

PSY Special Topics Listings

When will PBS announce the title/topic of the course?

Timeline of Updated Information*	
Course Offerings:	Updated by:
Fall	Summer Session B
Winter	Week 5 of Fall
Spring	Week 5 of Winter

** This document is updated as soon as the course information is confirmed with the Office of Register and the PBS Instructor. Check back here for updates!*

FALL 2017

NONE

WINTER 2018

PSY 160DS

Title: Addressing Social Problems with Psychological Science

Description: This course will feature discussion of psychological research that uses the scientific method to address societal issues, applying theories in the context of issues such as the environment, education, health, and intergroup conflict. Students will read psychological science articles and discuss their implications for societal issues.

Pre-requisites: Psychology & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Instructor: David Sherman

Course Time: R 5:00- 7:20pm

Location: TD- W 1701

PSY 160SK

Title: An Examination of Key Constructs in the Psychological & Brain Sciences

Description: Since Psychologists reopened the “black box” of the mind in the early 1960s, mental state and mental faculty terms have proliferated. They routinely are used to motivate experiments and explain findings. However, a careful analysis of these terms is hard to find. We thus run the risk of populating the mind with entities that fail to adequately represent its workings. In this course we take aim at several key constructs found in contemporary Psychology – e.g., mind, self, memory, consciousness – and subject them to empirical and logical analysis. The result is that many of our favorite terms are found to be in need of serious and sustained conceptual analysis.

Pre-requisites: Psychology & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Instructor: Stan Klein

Course Time: M 5:00- 7:20pm

Location: LSB 1001

PSY 160JS

Title: Consciousness and Cognition

Description: This course will review the scientific and philosophic investigation of consciousness. Topics will include: mind wandering, altered states of consciousness, mystical experiences and dreams, the effects of drugs and meditation, the nature of self, the possibility of artificial consciousness, and whether or not animals are conscious.

Pre-requisites: Psychology & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Instructor: Jonathan Schooler

Course Time: TR 9:30- 10:45am

Location: Buchn 1940

PSY 163EJ

Title: Hormones and Cognition

Description: Neuroscientists have plumbed the depths of the mind and brain in extraordinary detail, but occasionally we forget that the brain is part of a larger, integrated biological system. One example of this “whole-brain, whole-body” level of integration is the interaction between hormone-producing organs in the body (e.g. gonads) and the nervous system. For example, estrogen receptors are found throughout the entire brain, which hints at the powerful role this hormone plays in shaping brain function and, ultimately, behavior. This course will introduce students to the enormous impact that hormones have on brain structure, function and cognition.

Pre-requisites: Psychology & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Instructor: Emily Jacobs

Course Time: F 1:00- 3:20pm

Location: LSB 1001

PSY 163EJ

Title: Hormones and Cognition

Description: Neuroscientists have plumbed the depths of the mind and brain in extraordinary detail, but occasionally we forget that the brain is part of a larger, integrated biological system. One example of this “whole-brain, whole-body” level of integration is the interaction between hormone-producing organs in the body (e.g. gonads) and the nervous system. For example, estrogen receptors are found throughout the entire brain, which hints at the powerful role this hormone plays in shaping brain function and, ultimately, behavior. This course will introduce students to the enormous impact that hormones have on brain structure, function and cognition.

Pre-requisites: Psychology & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Instructor: Emily Jacobs

Course Time: F 1:00- 3:20pm

Location: LSB 1001

SPRING 2018

PSY 163SG

Title: Volitional Action: The Science of Choice, Intention, and Movement

Description: This course examines the cognitive processes and underlying neural systems that allow humans to generate complex, goal-oriented behavior. Action in the world requires the transformation of a desired outcome into a specific set of physical movements. This course examines key concepts that allow this transformation to take place. These include an analysis of factors influencing choice among similar actions and the formation of motor intentions. The selection and planning of possible movements as well as the chaining of multiple actions together to accomplish a distal goal are considered. The reliance on an action vocabulary, allowing for planning in advance, is assessed. The course will review core concepts behind the control of movement, including the functional anatomy of movement generation, the merging of sensory and motor information into common reference frames the coordination of behavior across multiple joints and limbs. Complementing this is the analysis of motor adaptation, the ability to alter performance in the setting of noise in an ever-changing physical body. Finally, the brain mechanisms that underlie the progression from new to expert skills are assessed. The course will survey a range of behavioral paradigms as well as methods of cognitive neuroscience and neurophysiology that provide an exciting window into the cognitive architecture and functional anatomy of action planning.

Pre-requisites: Psychology & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Instructor: Scott Grafton

Course Time: CHECK GOLD

Location: CHECK GOLD

PSY 163MG

Title: Systems Neuroscience

Description: Presentation and discussion of current research in systems neuroscience. This course will focus on how neural circuits mediate specific behaviors, drawing on research from a range of species and preparations. This course will also serve as an introduction to the methodological approaches used in systems neuroscience, including electrophysiology, cellular imaging, and optogenetics.

Standing Pre-requisites: Psychological & Brain Sciences, & Biopsychology full majors only, including Interdisciplinary majors.

Course Pre-requisites: PSY 111 for Fall 2016- current admissions cycle. Full Major Standing for Fall 2015 and older admissions.

Instructor: Michael Goard

Course Time: Friday 1:00-3:20PM

Location: Phelps 2524

At this time, no further information is known by Advisors regarding Special Topics courses. Space is limited, please enroll on GOLD or use the wait list to reserve your possibility to add. (Special Topics are typically not taught in Summer Sessions.)

Fall 2018 Topics will be updated after teaching schedules are produced May 2018.

Check back here for updates (advisors will post as soon as we know)!