**PY 391/491 descriptions for Summer 2020**

**PY 391-050 Summer I**

**Title: Psychological Approaches to Philosophical Problems**

**Instructor: Dr. Alexa Tullett**

**Description:**

Questions like “Do we have free will?” “Are humans selfish?” and “What makes people happy?” were asked and debated by philosophers long before the advent of modern psychology. More recently, however, psychological methodologies and techniques have allowed researchers to empirically explore the answers to these questions. In this class, we will discuss psychological research that addresses questions of broad philosophical interest. Assignments will focus on critical thinking about research findings and applying knowledge in writing assignments.

**PY 491 – 050** **Summer I, 2020**

MTWRF 10:00 – 11:45 am  
CRN 30497

Senior Seminar in Psychology

**Topic: Environmental Psychology**

**Instructor: Dr. Beverly Roskos** ([broskos@ua.edu](mailto:broskos@ua.edu))

This seminar examines human-environment interactions—how individuals think about and react to their environment. It focuses on humans as information processors (perceiving, knowing) and uses that model to explore human behavior in the environment. What are our preferred environments? Which environments do we function best in? How do we cope in different environments? How do we make the people-environment relation better?

This is a Writing intensive course.

Prerequisites: PY 355 and PY 356, or permission of instructor.

**Dr. Jeffrey Parker, Summer II, 2020**

**Children’s and adolescents’ experiences with peers**

**Course Number**

PY 491

**Section number**

100

**Class days/times**

MTWRF 12:00-1:45

**Overview**

This seminar for advanced undergraduates considers how friendships and other forms of peer experience contribute to children's social, emotional, and cognitive growth, and ability to cope with stress. Among the most important skills that children must acquire are those that allow them to participate effectively and responsibly in personal relationships with age mates. In this course, we also explore these skills and what social scientists understand about how these develop. We explore what it means to be well adjusted with peers and the social tasks children and adolescents face. Finally, we explore bullying in school as an important contemporary issue that has been receiving greater attention. This is a 3-credit course that can be used as credits toward the Psychology major and fulfills the Departmental senior seminar requirement and the College writing requirement.