



South Central College

## PSYC 280 Special Topics in Psychology

### Course Outcome Summary

#### Course Information

<b>Description</b>	The course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of a special topic within the field of psychology. Key theoretical and historical underpinnings will be presented to prepare a foundation of understanding. Attention will be focused on to how the topic has or may add to the knowledge base of psychology and, if applicable, other academic disciplines. Students will explore the actual or potential applicability of the topic to self, others, and society at large. The course will have a research component. (MNTC 5: History/Social & Behavioral Sciences and one of MNTC 7-10 depending on topic) Prerequisite: PSYC100 or consent of instructor
<b>Total Credits</b>	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	48

#### Pre/Corequisites

PSYC100 or consent of instructor.

#### Institutional Core Competencies

Communication - Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate and effective interactions with others to achieve their personal, academic, and professional objectives.

#### Course Competencies

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and theoretical foundations that comprise the field related to the special topic and demonstrate an ability to explain how and why the topic emerged.**

**Learning Objectives**  
Explore the historical foundation of the special topic and how it relates to a broader field of psychological study.  
Review the primary theoretical models that relate to the special topic.  
Identify key theorists and researchers who have contributed to the special topic.
- Identify the role of psychological research and principles in contributing to an understanding of the special topic.**

**Learning Objectives**  
Explore research designs and methods typically used to study the special topic in order to develop new knowledge or test existing theories.  
Review key research studies and critically evaluate the quality and value of existing and emerging psychological

research related to the topic.

Articulate the code of ethics used in conducting psychological research.

**3. Acquire an understanding of how the special topic relates to and has deepened the knowledge base of psychology (or subspecialty of psychology).**

**Learning Objectives**

Examine different perspectives presented by psychologists regarding the significance of the special topic as it relates to the field of psychology or subspecialty of psychology.

Examine (if possible) different perspectives regarding the relevance of the special topic as it relates to academic disciplines other than psychology.

Articulate the real or potential relevance of the special topic for the field of psychology (or subspecialty) and for other academic disciplines.

**4. Demonstrate an understanding of how the special topic contributes to a deeper conceptualization of human (or animal) behavior and mental processing.**

**Learning Objectives**

Examine specific ways in which the special topic has furthered our understanding of human mental processing and behavior.

If the special topic is not human-related (e.g., animal behavior, robotics), explore how the topic has contributed to our understanding of human mental processing and behavior.

Theorize other ways in which the special topic may be used to explain human mental processing and behavior.

**5. Identify the special topic's real or potential practical application for individuals or the greater society.**

**Learning Objectives**

Review how the knowledge gained from the special topic has been applied within different social contexts such as education or business.

Explore how the knowledge gained from the special topic has been used to improve the human condition or ameliorate social ills.

Discuss additional ways the knowledge gained from the special topic may be applied to improve the lives of individuals and society.

**6. Acquire an understanding of how the special topic may be applied to you (the student) to promote greater self-understanding and self-improvement.**

**Learning Objectives**

Examine the special topic in terms of how it relates to your own life.

Articulate how you might use the knowledge gained in the course to change or improve your own thinking and behavior.

**7. Demonstrate an understanding of how the special topic impacts or is impacted by gender, race, culture, and other important elements of the diverse human experience.**

**Learning Objectives**

Examine how the special topic has been informed by diverse human perspectives. For instance, what is the gender and racial composition of research subjects used to test theories and create new knowledge?

Identify gaps in the research or application of the research related to human diversity and theorize how the gaps might impact how the special topic has been conceptualized or applied.

Articulate solutions for addressing gaps.

Theorize how the special topic may impact diverse groups at an individual or group level.

**8. Utilize critical thinking skills.**

**Learning Objectives**

Develop an informed perspective, utilizing objective and verifiable evidence related to the special topic.

Identify and consider multiple viewpoints in terms of psychological explanations, relevance to the field or practical applicability.

Formulate logical and well-reasoned explanations on various topics related to the course.

**9. Apply research methods, psychological principles, and key research findings by preparing a formal research project that adheres to the formatting expectations of the American Psychological Association.**

**Learning Objectives**

Explore the literature and develop a research question or hypothesis.

Prepare an appropriate literature review and/or conduct a research study using an appropriate research methodology (original research or secondary data analysis).

Analyze and present results and prepare a logical analysis of findings.

Prepare a written report that adheres to the formatting expectations of the American Psychological Association.

Conduct all work within the ethical parameters of the American Psychological Association.

**SCC Accessibility Statement**

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: [www.southcentral.edu/disability](http://www.southcentral.edu/disability)

This material can be made available in alternative formats by contacting the Academic Support Center at 507-389-7222.