BASP Scheduled Electives

**Fall 2020 – Spring 2024**

Each semester, BASP will offer at least one content elective designed for doctoral students in the training area, as well as those from other areas who are interested in the related content. In order to help students plan their course schedules, we are presenting a grid of the courses that are scheduled to be offered through Spring 2024, below. On the pages that follow, we provide brief course descriptions of BASP electives (both these and courses that will be offered in future semesters) in alphabetical order.

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| **Semester** | **Course** | **Professor** |
| Fall 2020 | Evolutionary Psychology | Claudia Brumbaugh |
| Spring 2021 | Moral Psychology | Hanah Chapman |
| Fall 2021 | Affective Neuroscience | Justin Storbeck |
| Spring 2022 | Interpersonal Processes | Kristin Sommer |
| Fall 2022 | Stereotypes & Prejudice | Catherine Good |
| Spring 2023 | Social Cognition | Steven Young |
| Fall 2023 | Close Relationships | Claudia Brumbaugh & Cheryl Carmichael |
| Spring 2024 | Social Psychology & Health | Angelo DiBello |

BASP Content Electives

**Affective Neuroscience (Dr. Storbeck)**

This course examines the basic principles of emotion, emotion theories, and the influence emotions have on cognitions, learning, and decision-making. The course will focus on both behavioral and neuroscience based evidence. The course will begin with a historical overview of emotion leading into the current theories of emotion. The next section will emphasis the influence emotion has on general cognition. The following section will focus on how emotion influences learning and memory and how those biases moderate decision making. The last section will focus on the regulation of emotion and the associated benefits and consequences regulation has on feelings, cognitions, and memory.

**Attitudes, Persuasion & Dissonance (Dr. Leippe)**

This seminar covers contemporary (and some classic) research and theory in the large and critically-central areas of attitudes and attitude change. A major focus will be on attitude change and social influence through persuasion and the mental gymnastics associated with cognitive dissonance. Attitudes influence perception and thought, they serve as readily accessible heuristics that guide quick decisions, and, in some cases, they are self-defining and integrally tied up with the self. In this seminar, we’ll take a look at the formation, change, and defense of attitudes, and how they guide – and are guided by – behavior.

**Close Relationships (Drs. Brumbaugh & Carmichael)**

This course will familiarize you with theories and research in relationship processes and emotion. Topics will pertain to the initiation of relationships (e.g., attraction, first impressions), the development and maintenance of relationships (e.g., emotion regulation, love, intimacy, attachment, interdependence), the deterioration of relationships (e.g., conflict, violence), and the impact of relationships on health and well-being.

**Evolutionary Psychology (Dr. Claudia Brumbaugh)**

This course will familiarize you with theories and research in evolutionary psychology. Topics will pertain to survival, group living, mating, and kinship, among others.

**Intergroup Relations (Dr. Glasford)**

The course provides a broad overview of work on stereotyping, prejudice, and intergroup relations. Readings will be organized around classic, as well as contemporary, theoretical approaches to the study of prejudice and relations between groups. Topics covered include psychological and situational factors related to social cognition, group power, prejudice, prejudice-reduction, collective action, and social change.

**Interpersonal Processes (Dr. Sommer)**

This course will offer a survey review of classic and contemporary works on interpersonal processes. Topics covered will include social perception, attribution, attachment, aggression, interpersonal attraction, helping behavior, power, social justice and social rejection. Students will be familiarized with the major theories guiding research in these areas and important empirical works that have shaped the history and direction of the field.

**Modern Foundations of Psychology (Dr. Hardin)**

Social psychology is an expression of the modern era, which treats people as part of the natural world, subject to natural law. The purpose of this seminar is to provide critical, first-hand exposure to canonical texts that make this audacious case while providing the epistemological, paradigmatic and topical foundations of contemporary social psychology. Participants will study and discuss one book a week, including work by Darwin, Wundt, James, Marx, Freud, Weber, Durkheim, Watson, Skinner, Mead, Whorf, Sherif, Lewin, and Allport.

**Moral Psychology (Dr. Chapman)**

“How do we decide what is right and wrong? When do we behave well, when do we behave badly, and why? This course will review historical and contemporary perspectives on morality. Philosophical, evolutionary, developmental, and emotivist theories will be considered, as will research on abnormal moral behavior. The majority of the course will focus on behavioral studies of humans, but neuroimaging and comparative research will also be reviewed

**Psychology of Stigma (Dr. Wout)**

This course is designed to expose graduate students to the psychology of stigma. Students will be introduced to classic and contemporary theory and research on stigma, primarily from the perspective of the stigmatized. Although we will use a broad definition of stigma and consider a wide variety of stigmatized groups, most of the research we will discuss focuses on groups that are stigmatized because of ethnicity/race, gender and sexual orientation. Topics covered will include the function and nature of stigma, stigma and the self-concept, stereotype threat, attributional ambiguity, stigma concealability and controllability, stigma and social interaction, and methods of coping with stigma.”

**Self/Identity: Continuity and Change (Dr. Golub)**

This course examines processes of identity development, transformation, and continuity that emerge in response to major life events.  We begin by reviewing major theoretical and empirical work on identity processes, and apply these perspectives to research on three “case study” examples of major life events: diagnosis with chronic illness, immigration, and the coming-out process.  Students will be exposed to both classic and contemporary approaches to research in this area, and will gain skills in the application of this work for the development of specific research questions and study design.

**Social Cognition (Dr. Young)**

Social cognition is at once the study of (a) cognitions about social objects, (b) the cognitive foundations of social behavior, and (c) the interdependence between individual cognition and social behavior. Topics of social cognition will be examined through the lens of the social cognition paradigm, which treats the human mind as a special kind of information-processing machine with a distinctive sensitivity to dependence upon the inferred states of other human minds. Topics include social and self-perception, self-regulation, social identity, social development, and neural bases of these capacities.

**Stereotypes & Prejudice (Dr. Good)**

This course examines classic and contemporary approaches to research in stereotyping and prejudice. We will use a social psychological approach to examine the characteristics of individuals and social contexts that contribute to stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination as well as the psychological consequences for those targeted by stereotyping and prejudice.  We will focus on the interaction of social, cognitive, affective, and motivational influences for both the perceiver and targets.