(PSY1B01) BASIC THEMES IN PSYCHOLOGY

Module 1 Introduction **16 hours**

Psychology: A working definition.
Origin of Psychology: Philosophical origins; Early Indian and Greek thoughts, major ideas of Descartes, Locke. Biological origins; Darwin, Genetics. Brief history of modern scientific psychology: structuralism, functionalism, behavioral, psychoanalytic, humanistic, cognitive perspectives, Gestalt psychology. Branches of Psychology, Scope of Psychology.
Methods of psychology: Observation-participant and non-participant observation, naturalistic observation; Interview methods-structured, semi structured and unstructured interviews; Surveys; case study; Questionnaires; Correlational studies; experimental method.

Module 2 Attention and Perception **16 hours**

Attention: selective and sustained attention; Factors affecting attention; Phenomena associated with attention-span of attention, division of attention, distraction of attention.
Sensation and perception: Difference between sensation and perception: sensory threshold; absolute threshold; difference threshold; just noticeable differences; subliminal perception.
Perceiving forms, patterns and objects: perceptual set, feature analysis, bottom-up processing, top- down processing.
Perceptual organization; Gestalt principles, figure and ground segregation, phi phenomenon. Perceptual constancies: size, shape, brightness constancies. Visual illusions; Theories of colour vision; Theories of auditory perception.

Module 3 States of Consciousness **14 hours**

Nature of consciousness; Biological rhythms: circadian rhythms; Sleep and waking cycle: stages of sleep; functions of sleep; functions of REM sleep; sleep disorders Dreams: psychodynamic, physiological and cognitive views. Altered states of consciousness: Hypnosis; Meditation. Altering consciousness with drugs- Brief outline on psychoactive drugs.

Module 4 Learning **18 hours**

Concept of learning, Nature of learning, learning curve. Types of Learning; Associative learning (Classical and operant conditioning) and Cognitive learning.
Classical conditioning: Basic experiment and basic terms; Principles of Classical conditioning- Acquisition, Higher order conditioning, Extinction, spontaneous recovery, Generalization and Discrimination. Applications of classical conditioning.
Operant conditioning; Law of effect; Basic experiment of Skinner; Reinforcement, Punishment, Shaping and Chaining; Schedules of reinforcement. Applications of operant conditioning.
Cognitive learning: Cognitive map; latent learning; signlearning. Observational learning/Modelling.