I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

An introduction to the major and the discipline of psychology. Discussion of the philosophy and scientific nature of a career in psychology, including active exploration of career possibilities.
3 credit hours

II. Prerequisite(s): None

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

A. To provide students with systematic and consistent information regarding the nature of the major in psychology, its structure and the rationale for classes composing the major.
B. To provide information concerning the scientific basis of the discipline of psychology.
C. To provide information and opportunities for students to think and communicate in scientific ways used by psychologists.
D. To provide students with information about career fields and the academic preparation necessary for success in those careers.
E. To provide an opportunity for observation and exploration of career options using individuals working in the field of psychology as exemplars.

IV. Expectations of Students:

A. All students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions.
B. All students are expected to develop an academic plan for completing their psychology major.
C. All students will compile information related to various occupational and academic careers in psychology or allied fields.
D. All students will become familiar with the scientific nature of psychology, including its forms of communication.
E. All students will demonstrate mastery of material discussed in class and contained in reading material via examinations.

V. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

A. Your Psychology Major (8 hours)
   a. Introduction to the content areas of psychology and their relationship to the structure of the major (core, extended core, electives).
   b. Discussion of rationale for sequence of courses composing the major.
   c. Discussion of content and requirements of core and extend core courses.
   d. Discussion of ways to develop supplementary skills via minors, elective courses, and extracurricular activities.
B. The Scientific Basis of the Discipline of Psychology (8 hours)
   a. Nature of scientific thinking.
   b. Scientific thinking in basic and applied areas of psychology.
   c. Value of scientific thinking in the discipline of psychology.
C. Practice in the Science of Psychology (8 hours)
   a. Practice in thinking scientifically: connecting theory, hypotheses, and method.
   b. Using statistics to facilitate decision making and interpretation of research results.
   c. Practice communicating scientifically using APA style.

D. Career Paths in Psychology (12 hours)
   a. Exploring career options given different levels of academic preparation.
   b. Exploring various types of academic programs (certificate, graduate).
   c. Exploring careers in different types of employment situations (medicine, business, social service, research, government, and private).

E. Working and Psychology (9 hours)
   a. Discussion of career opportunities provided by individuals working in the field of psychology.
   b. Site visits.

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

   Or

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

   A. Performance on exams and quizzes covering assigned readings, web searches, and presentations. (30% of course grade)
   B. Participation in assigned learning activities and written assignments. These would include:
      a. Developing a four-year academic plan for completing the psychology major. (10% of course grade)
      b. Completion of a research project demonstrating scientific thinking, the use of basic statistics, and effective communication using APA style. (30% of course grade)
      c. Conducting and writing summaries of searches for academic and occupational information. (10% of course grade)
      d. Conducting and writing summaries of interviews with professionals working in psychology. (10% of course grade)
      e. Participating in and writing summaries of site visits to employers or institutions employing individuals working in the field of psychology. (10% of course grade)