**Learning Outcomes for BAA Psychology 11**

**Course Overview:**

# **Unit 1. Introduction and Research Methods**

*Introduction and Research Methods* defines the science of psychology, describes its history, identifies the methods for examining behavior and mental processes, and reviews scientific careers available in the discipline.

# Learning Outcomes

After concluding this unit, it is expected students will understand:

1. Contemporary perspectives used by psychologists to understand behavior and mental processes in context

1. Major sub fields and career opportunities that comprise psychology
2. Research strategies used by psychologists to explore behavior and mental processes
3. Purpose and basic concepts of statistics
4. Ethical issues in research with human and other animals that are important to psychologists
5. Development of psychology as an empirical science

## **Unit 2. Biological Bases of Behaviour**

*Biological Bases of Behavior* addresses how the brain processes information and how the body adapts to the demands of its environment.

Learning Outcomes

After concluding this unit, it is expected students will understand:

1. Structure and function of the neuron
2. Organization of the nervous system
3. Hierarchical organization of the structure and function of the brain
4. Technologies and clinical methods for studying the brain
5. Specialized functions of the brain’s hemispheres
6. Structure and function of the endocrine system

7. How heredity interacts with the environment to influence behavior
8. How psychological mechanisms are influenced by evolution

# **Unit 3. Memory**

*Memory* addresses how we remember as well as how we can improve memory.

Learning Outcomes

After concluding this unit, it is expected students will understand:

1. Encoding, or getting information into memory
2. Short-term and long-term memory systems
3. Retrieval, or getting information out of memory
4. Biological bases of memory
5. Methods for improving memory

Unit 4. Lifespan Development

*Lifespan Development* examines how nature and nurture influence our development from conception until death.

# Learning Outcomes

After concluding this unit, it is expected students will understand:

1. Development as a lifelong process
2. Research techniques used to gather data on the developmental process
3. Stage theories of development
4. Issues surrounding the developmental process (nature/nurture, continuity/discontinuity, stability/instability, critical periods)
5. Impact of technology on aspects of the lifespan

# **Unit 5. Psychological Disorders and/or Social and Cultural Dimensions of Behavior**

*Psychological Disorders* investigates patterns of behavior that are considered deviant or distressful in our culture and includes how psychologists diagnose these patterns.

Learning Outcomes

After concluding this unit, it is expected students will understand:

1. Characteristics and origins of abnormal behavior
2. Methods used in exploring abnormal behavior
3. Major categories of abnormal behavior
4. Impact of mental disorders

*Social and Cultural Dimensions of Behavior* explores how we perceive the social world and how we behave in relation to other people. This unit also explores how social and cultural contexts influence behavior.

Learning Outcomes

After concluding this unit, it is expected students will understand:

1. Social judgment and attitudes
2. Social and cultural categories
3. Group processes and social influence