



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	PSYC
Course Number:	110
Descriptive Title:	African American Psychology
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Psychology and Human Development
Course Disciplines:	Psychology
Catalog Description:	This course is an introduction to the psychological issues related to the African American experience in the United States. The relationship between the African American experience and social perception, social cognition, and identity and attitude formation is emphasized. Individual cognitive styles, personality development, and family structures of African Americans will also be examined.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 1996
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 1996
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences
Term:	
Other:	

	IGETC: Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
	Term:
	Other:
	CalGETC:
	Term:
	Other:
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Logic of the Scientific Method On examination (e.g., m/c, t/f, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to examine and assess African American psychological research pertaining to the development of ethnic identity. SLO #2 Fundamental Principles On examination (e.g., m/c, t/f, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to identify and explain the major theoretical perspectives of African American psychology. SLO #3 Everyday Application On examination (e.g., m/c, t/f, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to describe and assess the treatment of mental health problems in the African American community.
Course Objectives:	1. Discuss the historical foundations on which African American psychology is based. 2. Describe and assess the roles that African philosophy, the worldviews paradigm, family models, and spirituality and religion have played in providing the foundation for African American psychology. 3. Compare and contrast theoretical perspectives on African American psychology. 4. Examine and assess psychological research on the cognitive attributes of African Americans, including research on intelligence and Black English. 5. Examine and assess psychological research on the attributes and behaviors of African Americans, including research on racial socialization, and racial identity.

	6. Discuss positive psychological research on African Americans, including research on the cognitive strengths of African Americans and the factors that promote psychological health among African Americans. 7. Apply African American perspectives to understand the issues of educational testing and cognitive performance of African Americans and the problem of racism. 8. Analyze how African American perspectives can be used to promote both ethnic identity and a strong self-concept among African Americans. 9. Examine and illustrate how African American perspectives can be used to enhance the understanding and treatment of mental health problems in the African American community.
Major Topics:	I. Historical Foundation (3 hours, lecture) A. The Principles of the Ma'at B. The Nguzo Saba C. The Concept of Sankofa II. African/Black Psychology Theories (9 hours, lecture) A. The Nigrescence Model B. Azibo's Model of Mental Health C. Azbar's Model on Mental Disorder III. Attitudes and Behaviors (9 hours, lecture) A. Religion and Spirituality B. Black Families C. Intimate Relationships D. Music and Culture E. Media IV. Educational Issues (9 hours, lecture) A. Academic Achievement B. Black English

	C. Gifted Black Students V. Group Identity (9 hours, lecture) A. Racial Socialization B. Racial Identity C. Cultural Mistrust VI. Psychological Health (9 hours, lecture) A. Conceptualizing Mental Health B. Positive Psychology VII. Mental Health Practice (6 hours, lecture) A. Counseling and Psychotherapy B. Cognitive and Clinical Assessment C. Drug Use Prevention
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Read the chapters in your textbook on African American psychologists. In a typed three-page essay identify and assess at least three of the theories of African American psychology described by African American theoreticians.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a four- to five-page essay compare and contrast the theorists of the pre-assimilation, assimilation, bicultural reform, and cultural congruence schools in African psychology.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a four- to five-page essay describe the functions of religious institutions in fostering African American psychological health.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)

If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Faye Belgrave and Kevin Allison. African American Psychology. 4th ed. Sage Publications, 2018 (Discipline Standard). Helen Neville, Brendesha Tyres, and Shawn Utsey (Editors). Handbook of African American Psychology. Sage Publications, 2009 (Discipline Standard).
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for ENGL C1000
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	

Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Stanley K. Fitch
Date:	10/01/1969
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Amy Himsel
Date:	09/17/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026