

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC1012 FUNDAMENTALS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

This course explores human development through a psychological lens, fostering a deeper understanding of self and others. It examines key psychological theories of human development and their applications to real-world issues, addressing social, emotional, physical, and cognitive changes across the lifespan. Students will critically engage with major theoretical perspectives, contemporary research, and key debates in developmental psychology, applying these concepts to analyze developmental processes within the broader Caribbean context.

PSYC1013 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND REPORT WRITING

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course introduces Psychology students to basic research methods (quantitative and qualitative). Students gain hands-on experience in data collection and analysis. They will learn to analyse data using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences and become familiar with selected qualitative data analytic procedures. Students will learn how to format a research paper following guidelines from the American Psychological Association.

PSYC1015 HISTORICAL ISSUES IN PSYCHOLOGY

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

This course introduces students to the notable paradigm shifts within psychology and provides the critical skills necessary to evaluate theories within their historical, disciplinary, social, and political context. The course explores the development of modern science under Descartes; considers British empiricism, physiological roots of psychology, French Clinical tradition, psychophysics, Wilhelm Wundt, E. B. Titchener and Structuralism, Darwinian influences, Functionalism, animal experimental psychology, Behaviourism, Neobehaviourism, psychoanalysis, and Gestalt psychology.

PSYC1020 CYBERPSYCHOLOGY: MEDIA, MYSELF & A.I.

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

What does it mean to be human in a digital age? Cyberpsychology answers this question by examining how human beings use online technology to interact with others and how our cognitions and behaviours are affected. Students in this blended-learning course will explore topics ranging from online relationships and how we construct our digital identities to gaming and artificial intelligence and the psychological applications of virtual and augmented reality to our lives.

PSYC1025 DISCOVERING PSYCHOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF HUMANITY

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course introduces students to foundational areas in psychology that connect the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences and presents Psychology through experiential-based activities that help students learn how to use research to understand themselves and others in the world. The course provides a foundation for upper-level courses for those students pursuing the Special. Major or Minor in Psychology and as an elective for students across all Faculties.

PSYC1030 EXPLORING THE SOCIAL SELF IN THE WIDER WORLD

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

“Who am I?” is a question related to self-awareness and self-knowledge—identity will be one of the central topics of discussion throughout this course. Using various philosophical and theoretical perspectives in psychology, students in this blended-learning course will explore how we develop a sense of self and how our view of self, impacts our motivations, behaviours, thoughts, and relationships with other individuals.

PSYC1035 PSYCHOLOGY OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

LEVEL 1

3 CREDITS

Through the scientific examination of our thoughts, emotions, and behaviours, this course introduces students to the individual and cultural factors which can contribute to the psychology of intimate relationships and sexuality. Topics such as variations of sexual behaviour, sexuality, relationship theories, interpersonal attraction, love and partner selection, taboos, values and morals, communication, conflict, and infidelity, will also be covered in this blended-learning course, along with issues concerning the psychology of abuse and domestic violence.

PSYC2003 FOUNDATIONS OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course examines the relationship between neurobiological processes and psychological processes through experimental and clinical data. The course focuses on the organisation of the nervous system, the role of the neurobiological process in sensory experiences, sleep, attention, arousal, motivation, emotions, learning, memory and language.

PSYC2004 PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

Pre-requisites: PSYC1025 Discovering Psychology: The Science of Humanity OR PSYC1003 Introduction to Psychology

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This course offers a comprehensive analysis of major personality theories, including trait, biological, humanistic, social-cognitive, behavioral, and psychodynamic approaches. Emphasizing their historical significance and ongoing relevance in psychological inquiry, the course examines these frameworks in clinical and research contexts. Students will critically engage with key theoretical concepts to analyze human behavior, evaluating each approach's scientific rigor, methodological foundations, and psychometric applications. Through this exploration, students will develop a nuanced understanding of personality psychology.

PSYC2008 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course provides an in-depth exploration of human cognition, focusing on both classic and current issues. The study of cognition relies heavily on experimental research designed to test models and theories of cognitive processes, and so students will explore both behavioural and neuropsychological approaches to data and theory. Topics will include attention, perception, multiple memory systems, encoding and retrieval processes, the role of knowledge, language and reasoning.

PSYC2014 QUANTITATIVE EXPLORATION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIENCES

Pre-requisites: PSYC1013 - Introduction to Psychological Research and Report Writing

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning core course of the Psychology specialisation provides the basis for *PSYC3011 Research Paper in Psychology*. This course covers a range of quantitative methods and statistical techniques (inclusive of Pearson's r, t-tests, Analysis of Variance - ANOVA, and Multivariate Analysis of Variance - MANOVA). Pertinent areas of the research process, and the research paper in psychology, will be discussed.

PSYC2020 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND WELLBEING

Pre-requisites: PSYC1025 Discovering Psychology: The Science of Humanity OR PSYC1003: Introduction to Psychology AND PSYC1030 Exploring the Social Self in The Wider World OR PSYC1004: Introduction to Social Psychology

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course provides students with an overview of mental health. Students will review the historical perspectives of mental illness, cover various psychological disorders, theories about their development and clinical course. They will also explore resilience and coping and be introduced to the wellness model. This course is intended for psychology students pursuing the specialisation or major route and prepares those interested in a mental health career.

PSYC2022 PSYCHOLOGY OF CONCEPTION TO ADOLESCENCE

Pre-requisites: PSYC1012 Fundamentals of Developmental Psychology OR PSYC1025 Discovering Psychology: The Science of Humanity OR PSYC1003 Introduction to Psychology

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course presents the main features of human development, prenatal and postnatal, from conception to adolescence. Students will examine the biological foundations of human development, chromosomal abnormalities, principles of hereditary transmission, and the genetic and environmental factors that may affect the human organism before and after birth.

PSYC2035 POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: HAPPINESS, HOPE & HUMANITY'S STRENGTHS

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

Throughout this blended-learning course, students reflect on the question—*What is the source of your happiness?* They will explore and apply concepts in *Positive Psychology* and focus on the strengths and behaviours that enable individuals to build their lives with meaning and purpose. Students will also examine what makes individuals and institutions thrive, examining concepts such as grit, gratitude, flow, resilience, kindness, happiness, and optimism.

PSYC2036 QUALITATIVE INQUIRY OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WORLD

Pre-requisites: PSYC1013 Introduction to Psychological Research and Report Writing

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course introduces students to the nature and theoretical underpinnings of qualitative inquiry in Psychology, which involves the collection of rich text-based data allowing for the discovery of themes. Researchers gain a greater understanding of the motives, emotions and perceptions that constitute human thought and action. Students will gain practical skills for conducting interviews, focus groups and presenting qualitative findings per referencing and formatting guidelines of the American Psychological Association.

PSYC2009 THE PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Pre-requisites: PSYC 1003 – Introduction to Psychology OR PSYC1025 Discovering Psychology: The Science of Humanity

LEVEL 2

3 CREDITS

This course presents the main features of the psychological theories of human learning and places them in their appropriate historical context. Learning theories are conceptual models for explaining how information is absorbed, processed, and retained when learning in different settings. Students will examine the links between learning theories and practices through their application to homes, schools and organisations in the Caribbean.

PSYC3011 CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT IN PSYCHOLOGY

Pre-requisites: Minimum of 30 credits in Psychology courses inclusive of PSYC2014, Quantitative Exploration of Psychological Experiences OR PSYC2036, Qualitative Inquiry of the Psychological World

LEVEL 3

6 CREDITS S (YEAR-LONG)

This two-semester capstone course provides students with the opportunity to design and conduct an independent research project under faculty supervision. Students will apply research methodologies and analytical skills gained throughout their studies to investigate a specific psychological topic of interest. The course involves all stages of the research process, including proposal development, ethical considerations, data collection, data analysis, and the presentation of findings. Emphasis is placed on producing a research paper that adheres to the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines. Students will also present their research findings through oral presentations, promoting critical thinking, scholarly communication, and professional development in preparation for advanced studies or careers in psychology.

PSYC3016 PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Pre-requisites: PSYC2014 Quantitative Exploration of Psychological Experiences OR PSYC2036 Qualitative Inquiry of the Psychological World

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course requires students pursuing a Minor in Psychology to investigate a current issue in Psychology and present it in the form of a research project proposal (theoretical background, problem definition, methodological design, and project planning). This independent study helps students develop their ability in formulating research questions from a

psychological perspective, preparing a literature review, outlining the method of data collection and proposed data analysis. Students will be required to also present their written research project proposal in an oral presentation.

PSYC3017 CONTEMPORARY PERSONALITY THEORIES AND ASSESSMENT

Pre-requisites: PSYC2004 Personality Psychology AND PSYC2020 Psychopathology & Well-being OR PSYC 2002 Abnormal Psychology

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

Building on the foundational theories explored in PSYC2004, this blended-learning course examines contemporary perspectives on personality. Students will analyse the contributions of modern theories to personality dynamics, exploring how core structures and processes influence security, effectiveness, meaning, and resilience. The course also considers the implications for personality assessment in clinical, occupational, and personal development contexts, including its role in treatment planning, employment decisions, and self-awareness.

PSYC3018 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Pre-requisites: PSYC2003 Foundations of Neuropsychology OR PSYC2004 Personality Theory(No pre-requisite required for Law Faculty)*

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course provides an introduction to the study and application of psychology within criminological and legal contexts. Key topics include deception detection, psychological assessment of offenders, courtroom psychological processes, legal considerations of insanity and competency, and cognitive errors in recall. Students will engage with theoretical frameworks and empirical research to develop a critical understanding of psychological principles in legal settings, fostering analytical skills relevant to forensic psychology and criminal justice.

PSYC3020 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Pre-requisites: PSYC2022 Psychology of Conception to Adolescence

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course introduces students to psychological principles in Educational Psychology. Emphasis is on the psychosocial factors that impact teaching and learning. Students will explore a range of psychosocial forces that influence classroom dynamics. The content includes learning theories, motivation, theories of human development, personality theories, instructional design, assessment, and key concepts related to the sociological influences on education.

PSYC3028 PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SKILLS

Pre-requisites: PSYC2004 Personality Psychology AND PSYC2022 Psychology of Conception to Adolescence

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This experiential course introduces students to counselling psychology and the practice of counselling. It explores major counselling theories, therapeutic techniques, and the core conditions and skills necessary for effective counselling relationships. The course examines the stages of the counselling process and addresses key emotional, social, vocational, educational, and developmental concerns across the lifespan. It is particularly relevant for students pursuing careers in helping professions, offering foundational knowledge essential for professional practice.

PSYC3030 CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Pre-requisites: PSYC2004 Personality Psychology AND PSYC2020 Psychopathology and Well-being OR PSYC2002 Abnormal Psychology

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This course offers a comprehensive overview of clinical psychology, emphasizing both scientific foundations and professional practice. It examines training pathways, professional roles, ethical considerations, and contemporary developments in clinical research and practice. Students will explore the historical evolution of the field, psychological assessment methods, diagnostic processes, and various psychotherapy approaches. Additionally, the course introduces key specialty areas within clinical psychology, providing a foundational understanding for those interested in pursuing further study or professional practice.

PSYC 3032 PSYCHOLOGY OF ADULTHOOD AND AGEING

Pre-requisites: PSYC2022 Psychology of Conception to Adolescence OR PSYC2012 Developmental Psychology

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course builds upon the knowledge gained in PSYC1012, PSYC2022, or PSYC2012 of the developmental process. It introduces students to changes that occur during the adult years and extends the scope to the end of life. The course will explore the psychological, chronological, biological, and social and emotional dimensions of adulthood and ageing. Students will examine the myths, stereotypes, and theories associated with ageing.

PSYC3065 PSYCHOLOGY OF ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

Pre-requisites: PSYC2020 Psychopathology and Well-being OR PSYC2002 Abnormal Psychology

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course introduces students to psychological factors in drug and behavioural addictions (e.g., gambling, sex, shopping, video game playing, the internet, eating, exercise, diet) and associated interventions for recovery. It provides a comprehensive overview of the scientific study of addiction and employs a multidimensional approach (psychological, biological, and socio-environmental factors).

PSYC3066 PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN SPIRITUALITY: A TRANSPERSONAL APPROACH

Pre-requisites: PSYC2004 Personality Psychology

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

In this blended-learning course, students reflect on what constitutes their true purpose and learn about concepts underpinning the theory, practice, and study of human spirituality, which they will explore using a transpersonal psychological lens. Students will explore our connections with the environmental ecosystem and the cosmos. The course will focus on cross-cultural conceptualisations of the Divine, spiritual enlightenment techniques, exceptional human experiences and how spiritual development can change over one's lifespan.

PSYC3067 PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID: TRAUMA, SURVIVAL & RESILIENCE

Pre-requisites: PSYC1012 Fundamentals of Developmental Psychology

This blended-learning course introduces students to the evidence informed Psychological First Aid approach to helping others and themselves in the aftermath of traumatic events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics). It covers the impact of stress, trauma, grief, and how to anticipate stress and crisis. Students will be equipped with the skillset to provide care for others, practice self-care, and taught how to develop essential tools for handling difficult situations. It will be assessed using a range of activities and coursework.

PSYC3068 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Pre-requisites: PSYC2004 Personality Theory

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course introduces students to the field of health psychology – a subspecialty of psychology that focuses on how biology, psychology, behaviour, and social factors influence health and illness (physical and mental). It covers psychological theories that have implications for prevention, changing health habits, ill health, disease, stress, and coping, managing chronic illness (i.e., obesity, heart disease, diabetes, cancer) and pandemics. This course is assessed using coursework.

PSYC3069 PSYCHOLOGY FIELD EXPERIENCE*

Pre-requisites: Students must have passed a total of 16 (48 credits)

LEVEL 3

3 CREDITS

This blended-learning course enables students to apply psychological skills in real-world field settings, fostering confidence and socially responsible behaviour, including civility, sensitivity, respect, and trustworthiness. Following a four-week Pre-Field Experience Seminar, students will undertake a Field Placement over the course of six weeks in health and social support agencies (e.g., Probation Department, Psychiatric Hospital). Students will produce and present a Reflective Report on their field experience. **Restricted to BA Psychology (Special) students who have successfully completed Psychology courses and the course interview.*