

# **University of Ghana**

## **Department of Psychology**

### **Sample Fall Courses**

#### **PSYC 311 Learning**

This course basically deals with the psychology of learning and its application to everyday life situations. It covers the various types of learning (e.g. Pavlovian, Instrumental, observational and verbal learning). Specific topics that are taught include: reasons for using animals in research in learning, elements/features of classical and instrumental conditioning, use of reinforcement and punishment, learning principles and behaviour change. Others are cognitive learning, observational learning and various types of verbal learning. At the end of the course, students should be able to apply learning principles to their own life situations as well as that of others around them.

#### **PSYC 313 Statistics for Psychologists**

This course deals with statistics and the behavioural sciences. It delves into descriptive and inferential statistics, populations, samples, parameters, etc. furthermore, the concept of variability, strategy of inferential statistics, the normal curve and inferences about the means of two populations will also be discussed. One way analysis of variance, two way analysis of variance, parametric and non-parametric methods, chi square, Kruskal–Wallis H test, the Wilcoxon test and the rank-sum test will also be taught.

#### **PSYC 315 Psychology of Personality**

The course emphasizes the major personality theories, research and measurements of personality. It will explore the foundations of normally functioning individuals as well as problems. The topics will include definitions, psychodynamic, traits, cognitive, phenomenological/existential theories associated with personality development. The effect of folk stories, “Kweku Ananse” stories on personality development will be examined.

#### **PSYC 317 Developmental Psychology I**

This course is concerned with understanding and explaining the changes that occur between conception and adolescence. Emphasis is placed on the major changes that occur in the physical, cognitive and the psychosocial domains and their implications for parents, educators, and helping professionals.

#### **PSYC 391 Practicals in Learning**

This course is the practical component of PSYC 311, and is compulsory for all students offering PSYC 311. Students are expected to participate in experiments based on the theories learned in PSYC 311 after which they submit a research report.

### **PSYC 421 Cognitive Psychology II**

The course builds up on Cognitive Psychology I and aims to acquaint the student with important theoretical principles and findings in cognitive psychology along with the methods by which this knowledge is acquired. Some of the areas of interest are sensation and perception, attention, visual imagery, thinking and reasoning, decision-making, problem solving, language and comprehension, individual and gender differences in cognition etc. Application of cognitive psychology to real-world settings and implications will be emphasised.

### **PSYC 423 Social Psychology**

This course focuses on the study of the social dimensions of human behaviour. Unlike other domains of psychology that focus mainly on the individual as the unit of analysis, social psychology examines behaviour in its social context. Students will be introduced to the main theories, research methods and major research findings in social psychology. Emphasis will also be placed on key concepts such as attribution, cognition, attitudes, social influence and many more. At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of social influences on behaviour.

### **PSYC 425 Introduction to Neuropsychology**

This is a course that will introduce students to a general overview of the anatomy of the brain (both cortical and subcortical). The course is also designed to help students understand the functions of the structures of the brain with respect to human behaviour and diseases that are brain-related. The course will be in two parts. The first part is an overview of selected brain functions (e.g. perception, language, memory, attention, sensory/motor control, executive functions) in both normal functioning and brain damage syndromes. The second part of the course will review clinical assessment and rehabilitation issues.

### **PSYC 427 Health Psychology**

Health psychology focuses on the role played by psychological factors in the cause, development and consequences of health and illnesses. The objectives of this course are to expose students to some of the major theoretical and intervention issues in health/illness behaviours. The course will be based on a national health perspective, with the main emphasis on behavioural risk factors which constitute the main health problems in Ghana. Topics to be covered include stress and coping, HIV/AIDS, lifestyle diseases in Ghana and disease prevention and health promotion.

### **PSYC 431 Clinical Psychology**

This is an introductory course designed for level 400 students. The course focuses on a thorough survey of the field, which does not go into all the details typically found in “graduate study only”. The topics explore the history of clinical psychology, including Ghanaian development of the field, its scope, functions and future perspective. The course also covers the latest developments in clinical research and techniques in health psychology, behaviour medicine, psychopathology and mental health.

### **PSYC 433 Educational Psychology**

This course is designed to give insight into the problems of teaching and learning and to develop the necessary professional skills and competencies for prospective educationist/teachers to enable them effectively understand, predict and control the behaviour of learners in the educational process. To this end, the course should more importantly be perceived as an area of applied psychology rather than a unique subject matter.

### **PSYC 435 Guidance and Counselling**

This course is designed to provide an insight into guidance and counseling. Specific topics to be covered include the historical development of guidance and counseling, the counseling process, techniques of counseling, the therapeutic relationship, theory and practice of counseling, special problems in counseling and ethical issues in counseling.

### **PSYC 437 Industrial Psychology**

This course is made up of Personnel Psychology and Engineering Psychology. It deals with how psychological principles, theories, concepts and methods are applied to shape individuals for effective job Performance and to also design work, work environments, tools, machines and equipments to match human abilities and limitations. Some of the areas covered in this course are; Job Analysis, Personnel Selection, Training and Development human resource, Job evaluation, Job Design work schedules, Human Factors Engineering characteristics of the work environment, Employee Health, Safety and Accidents at the workplace.

### **PSYC 439 Military Psychology**

This course deals with selected topical issues in the military. These include leadership and group dynamics (unit identity, unit cohesion, morale and heroism), stress and combat performance, combat stress behaviours, combat misconduct stress behaviours, battle fatigue and post-traumatic stress disorders.

### **PSYC 441 Psychology of Religion**

Psychology of religion deals with the application of psychological principles, theories and methods of research in studying religious behaviour, religious cognition, religious motivation, the role of religion in human life. The course draws on the contributions of other fields of psychology and focuses on the attitudes, values and experiences of people and their relationship with the supernatural. Topics to be covered include the emergence of psychology of religion, approaches to the study of psychology of religion, religious experience, religion and morality, and religion, coping and adjustment and functions of religion in adult life.

### **PSYC 443 Atypical Development**

This course deals with children's abnormalities in the general context of human development. Topics to be covered include mental retardation, social isolation syndromes, infantile autism, minimal brain dysfunction, childhood and adolescent schizophrenia, school phobia truancy, learning disabilities, academic underachievement and delinquent behavior.