

PSYCHOLOGY SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS (WINTER 2020)

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 12 – 2 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 471S – Visual Cognition

This course will examine current issues in the field of visual cognition. Researchers in visual cognition take the perspective that vision is an active process, and our visual perceptions are not solely based on visual sensations, but also involve a host of ongoing cognitive processes such as attention, priming, visual working memory, and motor programming. This course will use articles recently published in the top journals in the field to gain insights into how our cognitive processes combine with our visual processes to determine what we see (or, at least, what we think we see). In addition to reading current research papers, the seminar will involve discussions, oral presentations, thought experiments, and two written assignments. **PSY202H1, PSY270H1, and PSY280H1** are required prerequisites for this particular subtopic. **Dr. Jay Pratt, Fridays 2 – 4 p.m.**