



**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF UKRAINE  
NATIONAL O.O. BOHOMOLETS MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**

**General & Medical Psychology and Pedagogic Department**

**OLENA O. LAZURENKO**

**ESSENTIALS OF PSYCHOLOGY.  
ESSENTIALS OF PEDAGOGIC**

**Educational and methodical guideline  
*for the lecture course***

**For the students of medical faculties**

**Kyiv  
2010**



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**General & Medical Psychology and Pedagogic Department**

**“APPROVED”**

**Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs  
Professor O.P. Yavorovskiy**

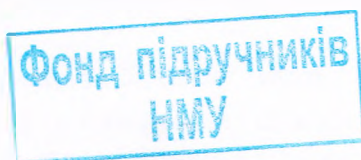
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Approved by methodical counsel of  
General & Medical Psychology and Pedagogic Department  
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## UNIT 1.

### T O P I C: PSYCHOLOGY AS A SCIENCE, ITS OBJECT AND TASKS.

**Key words:** psychology, behaviour, consciousness, self-consciousness, psychic activity, psyche, psychic processes, properties and states, general psychology, history of psychology, age psychology, pedagogical psychology, social psychology, psychology of activity, medical psychology, pathopsychology, ethnopsychology, animal psychology, engineering psychology, military psychology, Introspective psychology, Associative psychology, Psychological approach, Analytic psychology, Cognitive psychology, Behaviorism, Gestalt psychology, Humanistic psychology

1. Psychology as a science, its subject and object.
2. Main stages of psychology evolution.
3. Functions of psyche.
4. Psychological processes, properties and states as forms of the psyche.
5. The consciousness as the highest form of a psychic life. The Conscious and Unconscious.
6. The tasks of modern psychology.
7. The principal branches of psychology.
8. Psychology and other sciences.
9. Orientations and schools of psychology.

**Psychology** is a field of knowledge about inner world of a person. It is one of the sciences of a human being.

A science is an organized body of reliable information. Such a body of knowledge does not grow as a result of speculation alone, nor does it develop from random observations. Its accumulation depends on the use of special producers that constitute scientific method. In the early stages of a science, moreover, the importance of the procedure used far outweighs that of the information obtained.

Psychology, like every other science, acquired scientific status when (1) its observations became systematic rather than aimless; (2) its observation became impersonal – that is to say, when psychologists honestly sought information instead of attempting to prove their own ideas by a prejudiced selection of facts, and (3) it possible for any qualified investigator to repeat the observations of another, under essentially the same conditions and to verify the results.

The requirements of science are most closely fulfilled when investigators use experimental methods, when instead of observing what occurs spontaneously, they change aspects of nature and note the effect of these changes on phenomena that come within the range of their inquiry.

*Psychology achieved scientific status when it became experimental.* As we shall see, experimental procedure in psychology was first applied to analyses of conscious experience.

The term “psychology” is derived from the Greek: “psycho” (soul, psyche) and “logos” (learning, word), meaning, “study of the mind or soul”. So in the definition of psychology there are three basic words: “science”, “behaviour”, “mental processes”.

“Science” means rational investigation of processes and phenomena. By “behaviour” psychologists mean everything that people and animals do actions, emotions, and ways of communication, developmental processes. “Mental processes” characterize the work of the mind and the nervous system.