

## PSYCH SPECIALIZED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING 2023

### **3998.01 Liberation Psychology: Theory & Practice with Dr. Abe**

This in-person course introduces liberation psychologies, a field within the discipline of psychology that connects individual well-being with social justice, and the need for personal healing with the need for social healing. This version of the course will focus on embodied (body-based) and embedded (place-based) approaches to understanding and addressing personal and collective trauma, and is limited to students participating in the Living Learning Community (LLC) associated with the Pam Rector Center for Service and Action (PRCSA) for Spring 2023. It fulfills the upper division core requirement in Interdisciplinary Connections, and includes an Engaged Learning Flag, including 20-30 hours of field-based experience that will be organized in collaboration with the PRCSA as part of the LLC experience.

### **3998.02 Asian American Psychology with Dr. Vu**

This course introduces students to the salient psychological issues of Asian Americans. Taking into account the social, cultural, and historical context of the Asian American experience, the objective of this course is to examine the personality and mental health issues of Asian Americans. Special emphasis is given to how minority group status, adaptation processes and bicultural development influence various aspects of psychological functioning. Other topics to be covered include acculturation and enculturation, stereotypes and racism; cultural values and behavioral norms; ethnic identity; relationships with other racial groups; gender and sexuality; and mental health and culturally-responsive treatment strategies.

### **3998.03 Peace and Conflict with Dr. Ford**

In this class, students explore multiple factors contributing to conflict, de-escalation, resolution, and creation/maintenance of a sustainable peace in societies with a noted recent history of conflict. Particular attention will be paid to understanding the challenges to peace from psychological and political perspectives. We first interrogate why conflict exists from multiple levels of analysis (interpersonal, intergroup, and international) and theoretical approaches. We then explore ways to resolve, manage, and control conflict by analyzing case studies of negotiation and reconciliation. The first case study will be Northern Ireland. Students will explore the Northern Ireland situation in depth by travelling to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland over spring break to learn first-hand about the reconciliation process from politicians, poets, peace builders, researchers, and religious leaders. Thus, students will move beyond the classroom setting to apply what they have learned in class and also to expand upon what they have learned. Following this, we compare and contrast Northern Ireland to other post-conflict situations, including South Africa, Sierra Leone, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Cambodia.

### **3998.04 Forensic Psychology with Dr. Forman**

This course introduces to you the major topics of the field of forensic psychology. These include: (1) the history of forensic psychology; (2) applying forensic psychology to civil proceedings such as divorce, domestic violence, child custody and personal injury; (3) applying

psychology to criminal proceedings such as eyewitness testimony, competency, insanity and violence assessments, and (4) the laws and ethics related to practicing forensic psychology. Four semester hours.

#### **3998.05 Psychology of Marriage with Dr. Seabrook-Derrington**

This course is specifically designed to introduce students to psychological theories and current research relating to the study of marriage. This class will focus on a large range of topics including attraction, establishing intimate dating relationships, selecting a life partner, getting married, communication, power, and conflict in marriage, becoming a parent, marital success, marital difficulties and divorce, remarriage and stepfamilies, intimacy in late adulthood, family diversity, gender roles, and sexuality.

#### **4100.01 Capstone: Psychology, Spirituality, and Liberation with Dr. Abe**

This in-person interdisciplinary seminar integrates key ideas from the field of liberation psychologies with Ignatian spirituality to provide a holistic view of how the discipline of psychological science can contribute to wholeness, healing, and justice in the world. Liberation psychologies, a field within the discipline of psychology connects individual well-being with social justice, and the need for personal healing with the need for social healing. This course fulfills major requirements for a capstone course and is limited to seniors who will be completing all other major requirements in Spring 2023.

#### **4100.02 Capstone: Psychology and Sustainability**

This course examines human behavior and human nature in the context of ecological factors. A particular focus of the course will be on how psychology might contribute to help mitigate, or solve, ecological problems that are likely to occur in this century, including depletion of natural resources (especially fossil fuels), population overshoot of the planetary carrying capacity, climate change, and species extinction.

#### **4100.03 Capstone: Social Identify with Dr. Fingerhut**

People belong to a variety of social groups – the Black students association, the Catholic Church, the National Organization for Women, the local bird watchers society. For many individuals, membership in social groups provides a foundation for identity. In this class we will explore how people come to identify with particular groups, and how such social identities, as social psychologists refer to them, subsequently shape people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Sample topics include: the development of identity; identity and social cognition; intergroup relations and prejudice; intersectionality; marginalization; privilege; identity and health. Throughout the class, we will touch upon the biological, psychological, and social elements of identity and will examine the identity construct through an interdisciplinary lens (e.g., using psychology as well as literature and law to examine identity).

#### **4100.04 Capstone: Gender and Diversity with Dr. Ghavami**

A critical feature of the class centers on how the cultural diversity of our contemporary society shapes gender and gendered experiences in various contexts from a psychological

perspective. In particular, we will focus on the process of gender construction and socialization as well as the psychological significance of gender in relation to other social identities such as race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, immigrant status and sexual orientation. We will also examine the implications of gender for the self, achievement, friendships, romantic relationships and intergroup relations as well as school practices such as discipline.

**4100.05 Capstone: Neuropsychology of Oliver Sacks with Dr. Hardy**

A variety of neurological case studies of the famous British neurologist Oliver Sacks will be examined in detail. Syndromes or diagnoses will include prosopagnosia (inability to recognize faces), amnesia, Tourette's syndrome, autism, as well as an examination of what philosophers call the Molyneux problem. These curious and sometimes paradoxical case studies will provide a neuropsychological lens to explore issues of identity and what it means to be human. The life of Sacks himself will also be examined (readings include his autobiography).

**4100.06 Capstone: Advanced Research Methods with Dr. Murphy**

Designed to integrate across psychological disciplines, this course expands on lower-division statistics and research methods courses to further explore common research designs and statistical analyses in psychology. Topics include: ethical research practices; correlation and regression; experiments and factorial designs; power and effect size; and systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Students will conduct an empirical research study in a topical area of psychology and present results in APA-style written, oral and/or poster presentations. Highly recommended for students considering graduate school in psychology.