COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

PSY2001 Introduction to Business Psychology and Organizational Behaviour (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to key topics about business psychology, such as motivation and emotions in the workplace, leadership, human resource management practices in organisations, diversity and change management, etc. There will be a focus on the application of psychology to real business issues and questions.

PSY2002 Research Methods for Psychology (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of major research methods used to conduct surveys and experimental studies in psychology. The course encompasses the explanation of the purposes and scope of survey and experimental studies; plan and design of simple research projects; illustration of the importance of reliability and validity of psychological assessment tools, etc. The course emphasises underlying principles and practical application rather than technical details.

PSY2003 Statistics for Psychology (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of basic statistical techniques in modern applied statistics, especially in relation to conducting surveys and experimental studies in psychology. Statistical techniques such as t-tests, analysis of variances, correlation analyses, regression are covered. Students will have hands-on practice in actual data analyses using common statistical software [e.g. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)].

PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)

The purpose of this course is to introduce fundamental concepts and theories in psychology specifically in the daily life context. Upon completion of this course, students should have acquired basic understanding of the major theories and research findings in various areas of psychology, and how these major psychological theories can be used to examine and explain human behaviours, emotion, cognition and mental health.

PSY3001 Stress and Coping: Theory and Practices (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)

Stress is an aspect of everyday contemporary life, whether minor or major, acute or chronic. How we cope with stress has substantial influence on our psychological well-being. This course provides a theoretical-experiential approach to understanding and coping with stress. Students are exposed to various stress management strategies with the intention of preventing and/or alleviating the negative impact of stress on health, communication, relationships, academic and work performance.

PSY3003 Negotiation, Judgement, and Decision Making in Organizations (3 credits)

(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)

With little effort, we can process complex information and make judgment and decisions within a short period of time. Yet, most people remain largely unaware of how their minds accomplish complex tasks. This course describes a comprehensive framework on how people make judgment and decisions, describes various biases and heuristics that can influence judgment and choice, outlines potential flaws in negotiation and conflict management, and provides important insights on how to make better managerial decisions in organisations.

PSY3004 Introduction to Consumer Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
The rapid development in digital technology has ushered in a consumer mind-set that is adventurous and exploratory. Hong Kong and global consumers have limitless options available in the online and offline shops, providing new opportunities for merchants to improve marketing performance and for consumers to improve economic wellbeing. This course introduces the underlying psychological processes that explain choices of consumers and how they respond to the influence of marketing, as well as the external stimuli that convince people to purchase certain items. The benefits of studying this course have significant bearing on marketing and public relations decisions. Consumer psychologists lay a critical role not only in in helping sellers promote and market their products and services to buyers, but also in helping consumers to make wise consumption decisions.

PSY3005 Managing Diversity in Organization (3 credits)
(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Due to demographic changes, migration and the influence of globalisation, workforce becomes more diverse in organisational settings. How would the diverse workforce influences the individual or the overall organisational functioning? This course examines the key challenges, opportunities, and techniques of effective management of a diverse workforce. Students will examine on such issues as gender, racial, and age discrimination, sexual harassment, and disabilities.

PSY3101 Research Methods and Statistics for Psychology I (3 credits)
This course provides an overview of major research methods and topics in modern applied statistics, especially in relation to conducting surveys and experimental studies in psychology. The course encompasses the explanation of the purposes and scope of survey and experimental studies; plan and design of simple research projects; illustration of the importance of reliability and validity of psychological assessment tools; and introduction of techniques in measuring associations and testing group differences. Statistical techniques such as t-tests, analysis of variances, and correlation analyses are covered. The course emphasises underlying principles and practical application rather than technical details. Students will have hands-on practice in actual data analyses using common statistical software [e.g. jamovi].

PSY3102 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures (3 credits)
The purpose of this course is to apply major fundamental psychological concepts and theories to Chinese context. Upon completion of this course, students should have acquired a basic understanding of findings in various areas of psychology, and major psychological theories used to explain human behaviour in the Chinese cultures. In addition, this course provides liberal arts students with an avenue for deepening understanding of self and behaviours of others, with selected topics emphasing on the cross-cultural perspective of human behaviour.

PSY3103 Psychology of Human Performance and Technology (3 credits)
Engineering psychology is a sub-discipline of psychology that is concerned with understanding human capabilities and limitations in interacting with technology. The goal is to understand how we can optimise machine design for human operation. Many technological systems do not perform as effectively as they intended to be because their designs are not compatible with the way people attend, perceive, think, memorise, decide and act. You might have experienced the following two examples when using some poorly

designed technologies:

Leaving your original document behind after a photocopying task

Spending a long time to find a common function you needed when using software (e.g. MS Excel) but ended up not finding it

In order to design human-centred systems, engineering psychologists apply knowledge and theories from cognitive psychology to systems design.
In this applied course, we will extend selected topics from cognitive psychology (e.g. attention, memory, decision making, etc.) to examine how they relate to the interaction between humans and interactive systems. We will also cover a number of design and evaluation techniques from human-computer interaction (HCI) – a closely related discipline.
NB: There is no technical engineering mathematics involved in this course.

PSY3201 Human Development and Psychology of Adulthood (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology or PSY3102 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures)
This course introduces theories on human development across the life span and explains how people change (and how they remain unchanged) in different domains (e.g., cognitive, personality, and relationships) over time. The course also highlights the life issues and psychological changes occuring during adulthood (including young, middle, and late adulthood). Finally, this course discusses issues relating to developmental problems.

PSY3202 Psychology Applied to Occupational Safety and Health (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course introduces the new development of applying psychology to occupational safety and health issues in modern society, in order to make worksite a safe and healthy place. This course highlights a human factor approach to safety management such as enhancing management style/leadership, safety climate and motivation factors; and at the same time alleviating violence and stress in the workplace.

PSY3205 Social Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Social psychologists examine how the self and the social context interplay, as well as how individuals influence one another. In other words, social psychology is the study of the influences on and consequences of social interaction. Topics covered in this course include theories and research on social cognition (attitude, stereotypes, and judging others), social influences (conformity, obedience and persuasion) and social relations (prejudice, altruism, and aggression).

PSY3206 Abnormal Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): In Term 1, 2019-20 or before, PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology or PSY3102 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures
From Term 2, 2019-20, PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course will introduce the bases of clinical psychology through a broad survey of various aspects of abnormal behaviour. The course will cover common psychological disorders, such as mood disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, and schizophrenia. Assessment and treatment of these psychological disorders will also be discussed.

PSY3207 Health Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Health psychology focuses on the role of psychosocial processes in health promotion and maintenance, illness prevention and treatment, and the relationship between psychosocial

factors and physiological processes involved in health and diseases. The course provides a general introduction to the field of health psychology. We will study the biopsychosocial model of health and illness, and examine its contribution to understanding: a) health promotion and illness prevention, b) becoming ill and adopting the sick role, and c) coping with chronic illness. In each domain, we will discuss and critically evaluate the basic research, explanatory theories, and interventions developed or used by health psychologists. Finally, the course enmeshes you in the theory of, techniques for, and research on how psychology can help people live longer, healthier lives.

PSY3208 Personality and Individual Differences (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course introduces students to individual differences in both intelligence and personality by examining theories, research, measurements, and applications of personality psychology.

We will look at how intelligence is conceptualised and measured in different ways. In particular, the nature versus nurture controversy in the development of intelligence will be critically evaluated, and the issue of single ('G') versus multiple intelligence (e.g. emotional intelligence and creativity) will be discussed.

We will also examine, compare and evaluate the major theoretical perspectives on personality, and review relevant research supporting or refuting the theoretical formulations. Students will learn to appreciate the contributions and limitations of each personality paradigm, and how it has impacted on other areas of specialisation in psychology.

PSY3209 Cognitive Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Cognitive psychology is a sub-field of psychology that is concerned with how the human mind works. Cognitive psychologists attempt to address questions such as:

- How do we perceive faces and objects?
- How do we remember things?
- How do we understand language?
- How do we solve problems and make decisions?

This course will discuss major theories and findings from areas such as visual perception, attention, memory, language, problem solving and decision making. It will show how cognitive psychologists attempt to understand the human mind from studying behavior, investigating of the brain, and drawing upon computer models. It will also explore the relation between cognitive psychology and everyday experiences.

PSY3210 Engineering Psychology and Human-Centered Design (3 credits)

(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course explores the intersection of psychology and engineering, focusing on how human capabilities, limitations, and behavior impact the design, development, and evaluation of systems, products, and environments. Through a combination of theoretical foundations and applied case studies, students will learn to analyze cognitive and environmental factors to optimize human-system interaction. Key topics include human-centered design, cognitive ergonomics, physical and organizational ergonomics, human error and safety considerations, and human-AI interaction in various domains. The course equips students with practical skills to enhance system performance, improve user experience, and ensure safety through human factors methodologies.

PSY3301 Positive Psychology and Positive Living (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology or PSY3102 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures)
This course introduces the new development of positive psychology, specifically the applied positive psychology perspective, to enhance personal happiness and resilience, individual health, and productivity of institutions. The course also highlights positive psychology ideas and its science, and some spiritual/religious ideas, such as those from Buddhism, regarding psychological interventions in different settings.

PSY3332 Environmental Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology or PSY3102 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures)
Environmental Psychology can be best summarised as an interdisciplinary science that focuses on the interplay between the natural, built, and increasingly virtual environments (e.g., augmented reality, virual reality) and the people who occupy them. This course examines a) how people perceive and represent the environment, b) how the environment influences people's behaviour and cognition, c) the impact of people's behaviour on the environment, and d) how we can help change people's attitude and behaviour towards the natural environment.

PSY3333 Educational Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Educational psychology is the study of how people learn. This course introduces cognitive and psychosocial development across stages of childhood and adolescence as the psychological context of learning. The behavioral and psychosocial factors underlying the processes of learning will be explored. Applications of related concepts and theories in classroom teaching and learning, such as the application of relevant concepts and theories to students with special educational needs, will be covered in this course.

PSY4001 Biological Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course describes and explains various kinds of behaviours and psychological phenomena in terms of biology and neuroscience. The beginning of the course will focus on the fundamentals of neuroscience, such as neural units and neural signals, functions and organisation of the nervous system, neural development and plasticity. In the remaining part, various topics in psychology will be discussed from a biological perspective. Examples of such topics include senses (e.g., vision, audition), cognition (e.g., learning, memory, and language), motivated behaviours (e.g., sleep, hunger, emotion, and sexual behaviour), and biological aspects of abnormal behaviour.

PSY4002 Sensation and Perception (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
How do we see lights, hear sounds, and sense things in the world? Why do we see visual illusions? What makes us hear different tones in music? In this course, students will learn about the psychological processes for sensation and perception, which allow us to make sense of physical stimulations in the world. This course introduces students to the basic concepts and principles in sensory and perceptual processing. Vision will be the focus of this course, which covers various topics, including basic visual processing in the eye and the brain, color perception, motion perception, 3D space perception, object recognition, and visual attention. In addition to seeing, other senses, including hearing, will also be introduced and discussed.

PSY4003 Psychological Testing and Assessment (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2002 Research Methods for Psychology or PSY3101 Research

Methods and Statistics for Psychology I)
This course will provide an overview of basic issues involved in the field of psychological testing, as well as examine the application of various psychological assessments. The course is organized around three domains relevant for psychological testing and assessment: (1) principles of psychological testing; (2) application of psychological assessments in various contexts; and (3) professional issues related to psychological assessment. This course will require that students have some knowledge of statistics and quantitative methods prior to taking this course.

PSY4004 Motivation and Emotion (3 credits)
(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course is designed to acquaint the student with the major approaches (behavioral, cognitive, and biological) to the study of motivation and emotion. Emphasis will be placed on the principles which underlie biological, learned, and social motives and the theories, research, and methodology involved in this area of psychology.

PSY4101 Research Methods and Statistics for Psychology II (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY3101 Research Methods and Statistics for Psychology I)
The main objectives of this course are to discuss the advanced scientific methods of research in psychology, including the planning and design of research projects, so as to develop the skills necessary to conduct a range of empirical research in psychology. The focus of this course will be on both research techniques and statistical knowledge applied in conducting psychological research. Building on Research Method and Statistics for Psychology I, this course will introduce students the advanced research and statistical methods commonly used in psychological research, including power analysis, factorial designs and analyses, multiple regression, and advanced usage of statistical tests such as mediation and moderation.

PSY4102 Cross-cultural Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Many societies become more multicultural in nature through increasing contact and interaction with societies of different traditions. These changes raise issues about how we understand and act in relation to each other in different cultural settings. This course will examine the ways in which psychological findings differ across cultures and explore reasons behind these variations. Special attention is devoted to cross-cultural research methodology. The generalizability and universality of psychological laws and theories are challenged; the distinction between emic and etic constructs and measurements will be introduced and applied to psychological enquiry.

PSY4103 Contemporary Issues in Psychology (from 2015-16)/Selected Topic in Psychology (in 2014-15 or before) **(3 credits)**
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Intensive focus concerning a selected topic of contemporary interest in psychology forms the basis of this course. The instructor will select a specific topic according to the students' need, current interest, and his or her expertise. Example topics include psychology of gender, deviant behaviours, addiction, ageing workforce, crisis management, hatred of the rich, psychology of love, homosexuality and marriage. Further, an in-depth discussion of how psychology contributes in understanding the topic will be made. Most up-to-date theories and research of psychology relevant to the topic will be introduced. The topics change with the speciality of the instructor and the content varies from semester to semester. The topic will be announced a year before launch. The course may also include extensive fieldwork experience at a selected site in the local community.

PSY4310 Counseling Psychology (3 credits)
(Prerequisite(s): PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
This course is an introduction to counseling psychology. Counseling approaches and interventions will be examined from various theoretical perspectives, with an emphasis on therapeutic intervention strategies and applications that promote personal growth and change. In this course, students will be exposed to therapeutic interventions which will increase their awareness of common themes/principles that evoke client change and growth.

Major theories of counseling psychology such as cognitive-behavioural, humanistic and positive psychological are presented and evaluated. This course also addresses a variety of topics of special relevance to counseling psychology including assessment of client problems, analysis of psychological status, intervention for people in crisis situations, assessment of suicidal risk, and the process of behavioural change. Core facilitative skills of counseling are acquired and demonstrated via coursework.

PSY4325 Industrial and Organisational Psychology (3 credits)
(Remark: It is preferable for students to have taken PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology or PSY3102 Exploring Psychology in Western and Chinese Cultures before taking this course.)
This course focuses on different aspects of scientific study of human behaviour in and related to the workplace to advance knowledge on the work well-being of employees and the economic well-being of work organisations. A cross cultural perspective of industrial and organisational psychology, in particular Mainland China, will be discussed.

PSY4326 The Neuroscience of Social Behaviour (3 credits)
(Prerequisite: PSY2101 Introduction to Psychology)
Social neuroscience is a sub-field of social psychology that aims at understanding and explaining, using neural mechanisms, how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. This course will review core principles, theories, and methods guiding social neuroscience, and research examining the brain basis of social processes, including the theory of mind, empathy, emotion; reading faces and bodies, morality, and social interactions. Overall, this course will introduce students to the field of social neuroscience and its multi-level approach to understanding the brain in its social context.