

2024 - 25 Psychology Special Topic Classes

Course	Fac	Title	Instructor	Prerequisites	Class Description
302-800	Sci	Topic: Hormones & Behaviour	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course. Not open to students who have already earned credit in PSYCH 403 Hormones & Behaviour.	This course discusses the relationships between the brain, endocrine systems and behaviour. Topics will span developmental, cyclical, and environmental effects of hormones on the brain, puberty, sexuality, aggression, stress, hunger, cognition and behaviour. By the end of this course students should be able to describe and understand hormones and their effects on their target tissues, the methods and study of behavioural endocrinology. For each hormone system students will learn their role in development, biological rhythms, organization and/or plasticity in the nervous system, mood, disease, and cognition.
302X01	Sci	Topic: Nonverbal Communication	Smithson	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	This course will cover research in the following domains of nonverbal communication: body language, gesture production, eye gaze, facial expressions, haptics, proxemics, and cultural influences. Throughout the course, students will evaluate research methodology practices used in nonverbal communication research and discuss how research in this area can be applied.
305-800	Arts	Topic: Exercise and Cognition	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course. Not open to students who have already earned credit in PSYCH 405: Exercise and Cognition.	Examine how both acute and chronic exercise affect neurochemical and psychophysiological changes in the brain that, in turn, affect cognitive functioning. Review the theoretical research through current studies that emphasize neuroscientific theories and rationales, including a thorough examination of the effects of exercise interventions on cognitive functioning in special populations, including the elderly, children, and those suffering from a variety of diseases, including schizophrenia, diabetes, and an array of neurological disorders.
305A1	Arts	Topic: Moral Psychology	Simpson	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	This course will be about the psychological underpinnings of moral judgements. We will review the philosophical background and discuss various ethical issues, including utilitarianism vs deontology and moral realism vs anti-realism. We will then look at moral judgments from various theoretical perspectives, including cognitive psychology, social psychology, evolutionary biology, and neuroscience.
305A2	Arts	Topic: Organizational Psychology	Rast	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and PSYCH 241 (or SOC 241)	This course focuses on the scientific study of human behavior in organizations and the work place. Examine individual, group and organizational behavior and then applying this knowledge to solve problems in the workplace.
305X01	Arts	Topic: Existential Psychology	Scott	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	This course will review theories and research in existential psychology and philosophy with a focus on psychological research into the four core areas of experimental existential psychology: freedom, meaning, death, and isolation. These topics will be approached from theoretical perspectives emerging from social, developmental, and cognitive psychology, as well as social and affective neuroscience.
403-801	Sci	Topic: Forensic Psychology	Haag	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and a 300-level psychology course. Strongly recommended one of PSYCH 239 or 333.	This course will provide a broad overview of the relationship between psychology and various aspects of the legal system. A variety of topics will be discussed and critically evaluated, including offender profiling, eyewitness testimony, police issues, jury decision-making, treatment of offenders, psychopathy, risk assessment, criminal responsibility, and fitness to stand trial. Classes will consist of lectures, activities, video presentations, and discussions.
403A1	Sci	Topic: Social, Emotional and Cognitive Effects of Stroke	Colbourne	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 275 and a 300-level psychology course.	This course introduces you to the cognitive, social and emotional impact of stroke. Our focus is largely on current clinical research, including the effects of stroke and treatment approaches (e.g., impact of depression and treatment for it).
403A2	Sci	Topic: Animal Cognition	Guillette	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 282 and PSYCH 381	In this cross-listed (undergraduate/graduate) course, we examine how scientists (e.g., psychologists and behavioural ecologists) test animal cognition. This is a seminar-style course where we discuss current topics in animal cognition, paying special attention to methodology used in both the field and in controlled laboratory settings to examine the biological relevance/evolution and mechanisms that underpin cognitive abilities in non-human animals (and perhaps non-verbal human infants and even learning in plants). The main focus of this course will be discussion-based pedagogy to enable critical thinking and maximize communication among students/professor. What to expect: No formal power points lectures will be delivered by the Professor, rather, we work as a team via group discussions with a focus on articulating and communicating critical thinking/analysis skills.

