Administrative Unit: History & Social Sciences

Course Prefix and Number: PSYC 270

Course Title: Psychology of Emotion

Number of Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Study of major theories of emotion and their emergence from cognitive, behavioral, physiological, social, and evolutionary perspectives in the discipline of psychology. The course examines the relationship between theory and practice in applications designed for use by teachers, counselors and other practitioners in the helping professions. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or PSYC 260.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSYC 101 or PSYC 260.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Course Objectives:

• To examine major theories of emotion as they relate to major theoretical perspectives in the discipline of psychology.
• To evaluate research methods used in the study of emotions.
• To understand the relationship between theory and practice in psychology.
• To provide an opportunity for student work to be presented in a forum of their peers.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Understand major perspectives in psychology and the theories of emotion associated with them.
• Compare and contrast traditional and contemporary theories of emotion.
• Explain the ideas regarding emotion of major theorists.
who represent the behavioral perspective.

- Explain the ideas regarding emotion of major theorists who represent the neurophysiological perspective.
- Explain the ideas regarding emotion of major theorists who represent the motivational/cognitive perspective.
- Define and explain the differences between fundamental and complex emotions.
- Apply methods for assessing emotion.
- Understand the relationship between research and application in psychology.
- Explain the relationship of emotions and stress to health.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

Students in this course are expected to conduct archival research, write a paper using APA style, and report their research findings to a forum of their peers.

- Definitions of emotion
- Research methods appropriate to the study of emotion
- Traditional approaches to the study of emotion
- Motivational and cognitive approaches to emotion
- Neurophysiological theories of emotion
- Behavioral theories of emotion
- Applications of emotion theory
- Fundamental and complex emotions
- Emotions, stress, and physical health
- Control of emotion

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Graham E. Higgs, Ph.D. 
Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

Date: February 7, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs 
12/04