

Winter 2025 Psychology Special Topic Classes

**** You may take multiple sections of each variable topic course, so long as it has a different title.**

Course	Fac	Title	Instructor	Prerequisites	Class Description
302B1	Sci	Topic: Theories of Leadership	Rast	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	This is a mixed-style (seminars, lectures, discussions) course designed to provide an in-depth examination of research and theory related to the scientific study of leadership.
302B2	Sci	Topic: Psychopharmacology	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course. Not open to students who have already earned credit in PSYCH 403 Psychopharmacology.	This course discusses psychopharmacology of drugs of abuse. We will focus on drug administration, neurotransmitter systems, and drug actions, in the context of commonly used drugs such as alcohol, cannabis, psychedelics, and opioids. Topics will span general synaptic transmission, methods, mechanisms of action, and theories of addiction. By the end of this course students should be able to describe drug effects on their target tissues and resulting behaviours. Students will build awareness of how to evaluate claims given the scope of the current scientific literature, and how it can be applied to current policy and law making, and arguments for or against drug use, and drug regulation.
305B1	Arts	Topic: Political Psychology	Kincaid	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and PSYCH 241 or SOC 241	An overview of research and theory in political psychology. This course explores what psychology (mostly social and cognitive) can tell us about political phenomena - for example, why people identify with political parties, how political attitudes are developed, and how people make voting decisions. Topics covered may include political leadership, partisan identities as social identities, political polarization, collective action, authoritarianism, populism, and political extremism.
305B2	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Law	Blatter	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	The law is inherently psychological and is made by people with varying desires and ambitions, interpreted by individuals with different (sometimes contradictory) perspectives, and experienced – either directly or indirectly – by all of us. The objective of this course is to provide an introduction to important topics in the field, highlighting some of the most influential and controversial questions and research. Topics include: theories of criminal behavior, eyewitness identification, competency to stand trial, and the insanity defense.

305X50	Arts	Topic: Moral Psychology	Scott	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105 and a 200-level PSYCH course	In Moral Psychology, we will look at the psychological underpinnings of moral and ethical judgements and decisions. This course will review theories and research in moral psychology and will focus on the underlying motivational processes described by social, developmental, and cognitive psychology, as well as social, cognitive, and affective neuroscience.
403B2	Sci	Topic: Brain Metabolism	Scavuzzo	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 275 and a 300-level psychology course.	This course is a senior level course discussing brain metabolism. Students will have a working understanding of the physiological processes underlying basic brain metabolism in the context of development, sensation, movement, learning, psychiatric disease, and sleep and the experimental methods used to study these processes.
403B3	Sci	Topic: Advanced Perception	Loepelman	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and PSYCH 367.	This course is an intensive exploration of select theoretical, empirical, and applied issues in vision science and perception. You will learn the theoretical and empirical contributions required to understand current conceptual schemes and disputes. To do this, you will be able to take multiple points of view: the nature of the physical stimuli; the structure and function of the sense organs and receptors, and neural paths from receptors to the brain; how the sensory information is represented and processed; and what it means to perceive.
403B5	Sci	Topic: Injury & Repair Mechanisms After Stroke	Colbourne	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 275 and a 300-level psychology course. Note: Not open to students with previous credit in PSYCH 403 Recovery After Brain Injury.	This course introduces neural mechanisms of injury and repair occurring after ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke. We will discuss and critically evaluate animal and clinical research on various drug, cell-based and physical therapies along with factors that influence outcome, such as age.
403B6	Sci	Topic: Social Neuroscience	Nash	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 241 and a 300-level psychology course.	A seminar-style class that involves a survey of theories and research in social neuroscience.
403B7	Sci	Topic: Criminal Conduct	Frenzel	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and a 300-level psychology course. Strongly recommended one of PSYCH 239 or PSYCH 333.	This course will survey a cross section of topics from the areas of criminal forensic psychology and antisocial behaviour. There are essentially three parts: A discussion of biological, developmental, and environmental contributors to antisocial conduct. A review of selected areas of criminal conduct (e.g., homicide, sexual offending); and a discussion of practical issues in forensic psychology such as determining the mental fitness of an accused person to stand trial, offender treatment, and psychologists' role in NCR-MD assessment.

403B8	Sci	Topic: Social, Emotional and Cognitive Effects of Stroke	Colbourne	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 275 and a 300-level psychology course.	This course introduces you to the cognitive, social and emotional impact of stroke. Our focus is largely on current clinical research, including the effects of stroke and treatment approaches (e.g., impact of depression and treatment for it).
403B9	Sci	Topic: Computer Programming for Psych	Mathewson	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and a 300-level psychology course.	This course equips psychology students and researchers with critical programming skills for cutting-edge experimental design and data analysis. It integrates advanced programming tools and hardware, enabling participants to leverage technology in psychological research. Bridging theoretical psychology and practical computer science, the course prepares attendees for sophisticated, data-driven research.
403B10	Sci	Topic: Neuroethology	Sturdy	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161 and one of PSYCH 371, 372 or 381.	This course is a seminar and discussion-based course that will cover topics related to the neurobiology of behaviour, also known as neuroethology. As such, we will cover material related to brain and behaviour (i.e., neurobiology and ethology), with course material coming both from the textbook and primary literature sources (i.e., peer-reviewed journal articles). As a seminar and discussion based course, there will be a significant student participation component to this course. This means that students will be required to participate both face-to-face (synchronously) and in online discussion forums (asynchronously).
405-850	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Sex	Haag	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	This course consists of lecture topics that examine human sexual behaviour. This course will consider biological, psychological, developmental, and socio-political perspectives pertaining to the topic of human sexuality. A main objective of the course is to provide students with an introduction to major issues in human sexuality from various perspectives; however, the primary approach to this topic will be from an empirical perspective. This approach is designed to assist students develop critical thinking and contribute constructively to the social debate on sexual issues.
405B1	Arts	Topic: Applied Cognitive Psychology	Brown	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 258 and a 300-level PSYCH course.	The main goal of this course is to provide an overview of a number of topics in the area of Applied Cognitive Psychology (e.g., Human Computer Interaction, Law & Psychology, Working Memory Training, etc.). The expectation is that students will come away from this course with an understanding of how and why Cognitive Psychology is used in applied settings and what it can

					contribute. In addition, because this type of research is grounded in basic cognitive principles and often involves experimental methods, this course will provide a review of the relevant psychology and an introduction to the types of methodologies used to investigate complex real-world problems.
405B2	Arts	Topic: Group Processes	Rast	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, PSYCH 212, PSYCH 241 and a 300-level psychology course.	This is a seminar-style course designed to provide an in-depth examination of research and theory related to the social psychological processes within and between groups. This course covers topics such as the importance of groups and group membership(s), social influence, group polarization, leadership, teams and teamwork, discrimination, collective action, intergroup conflict and cooperation, and many other group-relevant topics.
405B3	Arts	Topic: Psychology of Teaching & Learning	Passey	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, a 300-level PSYCH course and a 3.0 GPA on all attempted PSYCH courses (excl. 104/105) The practical component of this course involves students acting as undergraduate learning assistants (ULAs) to lead workshops or facilitate class activities in real undergraduate courses.	This course will cover what research in psychology and education can tell us about how learning in university takes place, and how this knowledge can be applied to the teaching and learning in undergraduate psychology courses. Skills developed during this course will be relevant to future teachers, academics, coaches, managers/supervisors, those working with clients to develop new skills, or anyone who intends to continue teaching and/or learning new skills.
405B4	Arts	Topic: Affect and Emotion	Baerveldt	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	A survey of affect and emotion, tracing the historical evolution of emotion research, theories of basic and complex emotions, and interdisciplinary connections in the study of affect. The course explores advances in cognitive and appraisal theories of emotion, affective neuroscience and discursive studies of affective practices, delves into the question of how culture shapes emotional experiences, and explores recent developments in affect studies. By the course end, students will be able to distinguish between feeling, emotion, affect, and sentiment, while critically analyzing the personal and cultural dynamics of affect and emotion.
405B5	Arts	Topic: Psychology Today: Trends, Theories, and Transitions	Westbury	PSYCH 104, PSYCH 105, PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and a 300-level PSYCH course.	This course will focus on major advances in the last 50 years in psychological theory, criticism, philosophy, and empirical findings. The course is paper-based, with every lecture organized around a published paper. Topics will include how to think about phenomenology (our experience of ourselves), what large language models like ChatGPT can tell us about human language processing, the

					neurological underpinnings of psychotherapeutic change, why we laugh, why statistical methods are changing, why the replication crisis happened, what robotics can teach us about being human, the nature of cognitive biases, and what neuroscience can tell about free will.
423B1	Arts	Topic: Developmental Psychopathology	Zheng	PSYCH 213 or STAT 151 or 161, and PSYCH 323 or PSYCH 327 or 329.	This seminar course offered through the Faculty of Arts is designed to provide students with a general introduction to and overview of developmental psychopathology and its contributions to our understanding of normative and atypical human development in different contexts across the lifespan. Students will become acquainted with a range of core issues in developmental psychopathology, including basic theoretical and methodological concepts, selected substantive issues, and implications for applied developmental research. Through class discussion of readings and presentations, we will explore different perspectives towards developmental psychopathology, various proximal and distal mechanisms underlying developmental processes of psychopathology, as well as a survey of selective research topics in psychopathology. Students will learn how to apply a developmental lens to their own substantive research interests on psychopathology.
473B1	Sci	Topic: Sensory Neuroscience	Scully	One of PSYCO 367, 371, 375 or 377	This course will examine our current understanding of a number of human and animal sensory systems from a neurological perspective. We will be examining different systems focusing on current research in the field and comparing how these systems have evolved in different species.
473B2	Sci	Cognitive Neuroscience	Caplan	Psych 375 or Research experience in a cognitive neuroscience lab.	Brain basis of human cognition studied using a diverse range of techniques, with a focus on measures of brain activity such as functional neuroimaging and electrophysiology recorded during behavioural tasks. Designed for graduate and senior undergraduate students who are conducting cognitive neuroscience research. We will read articles and discuss them, led by students. Students will write hypothetical editorial letters for the articles. Students will present their own research or proposals. We will do hands-on analyses of sample brain activity data.

