PSYC SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES 2020-2021 – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC 398 Winter 2021 (Dr Tusche) – Laboratory in Decision Making
More information to come

PSYC 320 Winter 2021 (Dr Smallwood) - Cognitive Neuroscience
How does the brain perceive, think and feel? This course in cognitive neuroscience provides a window into contemporary views of how different features of cognition are implemented by the human brain. The course will cover the advances in our understanding of the brain mechanism of human cognition that are made possible by advances in brain-imaging over the last three decades. These advanced brain techniques, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging, have allowed insight into the brain's systems engaged during different human cognition as it happens. Some of the topics covered in class will cover the brain basis of attention, emotion and cognition.

PSYC 365 Winter 2021 (Dr van Anders) - Gender/Sex, Hormones, and Behaviour
Do hormones influence who we are as gendered people? Could it be, also, that our gender influences our hormones? How do gendered conceptions of the world affect how we view hormones? In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore hormones as evolved, biochemical substances that circulate in our bodies as well as cultural narratives circulate in our societies. We will learn about gender, hormones, and behaviour using scholarship and science from the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, biological sciences, and medical approaches, among others. Within and across these approaches, we will use an array of perspectives including psychological, feminist, queer, trans, health, anatomical, policy, disability, and more. Some of the topics we will cover include bodily sex development, gender diversity, sports, health, sexuality, social behaviour, and others. This class will use an interactive lecture/discussion format, and students will be evaluated on the basis of research essays, assignments, exams, and quizzes. There is an accompanying OnQ site.

PSYC 450 Fall 2020 (Dr Morningstar) - Neurobiology of Socio-Emotional Development in Adolescence
Adolescence is a developmental stage characterized by drastic changes in body, brain, and behaviour. Such changes influence how teenagers perceive and interpret their social environments, how they navigate their emotional experiences, and how they behave in social contexts. In this course, students will learn to:
- Investigate the interrelated changes in brain structure/function, social behaviour, and emotional processing that occur during adolescence;
- Appraise strengths and weaknesses of models and methods used to understand social and emotional development in adolescence;
- Propose strategies for leveraging knowledge about adolescent development to inform policies, programs, and interventions concerning youth;
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Practice competencies in critical thinking and experimental research design.

**PSYC 420 Winter 2021 (Dr Wammes) - Research in Memory**

In this course you will gain an in-depth understanding of the literature studying memory from multiple methods, approaches and theoretical perspectives. You will learn about research exploring the mechanisms that allow us to learn and store memories, as well as how we retrieve them and update them as a result of new information. Along the way, you will gain a hands-on perspective about how experiments in this area are conceptualized, how one can build functional experiments using online tools, and how data are ultimately collected.

**PSYC 435 Winter 2021 (Dr Flores) - Interpersonal Factors of Depression**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, students will learn about interpersonal theories of depression, empirical findings related to interpersonal factors of depression, and interpersonal approaches to the treatment of depression.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:
- Describe and critique interpersonal theories of depression
- Evaluate how empirical findings related to interpersonal factors support or challenge interpersonal theories of depression
- Explain interpersonal approaches to the treatment of depression
- Critique how empirical findings support or challenge the effectiveness of interpersonal approaches to the treatment of depression
- Propose future directions to advance knowledge of how interpersonal factors contribute to the development, maintenance, and treatment of depression

**PSYC 440 Winter 2021 (Dr Hauser) - Language and Reasoning**

Language and reasoning

This course will explore the science behind how seemingly-innocuous changes in language can impact how people think about social concepts. For instance, do metaphorical frames impact how we think about diseases (such as cancer and COVID19)? Do subtle variations in wording (such as talking about climate change vs global warming) influence whether we intend to live more “green” lives? This course sheds light on how language structures shapes the mental models that we use to understand and reason about complex social phenomena.

**PSYC 480 Winter 2021 (Dr Kilik) – Applied Clinical Psychology**
This course is designed to orient students to the field and profession of clinical psychology. This course offers a survey of major topics in clinical psychology, including a brief history of clinical psychology; common theoretical approaches in assessment and intervention; ethical, professional and theoretical issues; and emerging trends. Students also will be briefly introduced to subspecialties within clinical psychology, such as clinical Neuropsychology. Professional activities of clinical psychologists (e.g., consultation) will also be discussed.