Summer 2023

PY 391-050: Adolescence (Stephanie Masters)

- Summer I (June) MTWRF 12:00 - 1:45 PM
- Adolescence is a time of change, often conceptualized as a period of rebellion, instability, and emotional turmoil. This course will evaluate the validity of this conceptualization. We will focus on theory and research related to biological, cognitive, and social development during adolescence, within various contexts. We will explore these topics through multiple lenses, using both recent empirical research and contemporary film and literature.

PY 491-101: Children & Adolescent Experiences w/ Peers (Dr. Jeff Parker)

- Summer II (July) MTWRF 12:00 - 1:45 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.

Fall 2023

PY 391: Junior Seminars

-001: Adolescence (Dr. Kristina McDonald)
- Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:15 PM
- Adolescence is a time of change, often conceptualized as a period of rebellion, instability, and emotional turmoil. This course will evaluate the validity of this conceptualization. We will focus on theory and research related to biological, cognitive, and social development during adolescence, within the contexts of family, schools, peer groups, communities, and socio-cultural contexts. We will explore these topics through various lenses, using both recent empirical research and contemporary film and literature.

-002: Topic & Instructor TBD
- Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 - 10:45 AM
-005: Implicit Bias (Dr. Allison Scrivner)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 - 3:15 PM
- Racial, gender, obesity, and age bias in sports, hiring, and medical decisions. Topics include: the portrayal of the African American quarterback in the NFL, female bodybuilders, the stigma of mental illness, disability bias in hiring, and ways to help decrease implicit bias. What are the design flaws of the Implicit Association Test? How is the Black quarterback described differently than the White quarterback? Is there a stigma of mental health in the medical industry? Is that stigma changing? Why are female athletes viewed differently in ‘masculine’ sports? Do young or older workers face the most bias in hiring? What's the most effective way to impact implicit bias?

-006: Addiction: Behavioral Pharmacology & Choice (Dr. Craig Cummings)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
- Broadly defined, the goal of this course is to develop a general understanding of behavioral pharmacology and addiction and its role in the world. While learning some of the basic tenants of behavioral pharmacology we will learn about the behavioral perspective of addiction as well as various treatment approaches. These topics will be viewed from both the level of the individual as well as their 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.

-007: Children & Adolescent Experiences w/ Peers (Dr. Jeff Parker)

- Mondays & Wednesdays 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.

-008: Topics in Pediatric Clinical Psychology (Dr. Melissa Hunt)

- Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 9:00 - 9:50 AM
- This course will cover a broad range of clinical diagnoses as they present in children and adolescents. We will discuss assessment, differential diagnosis, and treatment, weaving together research and real-world case examples. We will also address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as they relate to diagnosis and treatment in a pediatric population. Students will produce two papers (one case analysis and one research paper) as well as several brief reading response assignments. Students will give one in-class presentation.
-009: Unlocking Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Dr. Steve Groff)

- Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:30 PM
- Understanding the onset, signs, symptoms, treatment modalities, vulnerable populations, as well as the prognosis for improvement in those people diagnosed with PTSD. Engaging students in experiential learning via significant active individual and small group participation. Robust emphasis on student discussion and investigation.

PY 491: Senior Seminars

-001: Child and Adolescent Psychopathy: An Examination of Grandiose-Manipulative, Callous-Unemotional, & Daring Impulsive Traits (Dr. Randy Salekin)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 - 10:45 AM
- 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: Children & Adolescent Experiences w/ Peers (Dr. Jeff Parker)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 - 1:45 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.
-003: Child Psychopathology (Dr. Robert Lyman)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:15 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: Psychology of Adulthood & Aging (Dr. Sheila Black)

- Mondays 5:00 - 7:30 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.

-005: Art and Science of Human Flourishing (Dr. Summer Braun)

- Wednesdays 9:00 - 11:30 AM

- This course offers an opportunity for students to explore human flourishing through the lens of the world’s body of knowledge and in the context of their own lives. We will explore scientific, philosophical, and artistic ideas about flourishing, while experimenting with contemplative practices that work directly with the mind, body, emotions, and relationships.

-007: Aggression (Dr. Kristina McDonald)

- Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:15 AM

- This course covers the etiology of aggressive and antisocial behaviors in humans, including an examination of the impact of personality characteristics, cognitions, and contexts on aggressive behaviors. The goals of this course include the discussion of the major theories and research evidence indicating the biological, emotional, cognitive, and social factors contributing to the etiology of aggressive behaviors.
-008: Developmental Psychopathology (Dr. Matt Jarrett)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 - 3:15 PM

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of psychological disorders in children from a developmental perspective. Students will become familiar with developmental psychopathology principles and theories of the causes of specific disorders. Students will also become familiar with the assessment tools and treatment approaches used for children with these disorders. Assignments will focus on critical thinking about research findings, learning to recognize symptoms of disorders, and applying knowledge in writing assignments. 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.

-009: Topic & Instructor TBD

- Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 - 10:45 AM