

# General Psychology PSYC 1313

## Course Redevelopment Overview



### A Course Built on Conviction

Unlike most introductory psychology courses, this one begins with an honest conviction that humans are God's image-bearers, giving students a coherent Christian framework for understanding human life from the first day of class.

**Course Description:** This introductory course examines psychology as the scientific study of human persons in their biological, psychological, and social dimensions, from a Christ-centered, biblically rooted Christian perspective. A holistic understanding of humans as God's image-bearers is emphasized through a survey of key psychological domains addressing physiological and cognitive processes, growth and development, personality, social relationships and behavior, and the abnormal dimensions of human life. The course focuses on cultivating a distinctly Christian framework for interpreting and engaging psychology.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

- Articulate a distinctly Christian, Christ-centered, and biblically rooted framework for interpreting and engaging psychology.
- Explain how psychology studies human persons through a holistic understanding of human life as biologically, psychologically, and socially integrated.
- Identify the major domains of psychology, including physiological, cognitive, developmental, personality, social, and abnormal psychology.
- Describe psychology as a scientific discipline, including the role of research and evidence in informing psychological theories and topics.
- Recognize how psychological knowledge affirms that humans are God's image-bearers, relational in nature, and oriented toward love for others.

### Reading with a Christian Vision

Unlike most introductory psychology texts, these three were chosen because they take Christian faith seriously as something the discipline itself must reckon with. Together they give students a foundation in psychological science, a biblical grounding for the course's Christian framework, and a compelling vision for what genuine human flourishing looks like.

**Introduction to Psychology from a Christian Worldview.** George, Kelley, & Piferi (2nd ed., 2023).

- Primary text covering the full range of psychological content from an explicitly biblical framework.

**Exploring Psychology and Christian Faith.** Moes & Tellinghuisen (2nd ed., 2023).

- Provides the biblical and theological foundation established at the outset of the course.

**Positive Psychology in Christian Perspective.** Hackney (2021).

- Covers positive psychology, core to a Christian vision of human flourishing.

## An Unfolding Story

Rather than a survey of disconnected topics, the course is organized around five major movements that together tell a single unfolding story about what it means to be human. By the end, students have not just covered the major areas of psychology but followed a coherent account of human life.

1

### Christian Foundations for Psychology

Grounds psychological study in a Christian vision of humanity, surveying psychology's historical development and scientific practice in light of Christian faith.

2

### Embodied Souls

Examines neuroscience, consciousness, sensation, and perception, reinforcing a holistic view of persons as integrated biological-spiritual unities.

3

### Mind, Heart, & Strength

Explores how humans learn, remember, think, feel, and act, reflecting God's design for growth and stability.

4

### Becoming Persons in Relationship

Covers lifespan development, personality, and social psychology as expressions of God's design for maturity and life with others.

5

### Sickness, Healing, & Flourishing

Addresses human brokenness and the possibility of healing, covering psychological disorders, treatment, and positive psychology.

## Learning to See

Knowing about people and actually seeing them as God's image-bearers are not the same thing. Most courses never close that gap.



Across a series of structured observation exercises, students go into public spaces, select a person they do not know, and spend time carefully watching before putting their interpretation into writing.

With each exercise, students use a new interpretive lens drawn from psychological knowledge and Christian convictions about human dignity and complexity to build toward a genuinely integrated way of perceiving persons.



It moves students from passive learners of psychological content to active, careful observers who interpret what they see through a Christ-shaped lens, and who are changed by the practice.