PSYCHOLOGY TOPICS COURSES  
(from Fall 1998 to present)

PSY 115A **Topic: Psychology of Wellness.** An overview of how psychological phenomena such as emotions, stress, and the placebo effect interact with your physical well being. Some specific topics include substance abuse, AIDS, chronic headaches, eating behaviors, and cancer.

PSY 115B **Topic: Problem Solving and Creativity.** Involves the exploration of creative and problem-solving mental processes.

PSY 221E **Topic: Computers and Technology** (2 semester hours only). Surveys applications of digital technologies in psychology, from early uses as control and presentation equipment in laboratories to adaptive instructional technology. Explores artificial intelligence research that focuses on mimicry of behavior (robotics), simulation of visual and other sensory activities via complex pattern recognition (handwriting recognition), human language (voice recognition and production), expert systems environments (to supplement or replace humans with expert skills such as flying airplanes), sophisticated repair and maintenance diagnostics, and even teaching. This latter application, known as adaptive instructional technology, will be explored in depth. Because adaptive instruction is founded on psychological learning principles, those principles will also be reviewed.

PSY 221F **Topic: Hanging Loose in an Uptight World.** Stress is a built-in fact of life (the buzzword and malady of the day). This course introduces students to the variables involved in the stress reduction process, with an emphasis on actively involving the student in the learning process. Intent is to enhance students’ knowledge about the process, but not necessarily make them more relaxed.

PSY 221M **Topic: Brain Behavior Connection.** Surveys the basic principles, methodology, and application of the multidisciplinary field known as neuroscience. Designed to provide information and a basic understanding of the biological basis of a broad range of behaviors including those considered "normal," and those that represent anomaly. Intended to fulfill the need for understanding in this field without regard to background in biological or psychological sciences.

PSY 315 **Topic: Assessing School Readiness.** Focuses on developmental screening, the process of describing a child's developmental level and school readiness, using screening tools approved for this purpose in Florida. Covers common types of developmental delays, as well as a description of therapies used to address developmental problems. Combines classroom instruction with experiences in the Rollins College Child Development Center or one of several early childhood centers in the community screening developmental levels. **Prerequisite:** any course in human development.

PSY 315A **Topic: Cognitive Psychology.** Introduces basic cognitive theories, methods, and research findings. Includes such areas as attention, memory, imagery, gene knowledge, language, problem-solving, and logical reasoning.

PSY 315B **Topic: Motivation.** Topical coverage typically includes conceptual and historical foundations for motivational theory; ethological and physiological foundations of motivated behavior -- including maternal behaviors, animal migration, homeostatic body and energetic functions, and sexual behavior;
activation -- ranging from sleep to stimulus seeking; stress; learned drives, incentives, and motives; cognitive and social sources of motivation; and dimensions of emotional expression as they relate to motivation.

**PSY 315B Topic: The Mind-Body Problem.** The mind-body problem has intrigued philosophers for centuries, but only in the last two decades have physiological psychologists begun to treat the problem empirically. This interdisciplinary course synthesizes perspectives from philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience on the empirical study of consciousness and free will, and concentrates on an emerging literature on the physiological correlates of self-awareness, visual qualia, perceptual binding, and intentional action. Background in biology, philosophy, or physiological psychology recommended, but not required.

**PSY 315C Topic: Clinical Assessment.** Provides students with an understanding of some of the main tests used in clinical practice, as well as the problems underlying assessment procedures. Clinical Interviews will also be highlighted.

**PSY 315E Topic: Feminism, Behaviorism, and Psychological Science.** Feminist scholarship has challenged traditional assumptions and practices across academic disciplines including psychology. The feminist challenge of traditional psychological science has generated probing questions that address the very foundations of that science including: the nature of objectivity; the embeddedness of values in the scientific enterprise; the patriarchal biases inherent in traditional methodologies. Course examines the feminist critique of traditional psychological science and explores an array of feminist alternatives proposed. Introduces students to the philosophy of science that supports contemporary behaviorism, and explores its potential to bridge feminist and traditional psychological science.

**PSY 315E Topic: Psychology of Women.** Focuses on topics and research findings relevant to the psychological experiences of women such as gender-role development, education, sexuality, employment, mental health care, and victimization. *Women’s studies minor elective course.*

**PSY 315F Topic: Industrial and Organizational Psychology.** Provides students with a greater understanding of the psychological processes involved in organizational life. Draws on current research and theory to focus on issues such as employee selection, training, leadership, motivation, and organizational change. Special emphasis is placed on the process of applying psychological principles to important issues in the workplace.

**PSY 315G Topic: Neuropsychology with Laboratory.** Examines ways in which the brain influences behavior and psychological phenomenon. Focuses on three major categories, neuroanatomy, behavior, and mental processes, and disorders caused by brain injury or malfunction.

**PSY 315H Topic: Psychology of Religion.** Studies social and individual religious behaviors of people. From altruism to exorcism to visions, some of humankind’s most interesting behaviors are related to religion. Topics include religion, mental health, and mental illness; the psychology of conversion; cult membership; the psychology of evil and torture; the physiology of prayer and meditation; and life after death experiences.
PSY 315J Topic: Childhood Across Cultures. Examines ways that culture and social diversity affect the development of children and families in both the U.S. and other countries. Studies the biological/physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development of children from a cross-cultural perspective. Following the child’s chronology, examines prenatal development and birth practices around the world, then focuses on topics such as cultural views of parenting of girls and boys, child care and early childhood education, schooling and cognition, adolescent rites of passage, child labor, and marriage beliefs and practices. Students will complete an intensive cross-cultural study of one area of development. Prerequisite: PSY 101 or 150.

PSY 315K Topic: Environmental Psychology. Examines the relationship between individual psychological processes and the physical environment (i.e., both natural and built settings). Topics include environmental attitudes, natural environments, environmental responsibility, human territoriality and identity display, personal space and nonverbal behavior, crowding, environmental stress, design and crime, reactions to disaster, environment health, residential settings, work settings, cities and communities, health care facilities, children's environments, correctional facilities, environments for the elderly and disabled, recreational settings, and retail settings.

PSY 315M Topic: Human Sexuality. Designed to inform and enlighten adults about one of the fundamental drives necessary for maintaining the human species, sex. Calls upon biological, psychological, medical, and social theory to elucidate all aspects of being and feeling sexual. Attempts to answer a variety of students' questions utilizing various learning tools, including the Internet, PowerPoint presentations, films, and guest speakers. Women’s Studies minor elective.

PSY 315N Topic: Physiological Psychology with Laboratory. Introduces the fundamentals of nervous system responses to psychological processes. Explores the anatomy and physiology associated with psychological events, historical and contemporary issues in the field, and the societal and personal implications regarding the use of such measures. Laboratory exercises include instruction, use of, and data analysis for a variety of psychophysiological measures.

PSY 315O Topic: Psychopharmacology. Explores the use of medications in treating a variety of mental illnesses including schizophrenia, depression, and Alzheimer’s disease. Covers basic brain processes, their relation to mental illness, and the effects of medications on such processes.

PSY 315P Topic: Psychology of Trauma And Recovery. Course is an in-depth exploration of traumatology, the study of psychological trauma resulting from horrific experiences. Empirical research surrounding the assessment and diagnosis of various trauma disorders (e.g., posttraumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, dissociative disorder) will be discussed along with research showing how trauma survivors change interpersonally because of their experiences. Recent biological and neuropsychological evidence of how traumatic memories are processed in the brain will be reviewed, including false memory syndrome. A variety of trauma populations will be studied: war veterans, survivors of physical abuse, children, survivors of natural disasters, and so forth. Finally, treatment for trauma will be discussed with an emphasis on cognitive and behavioral intervention strategies.

PSY 315P Topic: Theories of African/Black Psychology. Explores the theory, practice, and research of the study of human functioning from the unique perspective of Afrikan/Black people. Offers students a topical survey of psychology from antiquity to the present and the opportunity to examine the
development of Afrikan/Black psychology as an academic discipline. Designed to introduce students to the concepts, tenets, and conceptual framework for understanding the behavior of people of African descent.

**PSY 315Q Topic: Advanced General Psychology.** Revisits all areas typically covered in an introductory course to ask new questions about the most significant and enduring vocabulary, research, principles, philosophies, theories, and contributors in psychology. Especially relevant for, but not limited to, students planning to take GRE or advanced placement tests in anticipation of application to graduate programs in psychology. *Priority to junior and senior Psychology majors.*

**PSY 315S Topic: Evolutionary Psychology.** Evolutionary psychology is an interdisciplinary approach that draws on evolutionary principles to understand human behavior, thought, and emotion, and maintains that certain psychological processes exist in the species because they facilitated survival and reproduction at some point in our evolutionary history. Although such processes may be influenced by learning and experience (nurture) they may be passed on via inheritance and are part of the genetic makeup of the species (nature). Evolutionary psychology applies this approach to a variety of domains in the discipline including human development, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, social and personality psychology, and psychopathology.

**PSY 315S Topic: Psychology and Law.** Focuses on theory and research in psychology that is directly relevant to the legal system. Specific topics may include police interrogation and confessions, the reliability of eyewitness testimony, scientific jury selection, insanity and competency, expert witnesses, child interviews and testimony, jury deliberation and decision making, presentation of scientific evidence, profiling and criminal behavior, and the psychology of corrections. *Does not assume background in psychology or the law.* Open to non-majors. *Junior status; PSY/WMS elective.*

**PSY 315T Topic: Cross Cultural Child Development.** There is no such thing as just a child … There is always a child in a family, in a society, and in a culture. (Psychiatrist J. Winnicott, paraphrased.) In this course, students will begin to step outside their own views to see the vast array of human experience. We will study human development by first examining variations in children’s lives within mainstream U.S. culture -- the influence of variations in country of origin, urban vs. rural upbringing, boarding school, religious beliefs, and divorce on child development. Then, we’ll move across the lifespan and around the world: childbirth in Africa; infancy in Brazil; schooling in China, Japan, and Afghanistan; rites of passage among the Navaho and the Sudanese; and parenting in Central America. The course includes an optional cross cultural field placement. No background in psychology required, but readings are original journal articles and book chapters. *Prerequisite: A first course in any social science discipline or sophomore status.*

**PSY 315V Topic: Red Cross Disaster Training.** Rollins College and the American Red Cross have partnered to create a unique learning and community service opportunity for students. The Red Cross training includes a variety of on-line and classroom exercises that provide students with managerial-level training in the establishment of shelters and disaster response. Upon completion of training, students will be eligible for deployment anywhere in the country to support disaster relief efforts. Students will receive credit for the course after successfully completing all Red Cross training requirements. Course also includes some training in mental health responses to disaster and a brief review of post-traumatic stress
disorder. Contact Dr. David C.S. Richard, Department of Psychology, dcrichard@rollins.edu, for additional information or questions. **Prerequisite: PSY major or minor, or instructor's consent.**

**PSY 315Y Topic: Existential Psychology.** Explores the relationship between free will, choice, and responsibility, and traditional experimental, psychoanalytic, and evolutionary approaches to understanding human nature.

**PSY 415A Topic: Autism and Behavior Analysis.** Introduces advanced psychology students to behavior analytic techniques of assessment, observation, and therapeutic intervention for children diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorders. Specific conditions include autistic disorder, Asperger’s disorder, and childhood disintegrative disorder (CDD). Students will work directly with board certified behavior analysts in on- and off-campus therapeutic settings specializing in early intervention and treatment of autism and related disorders. **Prerequisites: PSY 328 and 341, or concurrent enrollment in PSY 328.**

**PSY 415C Topic: Multivariate Statistics.** An applied project involving the development and validation of a psychological test will be completed as part of this course. Students will learn theory and practical skills in tests and measurement, and will gain experience in the use of multivariate statistical techniques such as multiple regression, factor analysis, and path analysis. Designed for students with an interest in research methodology. **Prerequisite: Grade of B+ or higher in PSY 265 and PSY 361 and instructor's consent (register in department).**

**PSY 415D Topic: Clinical Psychology Research Methods.** Introduces students to the rich history and methods of research in clinical psychology. Topics include the design and implementation of open and randomized clinical trials, the rationale for and literature behind empirically supported treatments, program evaluation, participant attrition, methods for assessing the adequacy of assessment instruments, clinical research ethics, issues surrounding dissemination of research results to practitioners (translational research), and comparative outcome research (psychotherapies and pharmacotherapy). Introduces students to the peer review process by having students write a research paper that will be reviewed anonymously by three members of the class. Student groups will also be responsible for putting together a mental health awareness faire on campus and evaluating its effects using the program evaluation methodologies discussed in class. Provides mentoring on the graduate school application process, with a focus on the kinds of programs that Rollins students have shown an interest in (e.g., clinical Ph.D., clinical Psy.D., master's programs in counseling, clinical, and so forth).

**PSY 415E Topic: Advanced Personality Psychology.** Looks at the major theories of human nature by reading the original works of Freud, Jung, Skinner, Rogers, Erikson, and others. Students will also complete personality measures and interpret results. Class will be run on a humanistic model in which students take responsibility for their own learning. **Prerequisite: PSY 254**

**PSY 415H Topic: Advanced Cognition.** Integrates an in-depth exploration of selected topics in cognition with an emphasis on experimental research methods. Readings in original research, active participation in laboratory replications, complete research report preparation, and write-ups accompany each topic. The course culminates in the preparation of an original research project. **Prerequisite: PSY 322; completion of or concurrent enrollment in PSY 361 is highly recommended.**
PSY 415J Topic: Youth Development in School. Children spend a substantial number of waking hours in school, an important context for development. This senior seminar will address key developmental topics and research methodology used in school settings. Prerequisite: PSY 328.

PSY 415K Topic: History and Systems. Surveys how humans have historically attempted to understand themselves and interactions with their environments by developing theories of mind and human behavior. Covers philosophical systems that pre-date psychology, as well as modern systematic movements within psychology. Students are encouraged to identify recurring themes and concepts. Special focus given to sociopolitical and cultural forces that influence the development of psychology's history. Prerequisite: All core courses in PSY major.

PSY 415Q Topic: Advanced General Psychology. Revisits all areas typically covered in an introductory course, asking new questions about the most significant and enduring vocabulary, research, principles, philosophies, theories, and contributors in psychology. Especially relevant for, but not limited to, students planning to take GRE or advanced placement tests in anticipation of application to graduate programs in psychology. Prerequisite: all core courses.