

B.Sc. PSYCHOLOGY (Major)

Psychology involves the scientific study of mental processes and behaviour, such as perception, cognition, emotion, personality and interpersonal relationships, and the application of this knowledge to various spheres of human activity, including issues related to daily life and the treatment of mental health problems.

LEVEL I

PS10A (PSYC1001): INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course provides an introduction to a discipline that is growing in popularity as more and more people become interested in gaining an understanding of human behaviour. The course will attempt to integrate observations from human and animal research and provide information on a broad range of topics that illustrate how and why we think, feel and act. This section of the course introduces students to topics within the areas of abnormal, social and developmental psychology, and examines psychology in the work place.

PS10B (PSYC1000): INTRODUCTION TO COGNITIVE AND PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course provides an introduction to a discipline that is growing in popularity as more and more people become interested in gaining an understanding of human behaviour. Overall, the course will attempt to integrate observations from human to animal research and provide information on a broad range of topics that illustrate how and why we think, feel and act. This section of the course introduces students to topics within the areas of cognitive and physiological psychology.

PS11A (PSYC1005): RESEARCH METHODS IN DEVELOPMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

The primary purpose of this laboratory course is to give students majoring in psychology hands-on experience in carrying out research in a number of core areas of psychology in line with international practice. At the same time the course aims to provide students with an introduction to psychological research methods and practical experience in carrying out a range of basic research methods under guidance.

PS11B (PSYC1006): RESEARCH METHODS IN COGNITIVE AND PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

The primary purpose of this course is to give students hands on laboratory experience in carrying out research in key areas of psychology. At the same time the course aims to broaden students' knowledge of psychological research methods. By the end of the yearlong course students will have had experience in collecting and reporting psychological data in a number of core areas. Laboratory based classes such as this form an essential part of teaching in psychology at all major universities around the world.

SY14G (SOCI1002): SOCIOLOGY FOR THE CARIBBEAN

This course seeks to expose students to the basic concepts of Sociology applied in the context of a developing country. The works of the classical theorists Durkheim, Marx and Weber are explored in providing an understanding of different models of society. The course also focuses on issues of culture, class, race, social stratification, family and gender as they relate to Caribbean Societies.

SY16C (SOCI1005): INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

This course will introduce students to basic univariate and bivariate statistics. It also focuses on levels of measurement and the appropriate interpretation of each statistic computed. Social and psychological examples are used for each application. This course covers the same material as EC 16A, but focuses more on social and psychological examples including the calculation and interpretation of such questions.

Note:

- Students are required to take one other Level I course.
- Students are also required to take three University Foundation Courses:
 - FD10A (FOUN1001) – English for Academic Purposes
 - OR** FD14A (FOUN1401) – Writing in the Disciplines
 - FD11A (FOUN1101) – Caribbean Civilization
 - FD12A (FOUN1201) – Science, Medicine and Technology in Society

LEVEL II

PS21D (PSYC2000): SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This is a follow-up of the Social Psychology component of PS 10A. It seeks to do an in-depth study of three major areas in social psychology: The Self, Interpersonal Relationships, Group Processes. Understandably, the course attempts to fuse the theoretical perspectives with a Caribbean application and will draw heavily on Caribbean history and sociology. Topics include: The Sociological and the Psychological Influences in Social Psychology; The self; Attribution, Group Dynamics and Inter-group Relations, Close Relations, Themes in Caribbean Social Psychology.

PS22A (PSYC2017): COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Cognitive psychology aims to provide students with an understanding of the major theories underpinning current cognitive psychology, as well as an awareness of the methodologies used by cognitive psychologists to advance the discipline. Cognitive psychology represents a mainstream area of psychology with which all the majors should be familiar. This course will examine the theories and findings which have been put forward to explain basic perceptual processes, as well as a consideration of how attention is controlled and directed towards the environment, and how information is represented and remembered. The course will also cover language functioning, and applications of this area of psychology, including neuropsychology and ergonomics.

PS28D (PSYC2016): EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course emphasizes and demonstrates the importance of experimentation as a method of exploring and establishing relationships and of providing an evidential basis for claims made in psychology. The importance of operationalization and of the development of techniques of measurement is also emphasized. In the end, students are expected to have skills with respect to the basics of experimental design in psychology and they are also expected to be able to analyze and decipher critically, the experimental descriptions and protocols provided in the literature.

SY22G (SOC12008): STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

This course, which is a continuation of SY 16C (SOC1 1005), reviews basic statistics and focuses on both parametric and non-parametric statistical testing. Students are also required to learn SPSS software for each of the statistical tests taught in lectures. These skills are used to prepare a research report based on social and psychological data.

Students are required to select three of the following five Level II courses:

PS24D (PSYC2002): ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

The study of mental illness makes up a large part of the discipline of psychology. Many psychologists are interested in the causes, classification and treatment of abnormal behaviour. This course will attempt to integrate observations from human and animal research to provide information on the different types of mental illness, how mental illness develops, who is at risk and which treatments are most effective. Topics include: Theoretical Perspectives of Maladaptive Behaviours; Mental Health and Mental Illness; Neurotic and Psychotic Disorders: Nature, Theoretical Explanation, Treatment; Disorders of Social Development; Introduction to Therapies; Behaviour Disorders and the Family

PS24E (PSYC2003): PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course seeks to explore how the sensory, neural and muscular systems of the body interact to produce and facilitate behaviour. It also helps students to understand behavioural problems and to appreciate various biologically derived strategies of behaviour modification and control. The course covers such areas as, the body system, the biology of mental processes, motivation and emotion and the future of psychobiology. Ideally, students are expected to have some foundation in biology as a course pre-requisite.

PS25A (PSYC2004): PERSONALITY THEORY

Students will be introduced to the major theories of personality. The course will address the historical and cultural background, which informs the writings of the seminal theorists in the field as well as the relevance of these theories to current conditions.

PS26A (PSYC2015): DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course presents a comprehensive view of the physical and psychological development of the individual from birth through to death. The course looks at different models of development and analyses each model in terms of its relevance to the Caribbean. Students are actively engaged in analyzing the real life problems of children and adolescents in the Caribbean.

PS28C (PSYC2007): PSYCHOMETRICS 1

This course introduces the concepts underlying psychological measurement. This is primarily done by an in depth examination of the topic of intelligence. What is intelligence, how has it been measured and how much is it influenced by environmental factors? In addition, students will develop their own measures of personality and ability in tutorials, and examine some of the classics tests in these areas. At the end of the course students should understand the concepts of reliability and validity, item difficulty, discriminability and factor analysis.

LEVEL III

PS31B (PSYC3001): SOCIAL COGNITION

Social cognition is essentially, the study of how people make sense of themselves and their social world. The goal of this course is to describe and explain the basic concepts and social processes that constitute social cognitive phenomena. Some of these basic concepts and processes include: concepts as the building block of knowledge, person perception, impression formation, attribution, social judgments and inferences, top-down and bottom-up processing, automatic and controlled processing, categorization, stereotyping, motivation etc. Our study of these basic concepts and processes will be grounded in an understanding of social psychology and the influence of macro-social phenomena like culture and social structure, especially of the Caribbean. To a lesser extent, the material will be presented in a manner that highlights issues of research in social cognition

OR

PS31C (PSYC3007): APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Using a social and psychological knowledge base and applying it to selected organizational institutional and community contexts in Caribbean Society, this course presents a programme of social psychological theory, methods and projects, assigned to provide students with basic tools for analyzing and solving problems of interpersonal, organizational and community relations, while taking account of the human resource and institutional change and development needs of Caribbean Society.

Note:

In addition to the core courses, there are a number of electives of interest available to persons studying B.Sc. Psychology (Major). Students are required to take three other Psychology courses and nine Level II/III free electives.

Please Note:

- This document is provided for information purposes only, and is subject to revision.
- Each Faculty of Social Sciences course is normally 3 credits.
- Students are required to do a minimum of 30 credits at Level I and 60 credits at Levels II and III.
- Where the core courses in the programme outline account for less than 60 credits at Levels II and III, students will be required to take additional electives.

Faculty of Social Sciences
June 30, 2008