PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS (WINTER 2021)

PSY 420S – Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Stigma

This course will examine contemporary issues in stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, both from the perceiver's and the target's perspective. The focus will be on understanding current trends in the field by focusing on what has been recently published over the past few years. Connections with classic issues and research will be made through weekly presentations and discussions led by discussion facilitators. **Dr. Alison Chasteen, Tuesdays 1 – 3 p.m.**

PSY 430S – The Policy Relevance of Subjective Well-being

The course will explore the emerging role of subjective well-being as a policy indicator. Subjective well-being refers to the cognitive assessment and affective feelings about the quality of one's life. Together we will examine classic and current issues related to subjective well-being research, such as: Do citizens value happiness? How can we measure happiness at the individual and population level? To what extent is population well-being malleable? Does money buy happiness? Does moving to a nicer house make you happier? Is a long and prosperous but dissatisfying life a good life? What are the benefits of population well-being? Is subjective well-being a viable policy goal? We will read and discuss research articles from within and beyond psychology to promote a multidisciplinary understanding of subjective well-being research. The format of the course involves in-class discussion, oral presentations, and a written assignment. **Dr. Felix Cheung, Thursdays 2 – 4 p.m.**

PSY 460S – Biopsychological Approaches to Study Cognition

Recent advances in tools and technology open the door to investigating the biological basis of various cognitive processes, such as memory, spatial navigation, decision making, and social interaction. In this course, we will read and discuss primary research articles on biopsychological experiments using non-human animals to gain insights into how cognitive processes are associated with genetic and physiological changes in the brain. The course will include brief lectures on methods and measures used in the assigned articles; however, a basic understanding of molecular biology, neurophysiology, and neuroanatomy is expected. Successful completion of PSY202H1 and PSY260H1 is required; PSY290H1 is recommended. **Dr. Kaori Takehara-Nishiuchi, Tuesdays 3 – 5 p.m.**

PSY 490S – Optogenetic Probing of Animal Behaviours

The course will survey a variety of genetic neuron manipulation methods being used in the systems neuroscience field, with a particular focus on light-induced neuron manipulation methods and applications. **Dr. Junchul Kim, Fridays 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**