

Fall 2026 Psychology Special Topic Classes

You may take multiple sections of each variable topic course, so long as it has a different title.

Course	Fac	Title	Instructor	Prerequisites	Class Description
302/305 X01	Sci	Topic: Intro to Computational Methods in Psychology	Mathewson	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	No prior programming experience is required. The course introduces programming as a tool for psychological science: writing simple code, animation and drawing, building small experiments, saving data, and basic analysis, with an emphasis on clear, beginner-friendly skills. Prior coursework in introductory computing, introductory math, and research methods or statistics is helpful but not assumed.
305 X50	Arts	Topic: Moral Psychology	Scott	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	In Moral Psychology, we will look at the psychological underpinnings of moral and ethical judgements and decisions. This course will review theories and research in moral psychology and will focus on the underlying motivational processes described by social, developmental, and cognitive psychology, as well as social, cognitive, and affective neuroscience.
305 A01	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Being Human	Sharp	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	In The Psychology of Being Human, students will be introduced to how people understand, apply, and are impacted by the human concept. The course will include such topics as how people understand what it means to be human; dehumanization, objectification, and anthropomorphism; how these topics are studied within the psychological literature; the processes underlying these processes; the predictors and outcomes of such processes; and the role these phenomena play in everyday life and, perhaps, the future.
403 A01	Sci	Topic: Mechanisms of Injury & Repair After Stroke	Colbourne	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 275 and a 300-level psychology course. Note: Not open to students with previous credit in PSYCH 403 Recovery After Brain Injury.	This course introduces neural mechanisms of injury and repair occurring after ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke. We will discuss and critically evaluate animal and clinical research on various drug, cell-based and physical therapies along with factors that influence outcome, such as age.
403 A02	Sci	Topic: Aging, Cognitive Impairment, & Alzheimer's	Bohn	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and a 300-level psychology course.	This course focuses on Alzheimer's disease (AD), the most prevalent of a cluster of related neurodegenerative diseases. It includes attention to the often "silent signals" of clinical transitions that can precede a diagnosis by up to two decades. (b) lifelong exposures and accumulation of multiple factors that elevate AD risk, (c) epidemiological and public health implications, (d) major research approaches and international studies, and (e) issues of early detection, onset delay, risk management, prevention, and treatment.
403 A03	Sci	Topic: Hormones and Behavior	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 300-level PSYCH course. Not open to students who have	This course discusses the relationships between the brain, endocrine systems and behaviour. Topics will span developmental, cyclical, and environmental effects of

				already earned credit in PSYCH 302 Hormones & Behaviour.	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.
403 A04	Sci	Topic: Brain Metabolism	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and a 300-level psychology course. Additional prerequisites: PSYCH 275.	This course is a senior level course discussing brain metabolism. Students will have a working understanding of the physiological processes underlying basic brain metabolism in the context of development, sensation, movement, learning, psychiatric disease, and sleep and the experimental methods used to study these processes.
403 X01	Sci	Topic: Criminal Conduct	Jellicoe	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and a 300-level psychology course. Strongly recommended: one of PSYCH 239 or PSYCH 333.	This course will survey a cross section of topics from the areas of criminal forensic psychology and antisocial behaviour. There are essentially three parts: A discussion of biological, developmental, and environmental contributors to antisocial conduct. A review of selected areas of criminal conduct (e.g., homicide, sexual offending); and a discussion of practical issues in forensic psychology such as determining the mental fitness of an accused person to stand trial, offender treatment, and psychologists' role in NCR-MD assessment.
403 800	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.
405 A01	Arts	Topic: Critical Perspectives in Psychology	Montenegro	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or STAT 161, and one 300-level PSYCH course. Strongly recommended: PSYCH 212	Examines psychology through the lens of diversity science, focusing on historical exclusion, research biases, and the influence of researcher and participant diversity on psychological knowledge. Integrates diversity science theory with Indigenous and non-Western perspectives, and addresses methodological considerations in studying diverse populations.
405 A02	Arts	Topic: Psychology Today: Trends, Theories & Transitions	Westbury	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	This course will focus on major advances in the last 50 years in psychological theory, criticism, philosophy, and empirical findings. The course is paper-based, with every lecture organized around a published paper. Topics will include how to think about phenomenology (our experience

					of ourselves), what large language models like ChatGPT can tell us about human language processing, the neurological underpinnings of psychotherapeutic change, why we laugh, why statistical methods are changing, why the replication crisis happened, what robotics can teach us about being human, the nature of cognitive biases, and what neuroscience can tell about free will.
405 A03	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Death & Dying	Smithson	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	This course provides an introduction to the psychological aspects of death and dying, including: social attitudes, perceptions of death across the lifespan, psychological meaning of death, historical and cross-cultural variability in death attitudes, spirituality, the dying process, ethical issues, bereavement, and psychological supports for individuals who are dying.
405 A04	Arts	Topic: Systems in Psychotherapy	Frenzel	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course. Recommended prerequisites: PSYCH 239 and/or PSYCH 335	This course will examine a variety of major counseling/therapy models used in clinical practice as well as their theoretical underpinnings. The course contains three primary components: 1) gaining familiarity with the therapeutic models themselves, 2) learning active listening techniques and other skills central to the formation of productive therapeutic alliances and, 3) discussion of specific issues such as goal setting, addressing patient/client resistance, coping with transference/countertransference issues, and therapy termination.
458 A01	Sci	Topic: Autobiographical Memory	St Jacques	One of PSYCH 350, 354, 356, or 357 Not open to students who have previously received credit in PSYCH 403: Neuroscience of Autobiographical Memory or PSYCH 405: Autobiographical Memory	This course will bring together current research and theory on the cognitive, neural, lifespan developmental, and social basis of autobiographical memory and related research on naturalistic and real-world memories.