

University of Ghana

Department of Psychology

Sample Spring Courses

PSYC 316 Abnormal Psychology

This course is designed to introduce students to the psychology of abnormal behaviour. It explores the history, definitions and current status of abnormal behaviour. The topics include the five paradigms or theoretical models of psychodynamic trait, phenomenological, cognitive and behavioural approaches to abnormal behaviour. It will examine research, abnormal patterns of functioning and methods of treatment.

PSYC 318 Developmental Psychology II

This course examines basic themes in life-span development: the concept of adulthood, physical development including changes in sense organs, cardiovascular organs, sex, reproductive organs and their psychological consequences. Others are health, vitality and diseases, the process of ageing, cognitive and psychosocial development during adulthood, retirement and widowhood, culture and aging.

PSYC 322 Cognitive Psychology I

This course is to provide a survey of selected problem areas in cognitive psychology with emphasis on memory. Both experimental work and theoretical accounts of memory will be covered. Topics include structural and processing accounts of memory – how people acquire, store, transform, retrieve and communicate information.

PSYC 324 Research Methods in Psychology

The course is intended to provide the student with basic skills needed to conduct psychological research, develop critical thinking skills regarding research and gain the capacity to design and conduct research as well as writing research reports. Topics include an overview of the scientific approach to knowledge, definitions of basic concepts, types of scientific research, design, sampling, questionnaire construction, interviews and report writing.

PSYC 326 Psychological Tests and Measurements

This course of study is designed to expose students to the basic conceptual, theoretical, technical and methodological principles in the development, administration and interpretation of psychological measurements. It is essential that students who intend to offer this course have good background in Basic Statistics and/or Statistics for psychologists.

PSYC 422 Psychology and National Development

This course is designed to help students understand how psychology can be applied in various areas of national endeavours. The course will treat topics such as introduction to Psychology and National Development, Economic Psychology, Psychology and Health, Psychology and Entrepreneurship, Attitude and Attitude change, Sports Psychology, Psychology and Politics, Psychology and Law, Psychology and Crime Prevention, Psychology and Poverty alleviation.

PSYC 424 Applied Social Psychology

This course will examine how the theories and principles of social psychology can be applied to major issues affecting contemporary societies. Topics to be covered include intergroup conflicts and their management, the role of social psychology in the clinic and in politics and in the courtroom, and determinants of helping behaviour. Topical issues such as attitudes regarding sanitation and health will also be discussed. The course will be an interactive one, providing a forum to share ideas and discuss the strategies that students will develop based on the theories of social psychology.

PSYC 426 Comparative Psychology

Comparative psychologists study differences and similarities in the behaviour of animals of different species. The discipline pays particular attention to the psychological nature of humans in comparison with other animals. At the heart of this perspective is the notion that human beings, like other animals, have an evolutionary history that predisposes them to behave in ways that are uniquely adaptive for survival and reproduction. One of the aims of comparative psychology is to use insights gained from the study of psychological processes in different species of animals to add to our understanding of human psychology. Any way of achieving this aim must depend, to some extent, on understanding the evolutionary relationship between animals and man.

PSYC 432 Community Psychology

This course is designed to help students develop a conceptual and pragmatic understanding of various issues and topics in community psychology. It introduces students specifically to the principles/philosophies of community psychology, community research and program evaluation, types and models of prevention, stress, coping and social support, psychological sense of community and reasons and strategies for social change. At the end of the course, students should be empowered to apply the principles/models of community psychology to social/community problems and to provide appropriate interventions.

PSYC 434 Environmental Psychology

This course aims at exploring the relationship between psychology and the environment with particular emphasis on how the latter influences human behaviour. The course, which is a seminar type, will take a critical look at the natural, the built as well as the psychological environment and how they influence behaviour. The course is thus aimed at creating awareness among students on the effects (with particular attention on the adverse one) the environment has over the quality of life and how to reduce and/or manage them. At the end of the course, it is expected that students should be able to identify environmental hazards and critically assess the effects of these hazards and how to control or manage them.

PSYC 436 Introduction to Psycholinguistics

This course introduces students to the nature of language, the various processes that underlie comprehension and how we produce and acquire language. Specific topics to be covered include comprehension and utilization of sentences, language production, the

representation of meaning, language and thought and second language learning and bilingualism.

PSYC 438 Organizational Psychology

This course deals with the application of psychological concepts, theories, methods and ideas to problem of organizations. The course is made up of organizational theory and organizational behaviour. Topics treated include: the nature of organizations, organizational structure, design of effective organizations, organizational development, organizational climate and culture, organizational change, organizational decline, organizational learning, group processes in organizations, employees work attitudes and motivation, communication in organization, conflicts in organizations and organizational commitment.

PSYC 442 Sports Psychology

This course focuses on the psychological and mental factors that relate to participation and performance in sport, exercise and physical activity and how these may improve personal development and well-being throughout the life span. Topics to be covered include an introduction to sports psychology, motivation and self-confidence in sports, aggression and violence in sports, leadership, cohesion and audience effects, relationships in sports and life skill training and transitions in sport.

PSYC 444 Political Psychology

The course examines the psychological factors that explain political behaviour. Theories and researches in both Psychology and Political Science will be examined. Other relevant topics include personality approaches to understanding political leaders and voters, the role of socialization in the formation of political preferences, how voters process political information, form impressions of political candidates and make voting decisions. The role of stereotypes and how they affect the candidate evaluation process, the uses (and abuses) of persuasion in politics, the role of the mass media in politics, the effects of political advertising, attack campaigning, the role of the media in dictating how the public thinks and the role of women and minorities in politics will be discussed.