Applied Learning (Senior Secondary Level)

2016-18 Cohort

Learning and Teaching

Subject Title : **Practical Psychology**
Area of Studies : **Applied Science**
Course Provider : **School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University**

In Practical Psychology, student-centred learning and teaching activities are designed to enable students to understand fundamental theories and concepts, develop their generic skills, and address their career aspirations in practical psychology.

Different modes of activities are employed to provide students with a systematic understanding about the context (e.g. lectures with demonstration to grasp the overview of the psychology perspectives and services) and eye-opening opportunities to experience the complexity of the context (e.g. site visits to psychology laboratories such as children observation room, counsell room, psychology test laboratory and brain wave test laboratory).

Students acquire an understanding of the requirements, fundamental knowledge and skills essential for further learning within the area through learning-by-practising opportunities in an authentic or near-authentic environment (e.g. hands-on activities in producing a psychological well-being leaflet, analysing the findings of various interesting psychological tests and questionnaires and visiting a psychological service organisation for children, adolescence, adults or older adults).

Students are also encouraged to develop and apply conceptual, practical and reflective skills to demonstrate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. case study in abnormal psychology to understand different types of common psychological disorders, their causes, diagnosis, impact and treatment in Hong Kong). Students are given opportunities to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired and consolidate their learning (e.g. students increase self-understanding through assessment and analysis of various personality and career tests).

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Curriculum Pillars of Applied Learning in Context – Practical Psychology

Upon completion of the subject, students should be able to:
- identify the people contributing to development of psychology fields;
- discuss the major disciplines and services in psychology;
- explain how major psychological concepts can be applied in various career;
- analyse and evaluate human thoughts, behaviour and emotions from a psychological perspective;
- apply psychological concepts in understanding self and building up personal character; and
- develop self-understanding for further studies and career development in the related field.

Through the specific contexts related to the subject, students have different learning opportunities, for example:

1. **Career-related Competencies**
   - apply psychological concepts and knowledge to everyday life and workplace settings;
   - demonstrate effective communication skills, decision making, presentation skills and interpersonal skills in the workplace;
   - apply critical thinking skills in their studies, work and everyday lives; and
   - be interested and self-motivated to further their studies and develop their career in psychology.

2. **Foundation Skills**
   - demonstrate effective communication skills through class participation in role play, discussion, project presentation and case sharing;
   - apply numeracy skills to analyse and interpret the data from a psychological research; and
   - apply information technology skills in conducting the research and collecting information for psychology project presentation.

3. **Thinking Skills**
   - apply problem-solving and decision-making skills in solving psychological problems;
   - apply critical thinking skills in explaining human behavior; and
   - analyse contemporary issues in Hong Kong using broad-based psychological knowledge independently, critically and creatively.

4. **People Skills**
- illustrate self-reflection skills in developing the personality portfolio and essay writing;
- demonstrate self-management skills in assessment activities and hands-on practices in group project presentation; and
- employ good interpersonal, collaborative and team building skills to accomplish a group project.

5. **Values & Attitudes**
- identify the Code of ethics published by the Hong Kong Psychological Society;
- demonstrate aspiration, enthusiasm and willingness to learn about the research and application in psychology; and
- appraise the importance of social responsibility and ethical practices in psychological services.