

Winter 2027 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 B01	Sci	Topic: Cognitive Neuroscience of Music	Farley	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course.	This course is designed to introduce students to contemporary research on music undertaken with the tools of cognitive neuroscience. In particular, this focuses on the role the brain plays in mediating various aspects of musical experiences. Topics covered include the underlying neurology of music perception, cognitive effects resultant of exposure to music, musical training, relevant developmental and cultural factors, and health implications. At the end of the semester students should be familiar with some contemporary methods, topics of investigation, outstanding questions, and future directions for research related to studying music and the brain.
305 X01	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 B01	Sci	Topic: Computational Neuroscience	Mathewson	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level psychology course.	This course builds on the skills from computational methods (or equivalent experience students bring themselves): coding, simulation, and working with data and models. We connect modern computational modeling and questions around AI interpretability to classic ideas and models in computational neuroscience, with room to follow threads that fit the group's interests.
403 B02	Sci	Topic: Social & Emotional Effects of Strokes	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).
403 B03	Sci	Topic: Neuroethology	Sturdy	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and one of PSYCH 371, 372, or 381.	This course is a seminar and discussion-based course that will cover topics related to the neurobiology of behaviour, also known as neuroethology. As such, we will cover material related to brain and behaviour (i.e., neurobiology and ethology), with course material coming both from the textbook and primary literature sources (i.e., peer-reviewed journal articles). As a seminar and discussion based course, there will be a significant student participation component to this course.

403 B04	Sci	Topic: Brain Metabolism	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 275, and a 300-level psychology course.	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 B05	Sci	Topic: Criminal Conduct	Frenzel	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.
405 B01	Arts	Topic: Advanced Data Analysis: Theory & Practice	Wiebe	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	Provides the background necessary to analyze correlational data in psychology and prepares students to conduct original research. Topics include common research designs; methods for data gathering; analytical approaches such as multivariate data analysis, longitudinal modeling, and structural equation modeling. This course is well-suited for final-year Honors students who are analyzing correlational data for their thesis projects.
405 B02	Arts	Topic: Psychology & Writing	Dawson	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	The course explores how ideas from cognitive science can be used to affect or improve writing. It considers two approaches. One is classical cognitive science, which views cognition (and writing) as the manipulation of internal representations. The other is embodied cognitive science, which views cognition (and writing) as acting on an external world. We consider what kind of advice about how to write is offered by each approach. The course proposes embodied cognitive science offers more practical advice, details the advice, and provides hands-on examples of using the advice to aid writing. Students will leave the course with an increased understanding of the cognitive science of writing as well as practical experience in applying the ideas of cognitive science to their own writing
405 B03	Arts	Topic: Affect & Emotion	Baerveldt	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	A survey of affect and emotion, tracing the historical evolution of emotion research, theories of basic and complex emotions, and interdisciplinary connections in the study of affect. The course explores advances in cognitive and appraisal theories of emotion, affective neuroscience and discursive studies of affective practices, delves into the question of how culture shapes emotional experiences, and explores recent developments in affect studies. By the course end, students will be able to distinguish

					between feeling, emotion, affect, and sentiment, while critically analyzing the personal and cultural dynamics of affect and emotion.
405 B05	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Serial Killers	Blatter	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth examination of the serial killers among us. It introduces students to particular case studies of notorious serial killers and explores current methods of understanding, tracking, and apprehending such individuals. The course will also cover the myths and stereotypes that have evolved from mass media and public efforts to find satisfactory explanations for the relatively rare phenomenon of serial murder. Case studies are used to introduce several serial killers that have plagued the streets in North America and abroad. Overall, we will attempt to synthesize historical and contemporary analyses of serial murder, assess the impact of the media on public perceptions of serial killing, and extend our understanding of the etiology of serial murder in contemporary society.
405 B06	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 B07	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.
405 850	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Sex	Haag	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	This course consists of lecture topics that examine human sexual behaviour. This course will consider biological, psychological, developmental, and socio-political perspectives pertaining to the topic of human sexuality. A main objective of the course is to provide students with an introduction to major issues in human sexuality from various perspectives; however, the primary approach to this topic will be from an empirical perspective. This approach is designed to assist students develop critical thinking and contribute constructively to the social debate on sexual issues.
458 B1	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	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.

				PSYCH 405: Autobiographical Memory	
473	Sci	Topic: Cognitive Neuroscience	Caplan	PSYCH 371 or 375 or 377.	Brain basis of human cognition studied using a diverse range of techniques, with a focus on measures of brain activity such as functional neuroimaging and electrophysiology recorded during behavioural tasks. Designed for graduate and senior undergraduate students who are conducting cognitive neuroscience research. We will read articles and discuss them, led by students. Students will write hypothetical editorial letters for the articles. Students will present their own research or proposals. We will do hands-on analyses of sample brain activity data.