

PY 391: Junior Seminars

-001 & -003: Child Psychopathy (Randy Salekin)

- -001: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
- -003: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
- The past two decades have witnessed a remarkable increase in the scientific interest and research on child and adolescent psychopathy or what has also been referred to as callous-unemotional traits in youth. This course reviews cutting-edge research on the early manifestation of psychopathy in children. We ask questions, like how early can this personality disorder start? Specifically, the course delves into the nature of child and adolescent psychopathy, its' causes, correlates, and course, at the same time addressing the critical issue of whether the disorder can be prevented, treated or curtailed, an especially important topic given its costly toll on the children themselves and society. The course will be grounded in the latest scientific evidence and will cover important theoretical and methodological advances that are continuing to influence our understanding of the causes of psychopathy across development. However, the course will also look at the popular media's perception of the disorder and films on the disorder. In the class, we will also discuss core issues such as relations to antisocial behavior and personality theory, weigh in on key controversies such as the models for development of psychopathy and we will talk about compelling directions for future research.

-002: Child Psychopathology (Bob Lyman)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
- This course is designed to provide an introduction to the study of psychological problems experienced during childhood and adolescence. We will focus on the conceptualization, cause, diagnosis, and treatment of a variety of disorders. As a designated "W" course, we will also focus on written and verbal communication skills. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

-004: Positive Psychology (Sara Stromeyer)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
- Positive Psychology is a relatively new, exciting field of study within psychology that concerns the scientific study of the strengths that enable individuals and communities to thrive. The field is founded on the belief that people want to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives, to cultivate what is best within themselves, and to enhance their experiences of love, work, and play. This seminar will explore the main tenets of positive psychology and relevant research findings, with a focus on health promotion, well-being, and happiness. Students will participate in discussions, hands-on exercises, and writing assignments designed to facilitate engagement in course material through promotion of positive experiences, character strengths, and relationships.

-005: Drugs & Behavior (Craig Cummings)

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
- Broadly defined, the goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of behavioral pharmacology. The basic tenets of behavioral pharmacology and its applications will be learned as we read and interpret scientific literature.

-006: Psychology & Sleep Health (Heather Gunn)

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM
- We will study typical sleep and atypical sleep from a psychological and behavioral medicine perspective. Students will learn how various components of sleep relate to health and about internal circadian rhythms (e.g., night owl versus morning lark). We will study sleep across the lifespan, including a special focus on sleep in college students and how it relates to performance and health. As a designated "W" course, we will also focus on written and verbal communication skills. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

PY 491: Senior Seminars

-001: 5 Lenses: Explorations in Behavior from Multiple Perspectives (Lynn Snow)

- Wednesdays, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- A photographer needs multiple lenses to skillfully convey her vision of reality to her audience. Similarly, for a wise and productive life, everyone, regardless of specialization, needs skillfulness in applying multiple lenses, or perspectives, to their major endeavors. In this class we will use readings, dialogue, direct experience, and project applications to examine the boundaries and interconnections of five perspectives and how to flexibly move among the five lenses in one's professional and whole life endeavors. This class will include regular experiential exercises in applications of mindfulness and critical thinking techniques. 5 Lenses: BEAMS
Business
Ethics/religion/spirituality
Arts
Meta-discipline (i.e., Philosophy*)
Science

-002: Human Factors: An Interdisciplinary Area of Psychology (Erin Harrell)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
- The focus of this course is an overview of the field of Human Factors (also known as Engineering Psychology). In general, Human Factors is the application of psychological principles and knowledge about human perceptual and cognitive capabilities to the design of systems (technology devices, transportation systems, healthcare equipment, power plants, etc.) Human Factors is a very broad field and this class is meant to reflect that breadth in topics. The aim of the course is to teach basic human factors design principles, as well as principles of perception and cognition that guide design. By the end of the course students should be able to communicate effectively about these topics (both orally and in writing) and apply basic human factors principles to solve practical problems.

-003: Behavioral Pharmacology (Craig Cummings)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM
- Broadly defined, the goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of behavioral pharmacology and its role in the world. While learning some of the basic tenets of behavioral pharmacology we will also learn of the many applications the field has on our day-to-day lives as well as its application on a societal level. We will also learn how to read and interpret scientific literature as well as how to be intelligent consumers of information. This course is designated as a writing course (W). Half of the overall grade in the course is based on writing assignments. Therefore, writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

-004: Unconscious Processing (Allison Scrivner)

- Mondays, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM
- This course covers a wide range of topics involving unconscious processes and how they influence conscious decision-making -although we may not be privy to the reasons behind the decision. Topics like subliminal priming, various methods of implicit learning and applications to a wide variety of different individuals, unconscious decision-making, implicit bias, and implicit egotism among others are covered in depth. Students will ponder the importance of the unconscious choices we make and their impact on everyday life.

-005: Psychology of Adulthood & Aging (Sheila Black)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
- This course will focus on adult development from an interdisciplinary perspective and will cover issues such as caregiving, age-related changes in cognitive processes, and institutionalization. Because this class is a seminar, there will be considerable class discussion of major issues related to adult development. Because this course has a "W" designation, students must demonstrate proficiency in writing in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

-006: Mental Health Issues & The Law (Karen Salekin)

- Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the topics relevant to the interplay between mental health issues and the criminal justice system. The course will focus on issues related to criminal justice, but will also cover two topics that are outside of this realm: (1) civil commitment and (2) physician assisted suicide. Psychologists who work within the legal system can assume a number of roles that include, but are not limited to, social scientists, consultants, and expert witnesses. The information in this class pertains mostly to clinical forensic psychology, but other topics are included. Information provided via lecture and reading will provide the student with a broad understanding of the interplay between mental health issues and the legal system, as well as an understanding of the evolving nature of laws that result from this interplay.

-007: Sexuality (Lisa Beck)

- Wednesdays, 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- Sexuality simultaneously brings curiosity and avoidance; it is both ubiquitous and taboo. In this course, we will dive into theories and cultural perspectives of sexuality, the development of our own understandings, and a variety of special topics related to human sexuality. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

-008: Children's & Adolescents' Experiences w/ Peers (Jeff Parker)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
- 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.