Emotional Stress Outcomes/Response to Stressors Stress (PSY)
- Behavioral Stress Outcomes/Response to Stressors Stress (PSY)
- Managing Stress (e.g. Exercise, Relaxation and Spirituality) Stress (PSY)

#### Individual Influences on Behavior

- Nervous System: Neurons and Synapses Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Nervous System: The Action Potential Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Nervous System: Saltatory Conduction Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)

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- Nervous System: Organization and Reflexes Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Nervous System: Neurotransmitters Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Nervous System: Structure and Function of the Peripheral Nervous
   System Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Structure and Function of the Central Nervous
   System Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- The Endocrine System Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Behavioral Genetics Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Influence of Genetic and Environmental Factors on the Development of Behaviors – Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Human Physiological Development Biological Bases of Behavior (PSY, BIO)
- Introduction Personality (PSY)
- Psychoanalytic Perspective Personality (PSY)
- Freud's Psychosexual Stages Personality (PSY)
- Humanistic Perspective and Trait Perspective Personality (PSY)
- Social Cognitive Perspective and Biological Perspective Personality (PSY)
- Behaviorist Perspective Personality (PSY)
- Introduction Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Understanding Psychological Disorders: Biomedical vs. Biopsychosocial
   Approaches Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Understanding Psychological Disorders:
   Classifying Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Types of Psychological Disorders Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Anxiety Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Somatic Symptom and Related Disorder Psychological Disorders (PSY)

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- Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Mood, Dissociative and Personality Disorders Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Biological Bases of Nervous System
   Disorders Psychological Disorders (PSY)
- Factors that Influence Motivation Motivation (PSY)
- Theories That Explain How Motivation Affects Human Behavior – Motivation (PSY)
- Biological and Sociocultural Motivators That Regulate Behavior – Motivation (PSY)
- Components of Attitudes (i.e. Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral) –
   Attitudes (PSY)
- Process by Which Attitudes Influence Behavior and Vice Versa – Attitudes (PSY)
- Cognitive Dissonance Theory Attitudes (PSY)

### Social Processes That Influence Human Behavior

- Social Facilitation How the Presence of Others Affects Individual Behavior (PSY)
- Deindividuation How the Presence of Others Affects
   Individual Behavior (PSY)
- Bystander Effect How the Presence of Others Affects
   Individual Behavior (PSY)
- Social Loafing How the Presence of Others Affects
   Individual Behavior (PSY)

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- Social Control and Peer Pressure How the Presence of Others Affects Individual Behavior (PSY, SOC)
- Conformity and Obedience How the Presence of Others Affects Individual Behavior (PSY, SOC)
- Group Polarization and Groupthink Group Decision-making Processes (PSY, SOC)
- Social Norms: Sanctions, Folkways, Mores, and Taboos Normative and Non-normative Behavior (PSY, SOC)
- Deviance Normative and Non-normative Behavior (SOC)
- Aspects of Collective Behavior Normative and Non-normative Behavior (SOC)
- Agents of Socialization Socialization (PSY, SOC)

#### Attitude and Behavior Change

- Habituation and Dishabituation
- Classical Conditioning Associative Learning (PSY, BIO)
- Operant Conditioning Associative Learning (PSY, BIO)
- Cognitive and Biological Processes That Affect Associative Learning – Associative Learning (PSY, BIO)
- Observational Learning (PSY)
- Theories of Attitude and Behavior Change (PSY)

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#### Self-Identity

- Self-Concept, Self-Identity and Social Identity (PSY)
- Different Types of Identities Self-Concept, Self-Identity and Social Identity (PSY)
- Self-Esteem, Self-Efficacy, and Locus of Control Self-Concept,
   Self-Identity and Social Identity (PSY)
- Theories of Identity Development Formation of Identity (PSY, SOC)
- Influence of Social Factors Formation of Identity (PSY, SOC)
- Influence of Culture and Socialization Formation of Identity (PSY, SOC)

#### Social Thinking

- Attributional Processes Attributing Behavior to Persons or Situations (PSY)
- How Self-Perceptions and Perceptions of the Environment Shape Our Perceptions of Others – Attributing Behavior to Persons or Situations (PSY)
- Processes that Contribute to Prejudice Prejudice and Bias (PSY, SOC)
- The Role of Emotion in Prejudice Prejudice and Bias (PSY)
- The Role of Cognition in Prejudice Prejudice and Bias (PSY)
- Stigma and Ethnocentrism Prejudice and Bias (SOC)
- Processes Related to Stereotypes (PSY)

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#### Social Interactions

- Status and Roles Elements of Social Interaction (PSY, SOC)
- Groups Elements of Social Interaction (SOC)
- Networks and Organizations Elements of Social Interaction (SOC)
- Bureaucracy Elements of Social Interaction (PSY,SOC)
- Expressing and Detecting Emotion Self-Presentation and Interacting
   With Others (PSY,SOC)
- Impression Management Self-Presentation and Interacting With Others (PSY,SOC)
- Front Stage vs. Back Stage Self Self-Presentation and Interacting With Others (SOC)
- Verbal and Nonverbal Communication Self-Presentation and Interacting With Others (PSY,SOC)
- Attraction Social Behavior (PSY)
- Aggression Social Behavior (PSY)
- Attachment, Altruism and Social Support Social Behavior (PSY, SOC)
- Biological Explanations of Social Behavior in Animals Social Behavior
   (PSY, BIO)
- Individual vs. Institutional Discrimination Discrimination (SOC)
- The Relationship Between Prejudice and Discrimination Discrimination (PSY, SOC)

#### **Understanding Social Structure**

- Microsociology, Macrosociology, Functionalism and Conflict Theory –
   Theoretical Approaches of Social Structure (SOC)
- Symbolic Interactionism and Social Constructionism Theoretical Approaches of Social Structure (SOC)

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- Exchange-Rational Choice and Feminist Theory Theoretical Approaches of Social Structure (SOC)
- Education Social Institutions (SOC)
- Family Social Institutions (PSY, SOC)
- Religion Social Institutions (SOC)
- Government and Economy Social Institutions (SOC)
- Health and Medicine Social Institutions (SOC)
- Elements of Culture and Symbolic Culture Culture (SOC)
- Material Culture, Culture Lag and Culture Shock Culture (SOC)
- Assimilation and Multiculturalism Culture (SOC)
- Mass Media, Popular Culture and Transmission of Culture Culture (SOC)
- Cultural Diffusion Culture (SOC)

### Demographic Characteristics and Processes

- Age Demographic Structure of Society (PSY, SOC)
- Gender Demographic Structure of Society (PSY, SOC)
- Race and Ethnicity Demographic Structure of Society (PSY, SOC)
- Immigration Status Demographic Structure of Society (PSY, SOC)
- Theories of Demographic Change Demographic Shifts and Social Change (SOC)
- Population Growth/Decline: Fertility, Mortality and Migration – Demographic Shifts and Social Change (SOC)
- Social Movements Demographic Shifts and Social Change (SOC)
- Globalization Demographic Shifts and Social Change (SOC)
- Urbanization Demographic Shifts and Social Change (SOC)

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#### Social Inequality

- Spatial Inequality (SOC)
- Aspects of Social Stratification Social Class (SOC)
- Patterns of Social Mobility Social Class (SOC)
- Poverty and Social Exclusion Social Class (SOC)
- Health Disparities (SOC)
- Healthcare Disparities (SOC)



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