

PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS (FALL 2020)

PSY 420F – Seminar in The Psychology of Human Sexuality

Sexuality is a topic of growing interest in psychology. Although sexual selection is arguably the strongest driver of human evolution and the management of sexual needs is deeply intertwined with cultural practices, psychology has left many fundamental questions regarding human sexuality largely unanswered. This course will survey multiple issues including sexual orientation, sexual attraction, short and long-term sexual relationships, sexual fantasy, and paraphilias. It will also include outside speakers with relevant expertise. *Please be aware that we will be covering some very sensitive material.* **Dr. Geoff MacDonald, Tuesdays 1 – 3 p.m.**

PSY 471F – Seminar in The Nature and Function of the Self

This seminar will explore how current psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience are transforming our understanding of the nature and function of the self. We will confront claims that the self is an illusion, and we will look at the relations the self has to narrative, intelligence, consciousness, and agency. The course will consist of six lectures, followed by six sessions of student presentations and discussions. **Dr. John Vervaeke, Thursdays 1 – 3 p.m.**

PSY 490F – Seminar in Timing, Timekeeping in Brain Activity and Behaviour

This course focuses on issues of biological timing that are important to human health and performance. Timing systems in other organisms are introduced as appropriate for each topic. The course builds a base of understanding of timing mechanisms, how they are produced at different levels of biological organization, and how disorganization can contribute to chronic mental and physical health disorders. **Dr. Martin Ralph, Wednesdays 12 – 2 p.m.**

PSY 497F – Seminar in Human Chronobiology

This is an advanced course in biological timing (chronobiology, circadian biology, time memory). Its intent is to probe more deeply into the mechanisms and significance of timing in biology, not only in the study of biological clocks, but also more broadly in the importance of timing in sensorimotor integration, memory, decision making, and health. The topics are organized in a hierarchical manner so that a base of understanding (and a common jargon) can be developed early on with more detailed studies later. **Dr. Martin Ralph, Mondays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**