Worksheet: Developing Course Learning Objectives

### **Step 1: Identify Key Topics and Skills**

List the main topics and skills you want students to learn in your course. Consider the core content, critical thinking skills, practical applications, and any other relevant areas.

### **Step 2: Determine Desired Outcomes**

For each topic or skill, specify what students should be able to do by the end of the course. Use action verbs that are specific and measurable (e.g., analyze, create, evaluate).

### **Step 3: Align with Bloom’s Taxonomy**

Ensure your learning outcomes cover various levels of cognitive processes as outlined by Bloom's Taxonomy: Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating, and Creating.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bloom's Level** | **Related Learning Objective(s)** |
| Remembering | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Understanding | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Applying | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Analyzing | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Evaluating | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Creating | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

### **Step 4: Ensure SMART Criteria**

Verify that your learning objectives are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

### **Step 5: Draft Learning Objectives**

Based on the information above, draft five clear and concise learning objectives for your course.

### **Step 6: Review and Refine**

Review your drafted learning objectives to ensure they are clear, achievable, and aligned with the course goals. Make any necessary adjustments.

**Example:**

**Course: Introduction to Psychology**

1. **Key Topics and Skills:**
   * Understand major psychological theories
   * Research methods in psychology
   * The 5 pillars of psychology (bio, cognitive, developmental, social/personality, & mental/physical health)
   * How to review research in psychology (cursory knowledge, not in depth at this point)
   * Hot to determine between good and bad research
     1. Delineate news articles and whether they are accurate in telling the research
   * Explain the common myths related to psychology (i.e., we use 10% of our brains, learning styles, etc.)
2. **Desired Outcomes:**
   * Explain major psychological theories and their historical context.
   * Demonstrate understanding of basic research methods in psychology.
   * Identify and describe various research in the 5 pillars of psychology
   * Analyze cognitive processes such as memory and perception.
   * Evaluate the impact of social influences on behavior.
3. **Bloom’s Taxonomy Alignment:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bloom's Level** | **Related Learning Objective(s)** |
| Remembering | Explain major psychological theories |
| Understanding | Demonstrate understanding of basic research methods |
| Applying | Identify and describe various research in the 5 pillars of psychology |
| Analyzing | Analyze cognitive processes |
| Evaluating | Evaluate the impact of social influences on behavior |
| Creating | N/A |

1. **SMART Criteria:**
   1. Specific: Objectives are detailed and focused.
   2. Measurable: Outcomes can be assessed through exams, projects, and discussions.
   3. Achievable: Objectives are realistic for the course level and duration.
   4. Relevant: Objectives align with the overall goals of the psychology program.
   5. Time-bound: Objectives are to be achieved by the end of the semester.
2. **Draft Learning Objectives:**
   1. Explain the major psychological theories and their historical development.
   2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic research methods used in psychology, including experimental and observational techniques.
   3. Identify and describe various research in the 5 pillars of psychology
   4. Analyze cognitive processes such as memory, perception, and decision-making.
   5. Evaluate the impact of social influences on individual behavior and group dynamics.
3. **Review and Refine**
   1. Refine objectives based on feedback from colleagues or students.
   2. Ensure objectives are aligned with assessments and course activities.
   3. Adjust the language for clarity and precision.