PSYCHOLOGY 399 & 410 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
WINTER 2016

PSY 399 Courses

Pathways Through Psychology
PSY 399 – Section 002  Sherwin Davidson, Scott Broussard
This course examines the practical aspects of psychology as well as what makes psychology unique. Identifying the principles that frame psychology inquiry can lead to a broader view of the discipline of psychology and to a greater depth of knowledge about the ways psychology is applied. Selected faculty in Applied Psychology, B.S. graduates, and graduate students will describe the work they are doing, how they are drawing on psychology, and the career path they’ve followed to this point. Students will explore how the principles of inquiry in psychology as well as other aspects of an undergraduate education are relevant to future employment and/or graduate school. They will gather information to clarify their own goals and investigate how best to present their knowledge and skills to future employers and or graduate schools.

PSY 410 Courses

Cultural Psychology
PSY 410 – 019  Michael Liebhaber
Multicultural understanding has become a required set of skills to function in the work place & in one’s community. This course provides a better appreciation of the ways in which culture affects all aspects of behavior & an increased awareness of the many variations of normal human behavior. Culture plays a subtle, but fundamental, role in shaping & influencing human attitudes, beliefs, & behaviors. It also serves as a filter through which we understand the behaviors of others. Examine, in-depth, how cultural factors & psychological processes interact to shape our behaviors & interactions with others. Topics include lifespan development (education, parenting, families, aging), gender, emotion, communication, personality, & understanding & treatment of psychopathology. Use contemporary issues & a variety of theoretical perspectives to consider broader issues such as whether notions of psychological principles & mental health are universally applicable to all cultures.

Race & Gender in Sport
PSY 410 – Section 003  Kim Kahn
Using a social psychological approach, this course will examine how issues of race and gender affect the sporting domain. Specifically, the course will emphasize how social psychological theories of intergroup relations, stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination impact athletes, coaches, referees, and fans.

Advanced Neurophysiological Psychology
PSY 410 – Section 004  William Griesar
Expands knowledge of the structure and function of the nervous system through the gathering, evaluation and presentation of scientific information through current topics in neuroscience research.

Developmental Disability & Schooling
PSY 410 – Section 006  Patricia Pickett-Cooper
Development of the self: Understanding the social construction of disability and adolescent identity. We will investigate multiple influences on adolescent development of the self as filtered through the lens of disability. This will include social and cognitive processes that affect the developing of a unique sense of self.

**Forensic Psychology**  
PSY 410 – Section 008  *Shawn Johnston*  
This course describes the different roles performed by forensic psychologists, particularly when they serve as expert witnesses providing psychological evaluations to judges, attorneys and probation officers. Emphasis is placed upon the evaluation of dangerous psychopaths, sex offenders, violent mentally ill offenders, legal insanity, as well as criminal and civil competence. Issues concerning juvenile justice, domestic violence and assessment of personal injuries are also discussed, as well as treatment of forensic populations such as child molester, and domestic violence offenders and prison inmates.

**Human Sexuality**  
PSY 410 – Section 011  *Chris Allen*  
This course provides an examination of the major variables affecting human sexuality including the physiological, psychological, and sociocultural variables associated with the development and manifestation of sexual identity, sexual behavior, and sexual disorders. Special attention will be given to the relationship between personal sexuality and social constructions of sexuality.

**Human Relations**  
PSY 410 – Section 017  *Debi Brannan*  
Relationships are the very foundation of our lives. Whether personal or professional, our ability to understand and communicate effectively with the people in our lives can make the difference between a satisfying, fulfilling life and one filled with tension and frustration. Based on current research, this course will examine human relations by integrating key components of successful relationships: internal influences on thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; external or sociocultural influences; and solid communication principles.

**Positive Psychology**  
PSY 410 – Section 018  *Debi Brannan*  
Positive Psychology is a course that focuses on psychological well-being and areas of human strength. Using psychological theories this course will cover the history of positive psychology, emotions and motivation, subjective well-being, flow, leisure, mindfulness and peak performances and positive health. In addition, the course will examine well-being across cultures, ages, and the lifespan.

**Native American Psychological Values**  
PSY 410 – Section 016  *Robert Ryan*  
Learn psychological cultural values to be applied in understanding behavior of Native American Indian People; and become aware of cultural values that are currently being demonstrated in the Native American community. To acquire knowledge of psychological cultural values in behavior of Native American people and enhance concepts, strategies and approaches in a multicultural environment.

**Psychology of Addictive Behavior**  
PSY 410 – Section 001  *Cynthia Mohr*
This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of contemporary perspectives on contributing factors and pathways to use of substances, as well as treatment-related issues. There is a growing interest in other addictive behaviors, such as gambling, which may follow similar trajectories and have common causal pathways. In class, we will discuss readings and engage in active learning exercises to consider various aspects of addictions behavior in-depth. Consequently, classroom attendance and active engagement is essential for comprehensive appreciation of the material.

**Sleep and Dreams**  
**PSY 410 – Section 002  David Hall**  
Sleep and Dreams is a seminar course, employing a student-centered learning approach in which students are empowered to explore their curiosity on sleep and dreams. Topics for exploration include basic scientific observations, leading theories, sleep disorders, links with cognitive function and health, healthy sleep habits, implications for social and organizational life, and cross-cultural perspectives. Common readings, facilitated class discussions and activities, and core course requirements including keeping a Sleep Journal, help maintain a cohesive learning community.

**Psychotherapy Groups & Clinical Practice**  
**PSY 410 – Section 007  David Fischer**  
The course will focus on psychodynamic theory as applied in individual and group therapy settings. The student will develop a basic understanding of psychodynamic and group therapy processes through a combination of study and experience. Readings in the clinical use of psychodynamic and group theory will be combined with an experiential component of facilitated participation in an ongoing group during the term.

**Parenting in Contemporary Society**  
**PSY 410 – Section 015  Tatiana Snyder**  
This course is designed to explore the dynamics of parent-child relations from a life span developmental perspective. We will examine contemporary psychological theories and models of parent-child relations emphasizing practical implications for parenting whenever possible. Various basic parenting tasks and how parents carry out these tasks with children of different ages will be one of the main focuses of the course. In addition, we will discuss family, community, societal institutions, and culture as contexts in which parenting is embedded. Topics that would be discussed include: optimal parenting, parenting in high-risk families, adoptive and foster parenthood, parenting in single-parent families, stepfamilies, and families with diverse lifestyles, employment and parenting, parenting and children’s internalization of values, and gender socialization.

**Marriage and Intimate Relationships**  
**PSY 410 – Section 014  Tatiana Snyder**  
This course is designed to explore psychological processes and dynamics of close relationships. The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of current theory and research in the field of close relationships, emphasizing practical implications for our own relationships whenever possible. In addition, we will discuss community, societal institutions, and culture as contexts in which relationships are embedded. Topics that would be discussed include: intimacy, attraction, friendship, love, dating, sexuality, jealousy, traditional and non-traditional relationships, marriage, parenting, communication and conflict resolution, balancing work and family, domestic violence, power, divorce, remarriage and blended families.