



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	PSYC
Course Number:	119
Descriptive Title:	LGBTQ+ Psychology
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Psychology and Human Development
Course Disciplines:	Psychology
Catalog Description:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer plus related communities (LGBTQ+) Psychology is an introduction to psychological, social, and cultural aspects of sexual orientation and gender identity. Topics will include historical perspectives on sexual orientation and gender identity; basic research methods used to study gender and sexuality; and applied topics such as identity, relationships, mental and physical health, sexuality, and prejudice and discrimination. Emphasis will be placed on examining these topics from a psychological perspective.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Psychology C1000 or Psychology C1000H AND 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 2018
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 2018
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 identify and discuss psychological research methods and to evaluate research findings in the area of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer plus related communities (LGBTQ+) Psychology.
	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 discuss the major perspectives on gender and sexuality as they specifically pertain to LGBTQ+ communities and to evaluate the nature-nurture issue in context of these perspectives.
	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 apply the knowledge obtained from the topics of the LGBTQ+ community in relation to lifespan developmental issues, health, relationships, parenting/family, and prejudice and discrimination to their own real-life situations.
Course Objectives:	1. Define, identify, and discuss terms related to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer plus related communities (LGBTQ+) Psychology and use this understanding to explore diversity and intersectionality in LGBTQ+ communities. 2. Discuss historical, religious, biological, social, cross-cultural, and psychological perspectives on gender and sexuality as they specifically pertain to LGBTQ+ communities. 3. Evaluate the various "nature-oriented" and "nurture-oriented" perspectives on gender and sexuality as they specifically pertain to LGBTQ+ communities.

4. Define, identify, and discuss quantitative and qualitative research methods and evaluate research findings in the area of LGBTQ+ psychology.
5. Discuss the current understanding of sexuality and gender identity from a psychological perspective.
6. Describe and evaluate the various models of identity development for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.
7. Consider the various positive and negative consequences of the disclosure of one's sexual orientation and gender identity to family, friends, and others.
8. Discuss some of the most important issues that arise as LGBTQ+ individuals age.
9. Discuss the history of the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals in regard to their mental health and describe current psychological research on the mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals.
10. Consider issues specifically related to the physical health of LGBTQ+ individuals.
11. Consider issues specifically related to the sexual health of LGBTQ+ individuals.
12. Evaluate the psychological research on the romantic and sexual relationships of LGBTQ+ individuals and compare it to similar research on non-LGBTQ+ individuals.
13. Discuss some of the important issues that arise in LGBTQ+ individuals' relationships with their family members, friends, and others (e.g., classmates, work colleagues).
14. Evaluate the psychological research on LGBTQ+-led families and compare it to similar research on non-LGBTQ+-led families.
15. Examine the psychological research on prejudice and discrimination directed toward individuals in LGBTQ+ communities and discuss prejudice and discrimination within LGBTQ+ communities.
16. Apply the knowledge obtained from the topics of the LGBTQ+ community in relation to lifespan developmental issues, health, relationships, parenting/family, and prejudice and discrimination to one's own real-life situations.

Major Topics:	I. Introduction to LGBTQ+ Psychology (9 hours, lecture)
	A. Terms
	B. Diversity and Intersectionality in LGBTQ+ Communities
	C. Perspectives
	1. Historical
	2. Religious
	3. Biological
	4. Social
	5. Cross-Cultural
	6. Psychological
	7. Nature and Nurture
	II. Research Methods (6 hours, lecture)
	A. Psychological Research
	B. Research Methods for Sexuality and Gender Studies
	III. Lifespan Developmental Issues (6 hours, lecture)
	A. Sexuality and Gender Identity
	B. Identity Development
	C. Disclosure to Others
	D. Aging
	IV. Health (6 hours, lecture)
	A. Mental Health
	B. Physical Health
	C. Sexual Health
	V. Relationships (6 hours, lecture)
	A. Romantic and Sexual
	B. Family
	C. Peers/Friends

	D. Other Types of Relationships VI. Parenting/Family (6 hours, lecture) A. Paths to Parenthood for LGBTQ+ Individuals B. Comparing LGBTQ+-Headed Families with Heterosexual-Headed Families VII. Prejudice and Discrimination (6 hours, lecture) A. Social Psychological Research on Prejudice and Discrimination B. Prejudice and Discrimination Against LGBTQ+ People VIII. Personal Applications of LGBTQ+ Psychology (9 hours, lecture) A. Lifespan Developmental Issues B. Health Issues C. Relationship Issues D. Parenting/Family Issues E. Prejudice and Discrimination F. LGBTQ+ Allies
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:	Consider the lectures and readings on LGBTQ+ psychology this semester. In a 2-3 page typed paper, discuss three topics that you find particularly relevant to your own day-to-day life. For each topic, summarize the main points and then specifically describe how you can apply this knowledge to improving your own life situation and/or the life situations of others.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	We have studied various models of LGBTQ+ identity development. Now it is your turn to design your own model for one of these identity categories. In two, typed pages, do the following: Present a diagram of your model. Critique your model in relation to a model we studied: Describe one way that your model improves on the existing model. Describe one major weakness of your model in comparison to the existing model.

Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	What evidence is there that LGBTQ+-headed families are similar to heterosexual-headed families? What evidence is there that LGBTQ+-headed families are different from heterosexual, cisgender-headed families? Discuss these two categories of evidence in one, typed page. With this evidence in mind, evaluate this statement in 2-3 typed pages: "Children are most likely to be 'healthy' adults when they are reared by two, opposite-sexed, cisgender parents."
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	Internet Presentation/Resources
Work Outside of Class:	Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Richards, C. & Barker, M. J. The Palgrave Handbook of the Psychology of Sexuality and Gender. 1st ed. Springer, 2015. (Discipline Standard) Clarke, Ellis, Peel, and Riggs. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, and Queer Psychology. 3rd ed. Cambridge, 2025. Patterson and D'Augelli. Handbook of Psychology and Sexual Orientation. 1st ed. Oxford, 2013. (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	Articles and Internet sites
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:	Psychology C1000 or Psychology C1000H
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold	This course involves terminology taught in the general psychology course which will give students a better chance of success if taken prior to Psychology 119.

the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Students may benefit by understanding the common psychological perspectives used to understand behavior and mental processes as well as the common research methodologies used in psychology. PSYC C1000 - Identify early schools of thought in psychology and contrast them to contemporary subfields in psychology. PSYC C1000 - Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research. PSYC C1000 - Explain the basics of genetics and assess the combined influence of genes and environment on a variety of human characteristics. PSYC C1000 - Describe the forces that motivate human behavior, such as instincts, drives, and needs. PSYC C1000H - Identify early schools of thought in psychology and contrast them to contemporary subfields in psychology. PSYC C1000H - Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research. PSYC C1000H - Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research. PSYC C1000H - Describe the forces that motivate human behavior, such as instincts, drives, and needs.
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 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:	Angela Simon
Date:	08/12/2016
Original Board Approval Date:	06/19/2017
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Amy Himsel
Date:	09/19/2025

Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026