

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PSYC 2257: Psychology and the Media

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

This course requires either of these prerequisites

PSYC 1110 - General Psychology (Minimum grade: 2.0 GPA Equivalent)

A score of 3 on test Advanced Placement Psychology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

(MnTC Goals 2 and 9)

Prerequisites: PSYC 1110 with a grade of C or better

This course will explore the psychology behind media and technology use and their impact on the emotional, cognitive, behavioral, psychological, and social experience of humans. The depiction of psychological issues in the media will be examined, with a focus on a critical analysis of media portrayals and their influence on human thought and behavior.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/2010 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Critical thinking and media literacy
2. Psychological models
3. Historical and cultural definitions of psychological issues in the U.S.
4. Depiction of psychological disorders in popular and news media
5. Ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues as they relate to portrayal of people and situations in the media
6. Current research findings in the field of Media Psychology

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Articulate the processes of critical thinking and analysis, including evaluating the quality of sources, determining what information constitutes empirical evidence, identifying the weaknesses of testimonials and anecdotal evidence, and understanding causal and correlational research data
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the scientific methods used in Media Psychology research
3. Understand and apply the various theoretical orientations and psychological theories used to explain media effects
4. Apply the process of critical analysis to media depictions of psychological constructs (such as media reporting of psychological research and the portrayal of mental illness, "fake news," etc.), assessing the accuracy and reliability of these depictions
5. Understand and reflect on the current research findings pertaining to the emotional, cognitive, behavioral, psychological, and social impact of various types of media and technology on the human experience. In particular, analyze research findings in the following areas:
6. social media, parasocial relationships, music, psychology of advertising (including political campaigns), media violence, portrayals of sex and relationships (and the impact of technology on relationships), portrayals of specific groups (such as race, gender, religion, and mental illness), how news media create a perceived reality, and socially positive media.
7. Apply select categories of the current DSM to people and situations portrayed in the media, assessing the accuracy of these portrayals
8. Identify how factors in U.S. culture and history have shaped our understanding of psychological issues and the subsequent media depictions of these issues
9. Recognize and compare the diversity of political motivations and trends, as well as public attitudes, to the media portrayal of people and situations
10. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues as they relate to portrayal of people and situations in the media
11. Recognize how the media influence public perception and treatment of psychological issues (contributing to misconceptions, stereotypes, and stigmatization)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted