

SPECIALTY PSYCHOLOGY

MASTER'S PROGRAM „SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY”

Educational and qualification degree: MASTER

Professional qualification: MASTER'S DEGREE IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Duration of training: 2 years

Mode of study: FULL-TIME, Bulgarian and English languages

FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

QUALIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

1. General characteristics and educational objectives of the Master's program:

The Master's program „School Psychology” is designed for students who have obtained a „Bachelor's Degree“ from a professional field -other than Psychology-. Those students may enroll in the „School Psychology Master“ to acquire comprehensive and in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in school psychology.

The program is suitable for individuals oriented toward applying psychological knowledge in a school environment. The need for training highly qualified specialists in school psychology is determined by the ever-increasing public necessity for professional psychologists competent in prevention, psychological diagnosis, and support applicable to the school institution. The program aims to deepen, enrich and supplement theoretical training by providing knowledge and skills with a wide range of practical applicability. The training provides in-depth scientific-theoretical and specialized training in the specialty, mastering skills and capacity for scientific research and scientific applied learning activity, and forming personal qualities necessary for working in the conditions of the complicated and rapidly changing modern world.

2. Professional competencies and realization:

Graduates of the Master's program acquire personal and professional competencies for successful and productive practical work related to applying general psychological and specific principles, methods, and procedures for evaluation demonstration, diagnosis, prevention, and counselling, as well as conducting fundamental and applied psychological research.

Education in the Master's program develops students' learning competence - they will systematically and thoroughly evaluate their knowledge, identify the need for new knowledge, and possess a rich conceptual apparatus and abilities for conceptual and abstract thinking.

Students also develop communicative and social competencies related to the ability to clearly and comprehensibly formulate and present their reasoned conceptions, problem statements, and possible solutions to specialized and non-specialized audiences using various techniques and approaches.

Graduates with this Master's degree demonstrate professional competencies and skills for diagnosing gifted children and adolescents through their students. They acquire knowledge and skills for individual and group counselling of students with specific educational needs and students with problematic behaviour, of teachers and parents in case of disturbing interactions with students and their colleagues, competencies, and skills for consulting all the departments of the educational system.

The professional competencies that the graduates of the Master's program acquire grant them the opportunity for professional recognition in the various levels of the education system - primary schools, secondary general education schools, vocational high schools, and related institutions (such as centres for centres-social rehabilitation of children), children's pedagogical rooms, advisory, and counselling scientific units, private offices, as well as any organization that can utilize a school psychologist. The training creates opportunities and educational prerequisites to continue studying toward a degree.

3. Organization and structure of training:

The developed advanced syllabus is consistent with the latest trends in the academic training of specialists in school psychology. Both national and international experience in this field was considered during its preparation in order to be consistent with the accepted standards for the professional training of a Master's. Training lasts two years /four semesters/ for those who have graduated from the Master's College of Higher Education or another professional field. The Master's program has been compiled in such a way as to ensure coherence, consistency, and thematic connection between the devised study disciplines.

Curriculum for two years /four semesters/ :

The curriculum provides 120 ECTS credits spread evenly over four semesters. Students must attend and participate in 815 hours of lectures, 105 hours of seminars, and 300 hours of practical training.

The curriculum includes compulsory and optional disciplines. Compulsory disciplines provide in-depth scientific-theoretical and specialized training, while optional disciplines enrich knowledge, skills, and competencies obtained within the framework of the compulsory ones. During their studies, students must select six additional optional disciplines.

Students may choose -at their discretion- any discipline taught at the university, regardless of the faculty in which they are offered / in accordance with art. 2, para. 5 of the Ordinance on the state requirements for the acquisition of higher education, published in SG no. 76 /2002/. Total hours of the selected optional disciplines - up to 10% of the total Master's hours.

Students studying in the Master's program „School Psychology“ must also complete a mandatory educational placement in the form of a practical internship in the educational system. Students graduate either with a written state exam or by writing and defending a master's thesis. After successful completion of the exam / or successful defence of their Master's thesis, students acquire 15 ECTS.

4. Compliance with the mission of South-West University Neofit Rilski:

The implementation of the Master's program „School Psychology“ corresponds with the mission of the South-West University Neofit Rilski and the Faculty of Philosophy, their goals and strategies, and stems from the new dimensions of higher education in Bulgaria and the endeavour for the full inclusion of the country in international educational practices. The Master's program complies with the national and European standards and the requirements of the region in which South-West University Neofit Rilski.

The qualification characteristics of the specialty „School Psychology“ for the educational-qualification degree „Master“ (with the professional qualification „Master in School Psychology“), and the development of the curriculum and the study programs, is determined by and complies with the Law on Higher Education, the Classifier of Higher Education Areas and Professional Fields, the Ordinance on the State Requirements for the Acquisition of Higher Education at the Bachelor's, Master's, and Specialist Degrees (GG No. 76 of 6.08.2002), the National Classification of Positions and Professions, the Regulations for the Organization and Activities of the South-West University Neofit Rilski, the Regulations for Educational Activities, and the normative documents of the university.

CURRICULUM

First year			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Cognitive psychology	3	Psychopathology of Personality	3
Psyche and health	3	Differential psychology	3
Personality psychology	4	Organizational Psychology	3
Social Psychology	3	Occupational psychology	3
Developmental psychology	3	Counselling psychology	3
Pedagogical Psychology	3	Experimental psychology and psychological measurements	4
History of Psychology	3	Economic psychology	3
Optional discipline /first group/ Trainee Practice	5	Optional discipline /second group/ Trainee Practice	5
	30 total		30 total
Second year			
Third semester	ECTS credits	Fourth semester	ECTS credits
Psychologist's Professional activity at school	4	Psycho-diagnosis of children with special educational needs	2
Psychology of the teacher	3	Organization and conduction of psychological-and pedagogical experiment	2
Psychology of gifted children and adolescents	4	Psychological and Social problems in school	2
Psychology of pedagogical communication	4	Psychology of self-development at school age	2
Psychological measurements at school age	4	Optional disciplines /fourth group/ Trainee Practice	5
Optional disciplines /third group/ Optional disciplines /third group/ Trainee Practice	5	Preparation, elaboration and presentation of Diploma thesis	15
	30 total		30 total
Optional disciplines /first group/ <i>Students choose one discipline</i>	ECTS credits	Optional disciplines /second group/ <i>Students choose one discipline</i>	ECTS credits
Evolutionary Psychology	3	Diagnostic of Norm and Deviation	3
Psychology of Adult development	3	Professional psychodiagnostic	3
Social psychiatry	3	Political Psychology	3
Gender psychology	3	Psychology of Human Sexuality	3
Psychology of Advertising	3	Business Psychology	3
Psychology of stress	3	Psychotherapeutic techniques and counselling	3
Sports psychology	3	Fundamentals of Psychoanalysis	3
Psychology of the unconscious	3	Psychology of Family Relationships	3
Social-psychological training	3	Psychology of Creativity	3
Psychology of Art	3	Psychology of Fashion	3
Optional disciplines /third group/ <i>Students choose two disciplines</i>	ECTS credits	Optional disciplines /fourth group/ <i>Students choose two disciplines</i>	ECTS credits
Values in the Teacher's Work	3	Psychology of intercultural relations at school	2
Psychology of Self-image at school age	3	Pedagogical Sociology	2
Psychological Features of Learning in a Digital environment	3	Psychology of Conflicts at school	2
Classroom Management	3	Strategies for Assertive Behavior	2
Assessment and Strategies for Development of Teacher-Parent Relationships	3	Psychological Criteria for Verification and Assessment of Teacher's work	2

TOTAL FOR 2 ACADEMIC YEARS: 120 CREDITS

ANNOTATIONS OF COURSES

COMPULSORY COURSES

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical lectures guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The current curriculum is built according to several principles. The first principle is integrative. Proceeding from the idea of mental phenomena belonging to the whole personality and their interconnectedness, this principle is concretely reflected in the following aspects: only the specific features of each mental process are revealed, but its interactions with other processes are also outlined; the influence of personal characteristics on the functioning of mental processes is presented; both analytic and integral mental processes are considered.

The second principle for building the program is related to the versatility of scientific positions when analyzing mental phenomena. This guiding principle determined the following: characterization of psychological phenomena from the positions of different schools; analysis of a broader range of mental phenomena.

Content of the course:

The main goal of the Cognitive Psychology discipline is to reveal the essence of the cognitive processes through which people ensure contact with the continuous flow of information about the world and about themselves. In parallel, topics about emotional and volitional processes are also included, allowing for a more detailed examination of the content of cognitive processes and their relationship with the person's personality.

By studying the discipline, students will acquire abilities to reveal the specifics of the outlined processes, the connections between them, and their information capabilities.

The discipline also contributes to developing a wide range of intellectual and linguistic skills and theoretical knowledge formed in parallel with other essential disciplines of this subject. Particularly important are the connections with physiological psychology as well as with personality psychology. The subject connections of cognitive psychology with these two disciplines serve as a practical basis for developing students' specific analytical knowledge and skills.

Establishing the skills to express themselves with the conceptual apparatus of cognitive psychology in the academic discipline, their learning style, motives, and interests in the academic discipline is an essential factor in achieving the goals and tasks.

Depending on the indicated level of preliminary preparation, an update of the content, volume, and depth of the topics covered, as well as teaching methods, is foreseen.

Teaching and assessment method:

The current evaluation is a sum of the evaluations of the participation in classroom and out of classroom work during the semester.

Students are admitted to the final exam:

- ✓ have attended at least two-thirds of the lectures;
- ✓ they appeared for a test or control (with a grade of more than „poor“);
- ✓ have developed a Annotation: (example topics are attached at the end of the

program);

Those who do not meet these requirements:

- ✓ appear directly for a remedial exam;
- ✓ develop more exam questions;

Alternatively, they are given extra assignments within the semester to attend the regular first session.

The method of assessment is a written exam. It includes two questions from the outline. The grade is the average of the answers to the two exam questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment of ongoing control during the semester and the final exam assessment.

PSYCHE AND HEALTH

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: teodor@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline covers a series of topics substantiating the interaction between the psyche and health. In the modern world, many circumstances favour health, but there are not a few challenges to its preservation. It is increasingly realized that the psyche is the integrating, guiding force in the unity of man's systems and that the functioning of all others depends on its condition. At the same time, the psyche is most vulnerable in various life circumstances. Therefore, its preservation significantly determines the general state of health of the person. This calls for special attention to the relationship between the psyche and health. By studying the course, students will become familiar with the role of mental processes in protecting and restoring health. Also, they will form skills to establish healthy behavioural patterns.

Content of the course:

This discipline is based on a wide range of theoretical and practically proven positions. Information is provided on the basic concepts of the discipline „Psyche and Health“ / psyche, health, personality, mental processes, reflections, adaptation, habits, mutual relations and dependencies between psyche and health (mental, physical), conscious organization of psychophysical life and spontaneous (subject to circumstances), motives, values, etc. The overall process of interaction between psyche and health is clarified, as well as the role of mental processes and mental self-regulation in maintaining and strengthening health. Skills are formed to apply what has been learned in a real environment.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade of the discipline is formed at the end of the training course, based on the grade obtained on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: b_iordanova@swu.bg**Annotation:**

The Psychology of Personality course presents the major paradigms and the personality models based on them primarily from the perspective of theoretical frameworks allowing for competing interpretations and the implications they have for understanding psychological reality. Seminars and practical classes provide for the individual preparation of students on specific topics. Independent work in preparing presentations is encouraged - from selecting sources on the topic to how it will be presented. Practically-oriented forms of work are also foreseen - didactic familiarization with some popular methods of personality research, referencing and discussion of classic studies, as well as conducting illustrative mini-research assignments within the seminar and practical groups.

Content of the course:

This discipline investigates basic concepts and theories in personality psychology, such as personality dispositions, emotions, temperament, character, motivation, self-concept, stress, and stressful conditions. Basic constructs from personality psychology are commented on: basic directions in personality psychology, self-image, and self-esteem, attitudes, values, abilities, needs, emotional regulation, the role of heredity and the environment in personality formation, mental health and personality pathology, personality and health, social constructivism of norm and pathology. Personality is presented as a set of factors that determine each individual and representative of society, where thinking, feelings, and ways of behaving make each person unique.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Psychology of personality“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. The traditional lecture course includes group work, interactive learning methods, and multimedia. Discussions and scientific articles are commented on at the seminar classes.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**ECTS credits:** 4**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: natasha_v@swu.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The „Social Psychology“ discipline includes two content modules: 1) The process of socialization and social-psychological theories of personality; 2) Small social groups – social influence and interpersonal communication.

Content of the course:

The subject area of social psychology. Social-psychological issues in personality research. Small social groups - leadership and social influence. Communication, aggression, conflicts and prosocial behavior.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lecture course and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: teodor@swu.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The discipline „ Developmental Psychology“ considers the need to examine mental processes, states, properties and their age specifics from different scientific positions. This creates an opportunity to form broader concepts about the nature of mental phenomena.

At the beginning of the course, essential introductory questions are included. Their content is related to the subject of age psychology, its origin, development and the research methods it uses. The basic conceptual apparatus is specified. The development of the psyche is analyzed, tracking the dynamics of mental phenomena in terms of age. Questions related to the age periodization of development, as well as the factors for the formation of the psyche during the individual age periods and the characteristics of the personality, are considered. The most established age periodizations are also presented.

Content of the course:

The discipline „ Developmental Psychology“ provides general information about the regularities in age-related mental development during the early stages of the human life cycle. In the cognitive aspect, the following content modules are included: 1) historical-methodological problems of age psychology; 2) development issues; 3) ideological foundations of age periodization; 4) socio-psychological characteristics of the stages and age periods; 5) the problem of activity in age psychology.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PEDAGOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY**ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written

Email: teodor@swu.bg

Annotation:

Pedagogical psychology occupies an important place in the overall preparation of students, as it reveals essential regularities and psychological conditions for forming the personality of students. It is a border discipline between pedagogy and psychology, which scientifically sheds light on the problems of the educational process at school.

Through pedagogical psychology, students learn the psychological regularities of learning, the observance of which increases the effect of the educational process. They become familiar with the conditions for the best perception, thinking, fantasizing, memorizing, etc., for effective teaching in each subject and the harmonious development of the student's personality.

Pedagogical psychology indicates the forms of interaction of the various academic disciplines, which leads to the formation of qualities of thinking, will, emotions, temperament, and character to form an integral and harmonious personality. It foregrounds students' learning of self-awareness, self-regulation, self-evaluation, self-development, reflection, and self-concept. With this, contributes to a decisive change in the position of the teacher in the educational process - of impact with interaction, of education with self-education, and development with self-development.

Content of the course:

The discipline outlines pedagogical psychology's conceptual apparatus and the discussions around this issue. Students get an idea of the ongoing problems of pedagogical psychology and the psychological mechanisms of the assimilation of socio-historical experience by students and, on this basis, the regularities of the formation of their personalities. It contains information on the formation of qualities of thinking, will, emotions, and character, as well as on the formation of an integral and harmonious personality. Attention is given to the problems of self-awareness, self-regulation, self-evaluation, self-development, reflection, and self-concept of students.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Dr.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The study discipline „History of Psychology „ includes the following content modules: 1) Introductory problems of the history of psychology; 2) Studies and views on the mental until the individualization of psychology as an independent science; 3) Emergence and development of psychology as an independent science - major schools of thought in psychology.

Content of the course:

This discipline is optional. It deals with psychological concepts, ideas, concepts, theories and schools, which build in students the necessary knowledge about the emergence and development of psychology as a central element of modern science.

Teaching and assessment method:

Evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the process of training in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PRACTICAL TRAINING**ECTS credits:** 20**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I, II, III and IV**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: simona.nikolova@swu.bg**Hours:** 300**Type of exam:** exam**Annotation:**

Students in the Master's program undertake compulsory practical training in the first (I) semester. The purpose of the practical training is for the students to become familiar with the work of the school psychologist in a real professional environment; to familiarize themselves with the normative documents regulating the work of the school psychologist; To acquire knowledge and skills for conducting individual and group counselling with students; to familiarize themselves with the school psychologist's work within various external school institutions and units (Municipal Addiction Center, Regional Inspectorate of Education); to become familiar with the forms of accountability in the school psychologist's work. The workload is 75 academic hours practical exercises, 75 hours extra-curriculum activity and 5 credits.

Students of the master's program undergo a mandatory practical training in the second (II) semester. The purpose of the practical training is for the students to become familiar with the work of the school psychologist in a real professional environment; to get acquainted with the organizational activities of the school psychologist; to get acquainted with the formative activities of the school psychologist; to get acquainted with the types of work with parents; to get acquainted with the possibilities of arbitration in case of conflicts; work with the school culture on „Protection of Peace and protection of human rights“; to familiarize themselves with the mechanism for combating bullying and violence at school. The workload is 75 academic hours of practical exercises, 75 hours of extra-curricular activity and 5 credits.

Students in the Master's program undergo a mandatory practical internship in the third (III) semester. The purpose of the internship is for students to become familiar with the work of practising specialists in the Community Support Centres (CSC) with social services in the community, which aim to assist children and families at risk by providing comprehensive support to prevent abandonment, violence, school dropout and support for reintegration. The workload is 75 academic hours of practical exercises, 75 hours of extracurricular activities and 5 hours. credits.

Students in the Master's program undergo a mandatory practical internship in the third (IV) semester. The purpose of the internship is for students to become familiar with the work of practising specialists in a real professional environment and to be able to carry out activities under the guidance of a supervisor, consistent with the content of their training in the Master's program. The workload is 75 academic hours of practical exercises, 75 hours of extracurricular activities and 5 credits.

Content of the course:

Practical training is a valuable component of or addition to any educational programme. It will give students an insight into the world of work and an opportunity to compare theory with practice. For many students, an internship is also an avenue towards longer-term employment.

✓ The head of the practical training instructs the student-interns before starting the practical internship;

✓ He/she assigns the students (by order of the Rector), to institutions with which an institutional contract has been formed;

✓ Each student is obligated to certify the internship book with an inspector of the education department;

✓ The mentor prepares a program and schedule, which is agreed upon with the head of the practice;

✓ During the practical training, each student keeps a diary for the implementation of the practical tasks;

✓ The mentor takes into account the student's presence and engagement during the internship and finally sets an overall grade for the student's work;

✓ After completing the practical training, the student prepares a portfolio report, including a detailed description of the activities and practical tasks performed during the practical internship.

Teaching and assessment method:

Students who have successfully completed practical training at the relevant base institution are admitted to the exam. The final assessment includes the assessment by the mentor and the submitted portfolio report. It is formed after an interview with the practice supervisor, including the defence of the acquired knowledge and skills during the internship. At the end of the internship book, there are two survey cards: One for the student and one for the mentor, in which both enter their assessment and opinion about the practical internship and recommendations for its improvement.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Psychopathology of personality“ offers specialized training in the problems of personality and character disorders. They are defined as deep-seated and enduring patterns of behavior that manifest as inflexible responses to a wide range of personal and social situations because they reflect extreme or significant deviations from the way that an average individual in a culture perceives, thinks, feels, and communicates with others. Usually, the presence of a personality disorder or character accentuation is a frequent prerequisite for potentially deviant or criminal behavior.

Content of the course:

This academic discipline investigates psychological concepts, ideas, theories, and different schools of thought. It helps the students to acquire the necessary knowledge about the various aspects of deviant individual behavior and specific sets of standards and criteria consistent with individual and social norms of personality functioning in society. The discipline helps students to

acquire the knowledge and skills for working with specialized methods for diagnosing individual personality deviations and character accentuations.

Teaching and assessment method:

Evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the process of training in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

DIFFERENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b.iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Differential Psychology” provides a scholarly perspective that connects psychological theory to the assessment of individual differences in real-world situations. It presents the most important and emerging literature on personality, intellectual ability, cognitive style, and other individual differences such as creativity, emotional intelligence, professional interests, and economic behavior. Particular attention is given to the differences in mental status between large groups of people - differences between the sexes and the most diverse social groups in society.

Content of the course:

The discipline investigates basic concepts and theories in the field of individual differences. Methodological and theoretical approaches in differential psychology (the study of individual differences) are explored. The impact of these methods and theories is discussed with illustrative examples and real-world scenarios. The discipline introduces students to individual differences in the abilities of the individual; it explains his personality depending on heredity and the influences of his environment (upbringing, culture), hereditary characteristics (biological and genetic), and mental characteristics (intellect, abilities, character).

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Differential Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, interactive learning methods, and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.

The academic discipline is one semester, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are assessed for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b.iordanova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The discipline „Organizational Psychology“ offers specialized training in the problems of human behavior in a work and social environment. It has a practical focus and includes conducting actual research and practical exercises, thus preparing students to develop and apply the skills necessary for successful implementation in the real economic environment and human resource management. Emphasis is given to the interaction between organizations and the people who work in/or with them in order to increase their effectiveness. The points of contact of social and organizational psychology are brought out, emphasizing the social psychological processes in labour and civil organizations. Another distinctive feature of this discipline is the study and understanding of organizational processes from different perspectives - at the individual, group, and organizational levels.

Content of the course:

The discipline includes basic concepts and theories in the field of organizational psychology. The main topics and problems in the field of organizational psychology related to organizational structure and culture, leadership, and different approaches to its study and understanding, power, and influence are touched upon. Emphasis is also placed on group processes at the workplace - communication, teamwork, conflicts, the basic concepts, theories, and methods in organizational psychology, the essence, goals, and mechanisms for the functioning of the various units of an institutional nature, and the functional capabilities of the „organization“ and „the management“; to derive the conditionality between individual and group work behaviour.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Organizational Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and the assignment of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are assessed for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

OCCUPATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Nikolay Ivanchev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: nikyart@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Occupational Psychology“ studies the main properties of the mental structure and regulation of labour activity that are involved in solving all types of labour activity, as well as the processes of goal setting and motivation, creating an orientational basis, of designing action programs, of deciding on the methods of implementation and its control with the help of the relatively stable operational images leading to the implementation of the specific activity. Its subject is the processes of activation and cognitive automation, which change the mental regulation of labour activity and the study of the prevention of overfatigue, use, traumatism, and professional

deformations of the personality, increasing the meaningfulness of work, creating conditions for multifaceted personality development, deployment of abilities.

Content of the course:

The discipline's content covers theoretical knowledge and practical skills for distinguishing the functions and the relationships of conditioning between the cognitive, emotional, and conative mental processes, which are the basis of the labour behavior realized in the different activity situations. Furthermore, the discipline helps students to acquire knowledge and form psychological skills in themselves to reveal the interrelationship between cognitive mental processes and personal characteristics (such as temperament, character, anxiety, aggressiveness, etc.), which are the main internal determinants of mental regulation and self-regulation of personal and group work behaviour.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Occupational Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and the assignment of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are assessed for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Counselling psychology is a branch of applied psychology. The purpose of training in this subject is to theoretically and practically prepare specialists - psychologists to Assist individuals in the process of dealing with a problem that is significant to them. When stressors exceed (in terms of expression, significance, and duration) the individual's personal resources, social fitness, and protective behaviours, it not only becomes a trauma for the personality and a barrier to its development but can even cause disease disorders.

Content of the course:

The syllabus of the Discipline „Counseling Psychology“ separates the lectures into three main modules: Introduction, essence, and basic concepts; Methods -with the help of which- the goals and tasks of psychological counselling are achieved; most common areas of counselling.

Teaching and assessment method

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Experimental Psychology and Psychological Measurements“ includes the following content modules: 1) structure of experimental psychological research; 2) experimental designs; 3) the measurement process; constructing a psychological test; 4) one-dimensional and multidimensional scaling.

Content of the course:

The content of the Discipline aims to clarify the basic concepts related to experimental psychological research; to reach a clear understanding of the essence and features of the experiment as a research method, the conditions for its application, and the limitations in its use; to clarify the basic concepts of psychological measurement and assessment; to present the overall process of constructing a psychological test.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline of Experimental Psychology and Psychological Measurements takes place through lectures and assignments of students' extracurricular activity. Teaching in this discipline includes the use of interactive learning methods and multimedia. During the seminar classes, discussions are held, and scientific articles are commented on.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the student's written independent work, and a written exam.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

ECONOMIC PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: iv.krestev@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Economic Psychology“ was developed based on the interdisciplinary interaction between the scientific specialties of economics and psychology. Economic psychology offers a new approach to the analysis of economic phenomena. It also examines the social conditioning of economic phenomena, the role of economic institutions in society, and the influence of organizations and social networks on economic life. It is related to the study of the psychological mechanisms of economic behaviour and economic decision-making, the role of social communities in the economy, and group interactions in economic organizations.

Content of the course:

The lectures cover the peculiarities of economic behaviour at the individual level. The individual's motivational structure, character, abilities, work attitudes, and job satisfaction are revealed. The theories that reveal the psychological parameters of activity and professional suitability are examined, and the psychological mechanisms through which people's labour and market behaviour is influenced. The topics concern the psychological aspect of economic behaviour from the point of view of socio-psychological interactions and relations between individuals in social groups as subjects of economic activity. The discipline includes the study of the psychological parameters of consumer behaviour. An essential prerequisite for success in business activity is communication skills. In this aspect, the communication problems in business and some requirements and rules for conducting a business conversation are considered.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Economic Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. Discussions and scientific articles are commented on during the seminar classes.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

PSYCHOLOGIST'S PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

In this course, students are given basic guidelines for the activities of a psychologist in the educational system. The guidelines for the activity are oriented towards interaction with teachers, students of different educational levels and their parents.

Content of the course:

The course includes lectures and seminars and aims to familiarize students with the regulatory documents regulating the positions and professional commitments of the school psychologist and the specifics of his psychodiagnostic, psychoconsultative, psychoprophylactic and psychocorrective work.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of studying in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. The training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the educational material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment from current control during the semester and the assessment of the final exam. The final grade is the result of the grade from current control during the semester and the grade from the final exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF TEACHER

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiv, Dr.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Hours: 15 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Teacher psychology is vital in the overall preparation of Master's students. Essential regularities and psychological conditions for forming the teacher's personality are revealed. Psychological mechanisms for self-development and self-improvement are explored.

Content of the course:

The goals of the „Psychology of Teacher” discipline are: 1. To master the psychological regularities of the teacher's self-development; 2. The study of the teacher's psychology updates problems related to his interactive interaction with students and the need for their psychoprophylaxis; 3. The lectures and practical exercises are devoted to issues related not only to the assimilation of knowledge but also to the creation of skills for self-knowledge and self-development of the teacher's creative potential.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF GIFTED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg , simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The „Psychology of gifted children and adolescents” is vital in the overall preparation of Master's students. Essential regularities and psychological conditions for forming the talented personality of children and adolescents are revealed. The psychological mechanisms of self-knowledge in their training are investigated as a constructive condition for actualizing their creative potential.

Content of the course:

The discipline emphasizes the assimilation of the psychological regularities of self-knowledge in training, the observance of which increases the training effect. The lecture course and

practical exercises are devoted to issues related not only to acquiring knowledge but also to creating skills for self-knowledge and self-development of the creative potential of children and adolescents.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of studying in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. The training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the educational material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment from current control during the semester and the assessment of the final exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF PEDAGOGICAL COMMUNICATION

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: teodor@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Pedagogical communication is a specific type of human activity through which two main tasks are dealt with: exerting an influence on the development of the student's personality and creating conditions for the assimilation of knowledge.

Content of the course:

„Psychology of Pedagogical Communication” includes lectures and practical sessions for developing skills that provide opportunities for student understanding, building positive relationships, reading expressive signals, resolving conflicts, and organizing learning interactions.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS AT SCHOOL AGE

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course „**Psychological measurements at school age**” is studied during the third semester as a compulsory subject of the Master curriculum of School Psychology – non-specialists. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures, 15 academic hours practical exercises, 75 hours extra-curriculum activity and 4 credits.

Content of the course:

This subject includes the following modules of content: process of measurement and construction of a psychological test; applied aspects of psychological testing in school environment.

The goals of the subject “Psychological measurements at school age” are: the basic terms of the psychological measurement and assessment to be clarified; the whole process of construction of a psychological test to be presented; the skills to be formed for application of psychological tests in the sphere of education; the skills to be formed for conducting computer testing; the skills to be formed for presenting the results from a psychological study in the form of a scientific paper; the professional ethics requirements of the psychological activity to be known and applied.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. Practical exercises are held in laboratories.

The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

PSYCHO-DIAGNOSTICS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Desislava Drenska, MD, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: ddrenska@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The study discipline „Psycho-diagnosis of children with special educational needs“ examines the ongoing topic for the category of children and students with special educational needs (SEP), which also includes specific learning disabilities (SLD). Emphasis is placed on (1) the successive stages of psychological assessment and psychological counselling for children and students with SEN and (2) the etiological, clinical, social, and deontological aspects in the processes of their development and functioning in the conditions of integrated learning and inclusive education.

Content of the course:

Topics include basic and advanced knowledge of modern terminology, definitions, and classifications for children and students with SEN. The neurobiological and medical bases of the different types of disorders and disorders that make up the spectrum of SEN, the theoretical and

practical methods of screening and diagnosis, and the principles of the advisory process oriented toward the target groups (parents and teachers) concerning the expressed in various degrees of severity of difficulties in sensory, language, behavioural and social skills in children and students with SEN. Age-specific therapeutic approaches in the context of classic and innovative interventions and strategies are also presented.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Psychodiagnostics of children with specific educational needs“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. In practical classes, students work with test methods and implement laboratory experiments.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCTION OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIMENT

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course „**Organization and Conducting of Psychological and Pedagogical Experiment**“ is studied during the fourth semester as a compulsory subject of the Master curriculum of School Psychology – non-specialists. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures and 30 hours extra-curriculum activity and 2 credits.

Content of the course:

The course "Organization and Conducting of Psychological and Pedagogical Experiment" includes the following content modules: nature of psychological and pedagogical experiment, stages of psychological and pedagogical experiment, varieties of psychological and pedagogical experiment, experimental designs, report of psychological and pedagogical experiment.

The goals of the subject “ Organization and Conducting of Psychological and Pedagogical Experiment” are: achieving a clear understanding of the nature and importance of the psychological-pedagogical experiment, achieving a clear understanding of its varieties and types of experimental designs; mastering skills for organizing and conducting of psychological-pedagogical experiment, as well as presenting its results.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. Practical exercises are held in laboratories.

The students' extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Assessment of the students' results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written essay on the

content of the course, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Psycho-social issues at school are a vital ingredient in the overall preparation of the Master's students. Essential regularities and psychological conditions for competence in solving psycho-social problems are revealed.

Content of the course:

- Study of role stereotypes related to interactive interaction in training ;
- Psycho-social problems at school are studied;
- The lecture course and practical exercises are dedicated to issues related to acquiring knowledge and creating practical skills for solving psycho-social problems at school.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of studying in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. The training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the educational material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment from current control during the semester and the assessment of the final exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT AT SCHOOL AGE

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures + 10 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

In this discipline, students are getting basic training on a fundamental issue of secondary education, increasing students' activity in their education and development.

Content of the course:

The discipline aims in curricula advancement with content that facilitates the development of students' self-awareness and to defend the new strategy for self-education in secondary schools after its official introduction. The Master's students will learn to pursue and implement systematic and methodical courses of action in order to facilitate the formation of the will since it is an essential condition to include students in self-education. Furthermore, students will acquire skills for applying the scientific know-how of self-development in the school's educational work. Also, Master's students will understand the need for interaction with extracurricular factors in school in order to facilitate the role of the subject-student in his development as a person.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of studying in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system for transfer and accumulation of credits. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. The training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the educational material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment from current control during the semester and the assessment of the final exam.

ELECTIVE COURSES

EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Blagovesta Dafkova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: bl.dafkova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course in Evolutionary Psychology includes the following content modules:

- 1) Methodological issues;
- 2) Mental processes;
- 3) Mental actions.

Content of the course:

The aim of this course is to clarify fundamental questions related to the emergence, nature, and development of the psyche, to reveal the progressive evolution of mental processes, and to highlight the nature and specifics of various mental actions.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of students' achievements during the course is conducted in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The final grade is formed based on the evaluation of a written answer to a topic covered during lectures and the assessment of the student's independent (out-of-classroom) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF ADULT DEVELOPMENT

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Methodical guide:**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: teodor@swu.bg**Annotation:**

The discipline „Psychology of Adult Development“ covers topics dealing with the dynamics and changes of mental phenomena during different periods of adulthood. Their knowledge will contribute to the comprehensive knowledge of mental development throughout the life cycle. Information is provided on the factors leading to ageing and old age and the processes accompanying them. Personality development in terms of age is traced and conditioned by a multitude of individually specific and environmental circumstances. The interest in the psyche of the elderly is presupposed both by strictly scientific considerations and by humanitarian, social and demographic ones.

Content of the course:

The discipline „Psychology of adult development“ includes the content modules: 1) methodological issues; 2) peculiarities of mental processes, properties and structures; 3) psychological characteristics of age periods; 4) crises in development; 5) influence of social factors on adult development and 6) attitude to life.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY**ECTS credits:** 3**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** I**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assistt. Prof. Desislava Drenska, DM, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: ddrenska@swu.bg**Hours:** 30 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

This discipline is designed as a comprehensive overview of theory and research in social psychiatry. It aims to explain how our thoughts, feelings and behaviour are influenced by other people's real, imagined or implied presence. The discipline offers topics including issues related to recognising the needs of patients with mental and behavioural problems and performing professional duties in accordance with the principles of national health policies, prevailing legislation on mental health care and professional ethics.

Content of the course:

Adequate follow-up care for all patients, especially those who suffer from chronic relapsing mental illness. Measures for prevention and rehabilitation of patients with mental disorders. Educating patients and caregivers about the needs and consequences of psychiatric illness. Providing monitored clinical care to patients and following standard operating protocols. Fulfilling medico-legal and ethical responsibilities. Communicate effectively and consistently with patients,

caregivers, fellow professionals and the scientific community as a multidisciplinary team member and consultative liaison.

Teaching and assessment method:

The training in the optional discipline of Social Psychiatry is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one-semester, and for admission to the exam, individual activity during classes and the results of independent work are evaluated. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

GENDER PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline examines theories of social psychology through the lens of gender differences and concepts of gender. Topics include history and theoretical perspectives on gender, differentiation of social gender versus biological sex, gender similarities, conformity, stereotypes, social roles, masculinity, sexism, feminism, media influence, body image, xenophobia, beauty standards, cognition, emotions, and communication. The gender analysis framework will be introduced as a basic understanding, and tools for analyzing the gender gap in development issues will be introduced. Students are expected to have a broader knowledge of gender issues in different social settings and to be able to use theories and analysis tools to assess the impact of gender inequality.

Content of the course:

One of the goals of the discipline is to dispel myths and stereotypes about gender through a careful examination of psychological research. Specifically, this discipline will develop students' critical thinking skills by examining gender beliefs in popular culture and the popular press and contrasting them with psychological findings. The second aim is to examine the biological and cultural basis of gender, gender roles, masculinity/femininity, and stereotypes. Students are expected to be able to explain theories in psychology that interpret gender from different perspectives. In addition, students are expected to be able to apply the theories and perspectives of gender equality in everyday life and especially in the social and cultural context of Bulgaria.

Teaching and assessment method:

The training in the elective discipline „Gender Psychology“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF ADVERTISING

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 30 lectures

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: iv.krestev@swu.bg

Annotation:

The Psychology of Advertising discipline sheds light on the impact on consumer attitudes and behaviour towards offered goods and services. Businesses and corporations strive to transform consumers' thinking and preferences. To achieve this goal, special attention is given to the psychological influence, mechanisms, and models of the impact of advertisements on the psyche of the potential or actual consumer. The main task of the discipline is to reveal the mechanisms of advertising impact and consumer influence. Acquainting students with the main mental determinants of the behaviour of the economic entity provides an opportunity to develop effective advertising strategies.

Content of the course:

The discipline deals with the main mechanisms of advertising impact, the main approaches in developing an advertising strategy, and the methods of analyzing its effectiveness. By completing the discipline, students will become familiar with the research necessary for developing an advertising strategy and the main directions of advertising's impact. Verbal and non-verbal means of achieving advertising goals and creating an advertising image are discussed.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the elective discipline „Psychology of Advertising“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF STRESS

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 30 lectures

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Dr.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Annotation:

It is imperative to learn how mental processes, properties, and states of mind can positively or negatively affect health and their repercussions in people's lives. The knowledge acquired by the psychologist will allow him to be beneficial to society more purposefully and successfully. Tasks include:

- ✓ To clarify basic concepts and theories in the psychology of stress;
- ✓ To understand the nature and characteristics of stressogenic factors and concepts;
- ✓ To improve the student's skills in using research methods to assess and diagnose stressful conditions.

Content of the course:

The Psychology of Stress discipline includes the following content modules: Theories of stress, stressful factors and stressful conditions and professional stress.

Teaching and assessment method:

Students' activity in classes in that they participate, their ability to analyse and evaluate connections and dependencies between psyche and health, their ability to diagnose causes that led to health disorders, their ability to make appropriate recommendations of a psychological nature according to objective needs, to improve health, etc., will be assessed.

SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Nikolay Ivanchev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: nikyart@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Sports Psychology“ includes a detailed presentation of the psychological structure of sports activity and the age-specific features of physical culture.

The study discipline „Sports Psychology“ is a science that draws knowledge from the fields of kinesiology and psychology. It includes studying how psychological factors affect performance and how participation in sports and exercise affect psychological and physical factors. In addition to instruction and training in psychological skills to improve performance, applied sport psychology may include working with athletes, coaches, and parents regarding injury and rehabilitation, communication, team building, and career transitions.

Content of the course:

Basic concepts in sports psychology; The essence and features of sports psychology, the conditions for its application and its use; Both general and specific psychological characteristics of the sports activity; The causes, essence, and specificity of the phenomenological manifestations and the prognosis of the different forms of the sports activity; Basic knowledge regarding the technology of conducting a psychological diagnosis of sports activity, specialized competencies regarding the application of various psychological approaches to sports.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the optional discipline of Sports Psychology is carried out through lectures and the assignment of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE UNCONSCIOUS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Nikolay Ivanchev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: nikyart@swu.bg

Annotation:

„Psychology of the unconscious“ occupies an important place in the overall preparation of students. The essence of the accessible unconscious, the accessible unconscious with an intermediary and the inaccessible unconscious is revealed. The functions of the unconscious, the typology of the unconscious, and the interplay between the unconscious, preconscious, conscious, and self-conscious are developed within the context of a psychoanalytic paradigm.

The lectures are dedicated to issues related to the student's assimilation of knowledge and psychological competence.

Content of the course:

Topics that address the subject matter of the psychology of the unconscious are covered; nature and functions of the psychology of the unconscious; functions of the unconscious; unconscious feelings and affects; typology of the unconscious; preconscious - essence and levels; accessible unconscious; accessible unconsciously with an intermediary; inaccessible unconscious.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

SOCIAL - PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAINING

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Through the lectures, students will have the opportunity to rediscover -in a new way- their life knowledge about the nature of social groups and the interactions taking place in them. Through ongoing topics, students will get familiar with and understand the importance of the mental processes, qualities, and characteristics of each of the parties in social groups and the importance of psychological skills characterizing the relationships between individuals in the group.

In order for students to gain the necessary knowledge and form initial practical skills for leading groups, counselling, and group training, students are introduced to the most frequently used problem-solving techniques in the group counselling process.

Through the group process and using their professional knowledge and skills, students learn to support the individual in overcoming their mental and behavioural maladjustment and expanding their personal resources and problem-solving abilities.

The program theoretically and practically prepares students to support the individual in the process of dealing with a problem significant to him in cases where the stressors exceed the individual's personal coping resources.

Content of the course:

The program prepares students to acquire knowledge and form psychological skills in themselves, to reveal the relationship -on the one hand-, between the stated problem and the problem behind the request, and also personal aspects such as temperament, character, anxiety, aggressiveness, etc., which condition internally tension, that is reflected in maladaptive behavioural patterns and interpersonal conflicts, that further exacerbate the individual's emotional distress.

By studying this discipline, students will master the basic steps in the coping process by learning techniques for: listening to the request and understanding the problem behind the request; the creation of alternatives for solving it; the Assistance and support that the counselling psychologist gives to the individual precisely in the process of dealing with the problem and restoring the adaptive reactions; and counselling in the long term, enabling the individual to expand their effective personal strategies for dealing with problems, which in practice is the prevention of possible relapses.

At the end of the discipline, students will receive basic theoretical knowledge for leading a group process and have mastered active listening skills.

Teaching and assessment method:

Evaluation is the sum of the evaluations of the student's participation in classroom work and out of classroom work during the semester.

Students who

1. have attended at least two-thirds of the lectures;
2. they appeared for a test or control (with a grade of more than „poor“), and
3. have developed a Annotation: (example topics are attached at the end of the program), will be allowed to participate in the final exam

Those who do not meet these requirements:

1. will appear directly for a remedial exam;
2. develop more exam questions;
3. or they are given extra assignments within the semester to attend the regular first session.

The exam is written. It includes two questions from the outline. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment of ongoing control during the semester and the final exam assessment.

PSYCHOLOGY OF ART

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The „Psychology of Art“ discipline includes a detailed presentation of the psychological structure of artistic depiction and the age-specific features of pictorial activity. The discipline is a systematic presentation in historical terms of the main psychological concepts and discussions about the essence of art, styles in art, and aesthetic categories. The benefit of a psychological approach to artistic practice is demonstrated by presenting leading psychological interpretations of certain periods or styles in art, as in view of the academic context of which the discipline is a part, the emphasis is placed on fine art and individual characteristics of the personality.

The assessment of this discipline is by evaluating the students' answers to written questions at the end of the training course.

Content of the course:

Basic concepts in the psychology of art

Analysis of the artistic activity's general and specific psychological characteristics, the causes, the essence, and the specificity of the phenomenological manifestations. The prognosis of the different forms of creative activity and basic knowledge about the technology of psychological diagnosis of artistic activity.

Teaching and assessment method:

The training in the elective discipline „Psychology of Art“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

DIAGNOSTICS OF NORM AND DEVIATION

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Gergana Stanoeva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: gerystanoeva@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The Diagnostics of Norm and Deviance discipline introduces the changing nature of what is considered deviant behaviour. The „changing nature“ of the psychosocial norm suggests that deviance is not some objective reality that exists in the same form across time and cultures but instead is a social construct that actually fluctuates with some frequency. This discipline answers the following questions: „What is the norm?“ „Why do certain people 'escape' the category of the norm?“ and „What should be done to control deviance?“ from psychological, socio-historical, and statistical perspectives. In other words, the discipline answers these questions by breaking through various scientific positions (psychology, psychopathology, statistics, legal framework, and professional ethics).

Content of the course:

People in different societies and historical eras define the norm and deviance in specific ways, making it difficult for scientists to isolate behaviours that -everyone would agree- deserve the label „deviant behaviour or condition.“ However, every society has had individuals or groups of individuals who, for whatever reason, have decided to regard certain states, reactions, and behaviours as abnormal, clinical, pathological, accentuated, or generally deviant from the societal norm. The discipline seeks to introduce students to the establishment of the norm (psychological and statistical), to answer how to diagnose deviation and how to prevent and control it.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline „Diagnostics of norm and deviation“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia. Discussions and scientific articles are commented on during the seminar classes.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

PROFESSIONAL PSYCHODIAGNOSTIC

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course “**Professional Psychodiagnostics**” is studied during the sixth semester as an optional subject of the bachelor curriculum of Psychology. The workload is 30 academic hours lectures, 60 hours extra-curriculum activity and 3 credits.

Content of the course:

The course in “**Professional Psychodiagnostics**” includes the following modules of content:

1) subject and historical development of professional psychodiagnostics; 2) profession, job, career, competence and competences; 3) career guidance and career counselling; 4) vocational selection.

The goals of the course “**Professional Psychodiagnostics**” are: to be known the difference between profession, job, and career; to be known the types of competences; to be clarified the methods of psychological diagnostics of professional suitability of candidates for different occupations; to be formed skills for professional guidance, professional counselling and professional selection; to be formed skills for preparation of professiograms.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, etc. Interactive methods are also used.

The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Iva Dimitrova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: idimitrova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of the exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline's main scientific and research objective is to trace the genesis of the formation of the principles, political practices, and legitimacy of democracy over the centuries. The political sociology of modern societies is analyzed. The main emphasis is on the formation and functioning of the modern Bulgarian democracy during the years of the sovereign life of the state. Attempts to establish the Bulgarian civil society are also analyzed.

Content of the course:

The lecture course examines and debates national doctrines in building the foundations of modern democracy. How the modern principles of political science are permanently established in society is analyzed. A fundamental element of the training is the country's constitution regarding the formation and functioning of political systems.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc.Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline aims to expand students' understanding of the diverse nature and structure of human sexuality, sexual dysfunctions, identity, and culture, focusing on biological, psychological, and social factors. It approaches this topic from a multidimensional perspective because sexuality is a significant drive and plays a central role in our intimate behaviour and interpersonal interactions. In this discipline, students will be introduced to the broad spectrum of human sexuality and topics such as the development of sexual behaviour and its changes across the lifespan, historical and contemporary views of the psychology of sex, the role of sexuality in everyday life, interactions between individuals and attitudes related to sexual preferences, etc. Students will learn how psychologists study human sexuality and how theories and public attitudes about sexuality and human sexual behaviour develop.

Content of the course:

Introduction to the subject; emergence and development of sexuality; mental and psychological sex; features of child-adolescent sexuality; characteristics of sexuality in adulthood; sexuality in involuntarily and old age; psychopathology of sexuality and types of sexual disorders; quantitative and qualitative sexual dysfunctions; personal characteristics for the occurrence of sexual dysfunctions; sexuality education and upbringing.

Teaching and assessment method:

Training in the discipline is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Krastev, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: iv.krestev@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Business Psychology“ aims to familiarise students with the areas of application of business psychology, with the psychological aspects in the various spheres of business relations, advertising, business communication, business motivation, etc.

Content of the course:

It studies the peculiarities of the personality of the manager and the entrepreneur as organizers and innovators in economic activity. In addition, business psychology deals with the regularities and practical guidelines of business negotiations with business partners, emphasizing various training with a particular psychological focus.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES AND COUNSELING

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Iva Koprinkova-Ilieva, PhD; Department of Psychology

E-mail: ivakoprinkova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The academic discipline “Psychotherapeutic Techniques and Counseling” is a branch of applied psychology. The goal of the course is for students to:

1. Acquire knowledge of the main types of psychotherapeutic techniques – their essence, similarities and differences, as well as their areas of application;
2. Understand the main stages involved in every therapeutic process and develop skills for the practical application of psychotherapeutic methods in general, and of specific therapies in particular, in modern society.

Content of the course:

The theoretical nature of the course “Psychotherapeutic Techniques and Counseling” requires the lecture material to be organized into the following main modules:

1. Fundamental aspects of the therapeutic process;
2. Coping techniques;
3. Application of the psychotherapeutic method in contemporary society.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved in the training process is consistent with the system for accumulation and transfer of credits. The continuous assessment, required for admission to the final exam, includes attendance at least two-thirds of the lectures, participation in discussions and role-playing exercises (in-class activities), as well as the completion of practical tasks such as case analyses, preparation and presentation of coursework – written assignments (in-class and extracurricular activities).

Students who do not meet the specific requirements must take a remedial exam directly and develop more questions on the exam. Additional assignments may be given during the semester to allow students to participate in the regular exam session. The exam is written and includes questions from the syllabus. The final grade in the course is based on the sum of the continuous assessment and the final exam grade.

FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Dr.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The ongoing Fundamentals of Psychoanalysis program aims to introduce students to the most general problems of psychoanalysis; Oedipus complex; defence mechanisms; forms of manifestation of the unconscious.

Content of the course:

Drug addiction problems are generally affected by the specificity of individual drugs, their manifestation, and their effects on the body and psyche. The terminological apparatus includes concepts such as unconscious, sublimation, symptoms, defence mechanisms, drives, morality, signs, symbols, archetypes, complexes, etc.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Methodical guide:**Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Natasha Angelova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: natasha_v@swu.bg

Annotation:

The study discipline „Psychology of family relationships“ covers the problems of the emergence and establishment of the family as a social unit. As an object of scientific research, study and substantive analysis of the academic discipline are the place, meaning, and functions of the individuals (elements) in the family, tracked in an onto- and phylogenetic plan.

Content of the course:

Through this discipline, students have the opportunity to rediscover -in a new way- their life knowledge about the essence of the family and the family interactions that take place in it. Through ongoing topics and life situations, students are introduced to and get familiar with the importance of the mental processes, qualities, and peculiarities of each of the parties in the „family“ system; on the importance of psychological skills characterizing the relationships between:

- spouses, seen as persons of different gender and age;
- between the man and the woman from the position of parents;
- between parents and their children;
- between the children themselves, taking into account their gender and place in the

family in the order of their birth.

At the end of the course, students will not only receive the necessary theoretical knowledge about interpersonal relationships in the family but will also have formed enough habits and skills to work with various test questionnaires for psychological research on marriage satisfaction, the attitude of parents towards children and family relations, sexual satisfaction as a factor for effective interpersonal relations, etc.

Through relevant topics and exercises specially organized for the purpose, students will be able to acquire knowledge and form psychological skills in themselves, to reveal the interrelationship between mental processes and temperament, character, anxiety, aggressiveness, and other personal characteristics, which are essential internal determinants of mental regulation and self-regulation of personal behaviour and family relations in general.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the discipline is formed by the sum of the evaluations of the participation in classroom work and out of classroom work during the semester.

Students who

- have attended at least two-thirds of the lectures;
- they appeared for a test or control (with a grade of more than „poor“), and
- have developed a Annotation: (example topics are attached at the end of the

program), will be allowed to participate in the final exam.

Those who do not meet these requirements:

- will appear directly for a remedial exam;
- develop more exam questions;
- or they are given extra assignments within the semester to attend the regular first

session.

The exam is written. It includes two questions from the outline. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the assessment of ongoing control during the semester and the final exam assessment.

PSYCHOLOGY OF CREATIVITY

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 30 lectures

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b.iordanova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The Psychology of Creativity discipline covers basic knowledge of the psychological constructs and theories underlying creativity as a special field of psychology emerging in the 21st century. The topics examine creative activity: 1) in terms of abilities, qualities, traits, attitudes, motivations, emotions, cognitive styles, and structures that belong to the subjective world and 2) in the space of the personality's relationship with the sociocultural context. This expanded understanding of creativity opens up possibilities for making sense of creativity in a much broader context in which the individual dimension is only one of the possible ones. The understanding of creativity is based on a systemic approach that overcomes the attempt to confine creativity to the boundary of the individual.

Content of the course:

Students learn to interpret creativity as necessary for life in modern society, the main characteristic of which is change, because through creativity, individuals are able to perform adequate actions when the surrounding world changes and when problems arise. Moreover, creativity allows one not only to react flexibly but also to turn the personality into an active generator of changes (for practical needs or for pleasure) - a quality inherent only to man. The effective function of creativity is to transform the world through it, and in it the person's development also takes place. Creative manifestations may not lead to a new and socially significant product in the absolute sense of the word. However, they are important for developing personality because they develop the prerequisites for creativity in solving problems in everyday life and work and for innovation in science and art.

Teaching and assessment method:

The training in the elective discipline „Psychology of creativity“ is carried out through lectures and assignments of independent extracurricular projects. Teaching in this discipline is traditional and includes group work, the use of interactive learning methods, and multimedia.

The academic discipline is one semester long, and individual activity during classes and independent work results are evaluated for admission to the exam. The final grade for the discipline is formed by the grades from the independent work, the student's written work, and a written exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF FASHION

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 30 lectures

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The discipline " Psychology of Fashion " provides knowledge reflecting various areas of cognitive psychology. It includes explanations of the perception of the fashion process in the context of psycho-social terms of the historical and contemporary dimensions of fashion trends. The

course contributes to familiarization with the psychological aspects of fashion such as non-verbal communication and symbolic interaction.

Content of the course:

Through the lecture course, students have the opportunity to become familiar with the basic concepts, theories, tasks and methods of fashion psychology; to acquire theoretical knowledge and skills for recognizing emotions, group affiliation, culture, and identity; to acquire knowledge and form skills for revealing the relationship, on the one hand, between cognitive and emotional mental processes, on the other - between them and society, updated in the fashion trend; to acquire knowledge about the cognitive and socio-psychological aspects of decision-making in the search for fashion products; to master the movement of changes in the fashion environment and the factors that drive these changes; to expand theoretical knowledge and discover the impact of fashion on society; to build skills for analysis and synthesis of the main characteristics determining trends in fashion; studying the uniqueness and specificity of the psychology of fashion.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of learning in the various disciplines is carried out according to the transfer and accumulation of credits system. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. Training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the course material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic average of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the grade from the ongoing control during the semester and the grade from the final exam.

VALUES IN THE TEACHER'S WORK

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 15 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline aims at the identification of values related to the organization and implementation of training, as well as values that ensure, together with training, the cultivation of virtues in students.

Students will acquire skills for forming the students' value system. They will realize that student learning and the teacher's pedagogical activity are based on the principles of tolerance and humanity and that the stimulation of interest in learning, through various types of behaviour on the part of the behaviour, contributes to the development and self-development of the student's personality.

Content of the course:

Topics include introducing students to basic techniques for pedagogical influence and highlighting the role of professional development. The teacher's profession requires a person not only to have in-depth knowledge of the content and teaching methodology of the subject but also to have a number of professionally significant qualities. In this sense, the discipline introduces students to the importance of personal example in the educational process, where the ethics of communication is a set of moral norms, rules, and ideas regulating the behaviour and attitudes of people in the process of their professional activity.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF SELF-IMAGE AT SCHOOL AGE

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Hadjieva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: cveti_hadjieva@swu.bg

Hours: 15 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Development of skills for the public presentation of the results of one's psychological research; Development of skills for conducting computer and hardware testing.

Content of the course:

Objectives of the discipline „Psychology of self-image at school age“: Differentiation of theoretical considerations regarding the relation „personality-self-image; Clarifying the concepts involved in the content of the self-image problem; Formation of initial skills for using and applying psychological tests in the main applied spheres of pedagogical practice.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF LEARNING IN A DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b_iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 15 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline introduces students to the theory and practice of e-learning, its design, implementation, and evaluation of its results. The discipline's purpose is to develop knowledge and skills to ensure a quality learning experience and specialized training on the problems of learning and teaching in a remote or electronic environment. Given the rapidly changing need for new knowledge -and its direction-as, well as the special role of information and its knowledge for the change of human thinking and the development of the personality, learning in an electronic

environment can rightly be indicated as one of the most successful forms for informing learners. That is because, in modern conditions, the dominant models of passive transfer of information in conventional practices in education are constantly changing, which contrasts with the interactive and constructive nature of e-learning.

Content of the course:

Nature and specificity of electronic distance learning in relation to traditional face-to-face learning; Theories and paradigms for the design of e-distance learning; Components, stages, approaches, and models for practical implementation of online learning; Tools in the e-learning environment and how they support online teaching and learning; Assessing the progress and achievements of students taught in an electronic environment; Measuring the quality of electronic distance learning.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Bilyana Yordanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: b.iordanova@swu.bg

Hours: 15 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

This discipline analyses strategies for improving the organizational behaviour of management personnel in schools based on certain regularities in the functioning of small groups: group cohesion, conformity, leadership, features of communication, and attractiveness of leaders. Strategies for managing school stress are also analyzed. Students become familiar with the essence of culture in the school organization. The topics are united around significant issues for the management staff related to the specifics of the culture in the school organization, cultural differences, and the role of the leader in changing the culture according to the mission of the school organization.

Content of the course:

Planning, organising and controlling the processes in the class in order to create and maintain a comfortable working environment (the classroom) and carrying out effective training; techniques for forming and maintaining conditions supporting effective learning within a learning community; the process of motivating students for active participation in educational activities; establishing order and engagement of students, ensuring their cooperation; organisational and procedural measures to control the activities in the school class; providing feedback for more effective management of student activities.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study

based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT TEACHER-PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

ECTS credits: 3

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief. Assist. Prof. Simona Nikolova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: simona.nikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 15 lectures + 15 seminars

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline „Assessment and Strategies for the Development of Teacher-Parent Relationships” focuses on the role of the family in social structures and relationships that influence the educational interactions between parents and children, as well as the interaction between parents and educational institutions. In communication with parents, the values and norms defining the school's organizational culture as an institution are projected.

Content of the course:

The curriculum focuses on:

- Optimising the teacher-parent relationship;
- Patterns of relationships between teachers and parents;
- Proactive strategies to involve parents as partners;
- Practical guidelines for building partnership communication with parents;
- Attracting and involving parents in real action and teamwork;
- Strategies for resolving teacher-parent conflict situations.

Teaching and assessment method:

The assessment of the results achieved by students in the process of learning in various subjects is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. Current control includes attendance at lectures, participation in discussions, preparation of presentations, solving tasks, tests, control and coursework. The training in the discipline ends with a written exam on the course material according to the syllabus. The grade is the arithmetic mean of the answers to the two questions. The final grade is the result of the grade from current control during the semester and the grade from the final exam.

PSYCHOLOGY OF INTERCULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Stanislava Stoyanova, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: avka@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The subject „**Psychology of intercultural relationships at school** ” is studied during the fourth semester as an optional subject of the Master curriculum of School Psychology – nonspecialists. The workload is 20 academic hours lectures and 40 hours extra-curriculum activity and 2 credits.

Content of the course:

The course in “**Psychology of intercultural relationships at school**” includes the following modules of content: multiculturalism and values; ethnic identity, stereotypes, attitudes, distances, experiences from interethnic contacts; friendships, conflicts and violence in school environment.

The goals of the subject “**Psychology of intercultural relationships at school**” are: understanding of valuable parameters of intercultural communication at school, maintenance of friendly relationships in multicultural environment; improvement of skills for prevention from racial violence and conflicts; study of ethnic stereotypes, attitudes, distances, and experiences from interethnic contacts.

Teaching and assessment method:

The lectures are held by means of the use of contemporary technical equipment as multimedia, software, models, and interactive methods. Practical exercises are held in laboratories.

The students’ extra-curriculum activity represents preparation and presentation of a scientific research; conducting psychological studies; testing; summarizing of articles and book chapters; essays on topics related to personal experiences and observations; analysis of cases; adaptation of a test.

Assessment of the students’ results is done accordingly to the ECTS. The final grade for the course is formed at the end of the course on the basis of the assessment of a written test on some topics from the course content, as well as on the basis of the assessment of the student's independent (extra-curricular) work.

Final grade calculation is done by using a 6-point rating scale: the rating 6 equals level A on ECTS; the rating 5 equals level B on ECTS; the rating 4 equals level C on ECTS; the rating 3 equals level D on ECTS; the rating 2 equals level E on ECTS.

PEDAGOGICAL SOCIOLOGY

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Prof. Valentina Milenkova, D.Sc., Department of Sociology

Email: vmilenkova@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Various studies are also presented, referring to the processes that take place in educational institutions. An essential aspect of this discipline is the explication of sociological research, implying a deep penetration of the tools used, which allows clarification of the researchers' theoretical ideas and goals and the ways of reaching them.

Content of the course:

Training in the discipline includes the study of basic concepts, theories, and views in the field of pedagogical sociology. It acquaints students with the historical development of educational institutions, especially the university - as a form of spiritual life. It also presents modern trends in the development of higher education in European countries and the USA. Special attention is given to developing a „common European university area.”

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PSYCHOLOGY OF CONFLICTS AT SCHOOL

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Chief. Assistt. Emelina Zaimova- Tsavneva, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Email: emelina_z@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The study discipline:

- clarification of basic concepts in school conflicts;
- introducing students to scientific approaches to uncovering the content of conflicts

and their participants.

Content of the course:

- introducing students to the main types of conflicts and conflict situations in the pedagogical system;
- disclosure of the content of the so-called pedagogical conflicts;
- building skills in students to intervene in conflict situations at school and the opportunities to influence their resolution.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

STRATEGIES FOR ASSERTIVE BEHAVIOR

ECTS credits: 2

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Psychology

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Stoil Mavrodiev, Dr.Sc., Department of Psychology

Email: stoil_m@swu.bg

Hours: 20 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The „Strategies for Assertive Behavior“ discipline attempts to find alternative solutions to overcome the confrontational behavior of students and support and reinforce the appropriate behavior.

Content of the course:

This discipline is oriented towards two conceptual frameworks - social-personal aspects of behavior and pragmatics of communication skills. In the practical classes, cognitive-behavioral interventions are advocated to influence students' behavior.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR VERIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF
TEACHER'S WORK****ECTS credits:** 2**Assessment:** exam**Semester:** IV**Methodical guide:****Department of Psychology**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Teodor Gergov, Ph.D., Department of PsychologyEmail: teodor@swu.bg**Hours:** 20 lectures**Type of exam:** written**Annotation:**

The curriculum focuses on the following:

- Revealing the need to choose criteria by which to check and evaluate the pedagogical activity;
- Clarification of the essence of the pedagogical style - an object of verification and assessment;
- Justification of the role of emotional responsiveness and pedagogical tact in pedagogical activity;
- The persons carrying out pedagogical activities must possess certain business and moral qualities.

Content of the course:

The educational discipline „Psychological criteria for verification and assessment of teacher's work” is aimed at making the students understand the criteria by which they can carry out their pedagogical activity and check the merits of the teacher's work.

Teaching and assessment method:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits. The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic that has been studied during the lectures and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.