

Psychology

PSYC S-1240. Abnormal Psychology (CRN: 30206)

Daniel Perschonok PhD, Lecturer on Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

An intensive exploration of the conceptual framework of psychopathology and the explanations of impaired psychological functioning. The course focuses on the forms of major mental disorder and of abnormal personality; on their possible causes (for example, cerebral dysregulation or internal conflicts, dysfunctional cognitions or developmental liabilities) and on several prevailing modes of treatment. Mood disorders will be emphasized to exemplify some of the controversial issues of classifying and understanding psychopathological phenomena. Students will examine several illustrative literary and case studies to note dilemmas of applying theoretical constructs to an individual case.

PSYC S-1505. Behaviorism and Behavior Modification (CRN: 31595)

L. Dodge Fernald PhD, Senior Lecturer on Psychology, Harvard University

Among the prominent systems of thought in psychology, behaviorism has been most controversial, yet its principles play a major role in the applications of psychology in everyday life. This course examines the basic concepts, their relevance today, the procedures of behavior modification, and social and ethical issues. It includes guest speakers from a clinical or recreational setting.

PSYC S-1875. Crime and Justice (CRN: 30209)

Ellsworth Lapham Fersch PhD, JD, Lecturer on Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Lecturer on Psychology, Harvard University

This course addresses street crime and white-collar crime, diverse concepts of justice, social reaction to crime and violence, the use of psychology and social relations in theories of criminal behavior, punishment and rehabilitation of offenders, imprisonment, death penalty, and juvenile justice. The course discusses the roles of psychologists, criminologists, and participants in the criminal justice system. The course focuses on case studies and on research.

PSYC S-1. Introduction to Psychology (CRN: 30204)

L. Dodge Fernald PhD, Senior Lecturer on Psychology, Harvard University

Students completing this course gain a broad understanding of modern psychology. Lectures, readings, demonstrations, and multimedia displays address basic topics in historical and contemporary psychology, including various perspectives: biological, cognitive, behavioral, evolutionary, psychoanalytic, and humanistic. Section meetings provide opportunities for active participation in individual and group projects.

PSYC S-1870. Law and Psychology (CRN: 30208)

Ellsworth Lapham Fersch PhD, JD, Lecturer on Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Lecturer on Psychology, Harvard University

This course compares legal and psychological approaches to human behavior and considers their interaction. Topics include criminal, ethnic, and racial profiling; confessions; the insanity defense; involuntary commitment to mental hospitals and substance abuse programs; eyewitness identification and testimony; juries; expert witnesses; and victimless crimes. The course discusses the roles of lawyers and of psychologists and psychiatrists, in theory and in practice. The course focuses on case studies and on research.

PSYC S-1293. Optimal Aging (CRN: 31644)

Douglas H. Powell EdD, Clinical Instructor in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard

Medical School

This course will provide an overview of the changes and challenges, as well as opportunities and benefits of growing older. Focusing on the third age of life, the years from 60-80, we will study the realities, and some of the myths, that surround the normal aging process as it affects physical health, cognition, social networks, and psychological adjustment. Special topics will include gender, agism, relative influences of nature/nurture, the growing variability with increasing age, psychoneuroimmunology, and the differences among the young-old, middle-old, and old-old years. Attention will be paid to differences between normal and optimally aging individuals. There will be a discussion of empirically supported activities, within the reach of most of us, which are associated with optimal aging.

PSYC S-1760. Why People Change: Psychology of Influence (CRN: 30207)

Richard N. Wolman PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Students examine the changes that occur in thoughts, feelings, and behavior as a result of growth and development within the individual, both normal and abnormal, and the effects of outside intervention. The course will attempt to establish a conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between personal history and personality formation, and it will examine efforts to modify the individual through outside influence, including psychological, physiological, and spiritual dimensions. There will be readings from classical and contemporary sources.