HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

PSYCHOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The School of Humanities offers programs leading to the Associate in General Studies and the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees to students having interests or career objectives involving individual and community relationships. Majors are available in the following disciplines: criminal justice, English, history, social science, psychology, social work, social studies composite, and the Guy D. Newman Honors Academy (multidisciplinary). School of Humanities departments that offer minors include English, English writing, Spanish, History, Social Science, Psychology, and Criminal Justice. Teacher certification is available in English and language arts, history and social studies composite. (See the School of Education and Fine Arts section of the catalog.)

COURSES DESCRIPTIONS

PSY 1101-4609: Special Studies

Topics offered as demand reflects an interest in areas of psychology not covered by existing catalog courses. Course may be repeated when the topic of study changes.

PSY 1311: Introduction to Psychology

Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics in the field of psychology including research methods, biological psychology, perception, cognition, development, learning consciousness, intelligence, mental disorders and their treatment, and social psychology. The curriculum combines an application of psychology to various aspects of everyday life, the impact of culture on psychological processes, biblical perspectives of the filed, and critical thinking regarding how psychological research and theory influence contemporary issues. This course serves a prerequisite to most other psychology courses offered through the department, which are a more in-depth analysis of specific topics introduced in this course.

PSY 2130: Professional Development in Psychology

This course introduces students to academic and professional opportunities in psychology, counseling, and family studies. Students will examine various specialties within psychology and related mental health fields, licensing and certification guidelines, graduate school admissions processes, and the APA writing style. Special attention will be given to ethical issues and guidelines in professional practice.

PSY 2351: Statistics for the Social Sciences

An introductory course in statistical measurement in the social sciences. Major emphasis will be placed on the meaning, limitations and applicability of statistical procedures. Cross-credited with CRJ 2351. Only three credit hours will be awarded for CRJ 2351 or PSY 2351.

PSY 2355: Lifespan Development

The study of the biological, physical, cognitive, emotional, linguistic, sociocultural and spiritual changes across the life span. Incorporates prenatal development and birth, as well as development in infancy, early childhood, middle and late childhood, adolescence, early to middle adulthood, and late adulthood. Includes the experimental techniques used to study development and the practical applications of developmental research. This course is especially relevant to those entering the medical, helping, and educational fields.

PSY 2380: Human Diversity

A social and psychological investigation of human diversity, primarily focusing on cultural, ethnic, and social class differences. Consideration will be given to the impact of diversity on individual and family functioning, service provision, employment and career development, health and well- being, intergroup relations, and personal faith. This course will assist students in understanding the formation and impact of oppression, prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes.

PSY 3306: Perspectives on Life and Loss

An examination of the social and cultural influences involved in the process of death and dying. Focus will be on medical technology and ethical issues, terminal illnesses, suicide, euthanasia, the hospice movement, body disposition, bereavement and the implications for social workers and psychologists in direct practice. Cross-credited with SWK 3306. Credit will be awarded for only one of the courses: SWK 3306, or PSY 3306.

PSY 3311: Marriage and the Family

A study of family types and marital processes with an emphasis upon the contemporary American families including ethnic and minority families within the context of contemporary American and Christian values. Related issues include lifestyles, dating, mate selection, sexual values, communication, conflict, children, divorce, remarriage, and stepfamilies.

PSY 3321: Personality

This course will familiarize students through both didactic and experiential means with a variety of personality theories and their applications. Students will consider theories that address personality development and implications for normal and abnormal development. Students will also explore research questions such as the stability of personality over time and situations, cultural differences in personality, and personality measurement instruments. The focus will be on the historical contribution of the major traditions in theories of personality and personality development and how these differences account for variations in thought, emotion, and behavior.

PSY 3341: Social Psychology

A study of how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other people such that individuals affect and are affected by others. Central to the course is the idea that human beings are not isolated entities who process information like computers, but social animals engaged in a complicated network of social relations, both real and perceived. Uses scientific reasoning to understand the bidirectional influence of groups and individuals, and apply those principles to everyday life and to broader social problems.

PSY 3342: Adolescent Psychology

An exploration of current theories concerning adolescents' physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, social and personality growth and change from the onset of puberty to the beginning of adulthood. A focus on the roles in which adolescents exhibit in the home, school, and community, and a discussion of issues and theoretical perspectives concerning moral and identity development. In addition, learners analyze adolescent sexuality, interactions with peers and family, gender and multicultural issues, self-concept, and mental health topics.

PSY 3351: Abnormal Psychology

This course provides broad examination of the various psychological disorders in accordance with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). The focus will be on historical, theoretical, clinical, and experimental perspectives of the study of psychopathology with extensive use of case studies in order to distinguish normal from abnormal. Emphasis is on terminology, classification, etiology, and assessment of the major disorders, including the influence of culture and the role of diversity. The course incorporates the interaction of biological, developmental, and social factors as well as spiritual considerations regarding simple maladjustment, or disturbances of emotion, perception, memory, judgment, or thought.

PSY 3360: Parent-Child Relations

This course focuses on the diverse psychosocial needs of children within the context of family, school, church and community from both proactive and reparative perspectives. Students will gain an understanding of their professional role in supporting evidence-based practices that strengthen respectful, collaborative family/child partnerships and child-rearing. Students will explore child growth and change from infancy through puberty while emphasizing various models, research and best practices related to the comprehensive promotion of child development. Includes understanding temperament, intellectual development, imparting values, communication, attachment, the dynamics of discipline, instilling self- esteem, understanding needs and wants, the interplay of biology and environment, parental responsiveness, role modeling, character development and the bi-directional and systemic nature of the parent-child relationship. Intended for students who will work with minors and/or families in any capacity including, social services, therapy and children and youth ministry. Cross-credited with SWK 3360.

PSY 3361: Psychological Testing

Theory and application of psychological measurement and assessment. Attention will be given to the major assessment instruments in each area of psychological testing.

PSY 3390: Sensation and Perception

Sensation and Perception will delve into the five-plus-three senses humans use to gather information from our external environment and internal awareness. Emphasis will be placed on sensory pathways and perceptual processing. Attention will be given to the measurement of absolute and difference thresholds and explore how the loss of a sense changes both sensation and perception. Perceptual strategies for limiting, organizing and interpreting sensation will be evaluated as well.

PSY 4300: Human Sexuality

A study of human sexual functioning, behavior, and relationships. Sexual functioning and behavior will be examined from biological, cultural, psychological, and Biblical/theological perspectives. Attention will be given to identifying effective strategies for sexuality education.

PSY 4301: Integration of Psychology and Christianity

This course provides an introduction to the conceptual models and critical issues associated with the process of integrating psychological theories with Christian faith and theology. Attention will be given to both theoretical and clinical practice issues.

PSY 4332: Introduction to Counseling and Psychotherapy

An overview of the various theories and strategies of psychotherapeutic intervention, including both individual and group methods. Cross-credited with SWK 4332. Credit may be awarded for only one of the two: PSY 4332 or SWK 4332.

PSY 4339: Experimental Psychology

An applied research course for psychology majors based on the philosophy of scientific methodology with an emphasis on empirical experimental procedures. Basic research methods and terminology, ethics in experimentation, and flaws in research designs are included. Students will be expected to participate in the various stages of constructing a quantitative or qualitative research study to include: generating a research idea, critically reviewing relevant literature, formulating testable hypotheses, identifying the sample population, choosing an appropriate research design, identifying the independent and dependent variables, and controlling for extraneous variables. The course heavily emphasizes high quality and APA-based report writing.

PSY 4381: Group Dynamics

A study of the dynamics of small groups with a focus on group process, group leadership, and factors related to group effectiveness. Special consideration will be given to teams and team leadership. Application of group process and group leadership issues will be made to various settings.