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Director of Undergraduate Psychology: Lori Koelsch, Ph.D.

Professors:
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Roger Brooke, Ph.D., ABPP
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Associate Professors:
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Lori Koelsch, Ph.D.
Alexander Kranjec, Ph.D.
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Russell Walsh, Ph.D.

Assistant Professors:
Elizabeth Fein, Ph.D.
Jessie Goicoechea, Ph.D.
Susan Goldberg, Ph.D., J.D.

Faculty office hours are posted on the bulletin board outside the Psychology Department office, 211 Rockwell Hall
DUQUESNE’S PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Duquesne University’s Psychology Faculty are well known for our expertise in human science psychology. Our approach can be contrasted to natural science psychology, which developed in the late 1800s, and was modeled after natural sciences such as physics and biology. Experimental and quantitative research methods drawn from the natural sciences yield much valuable knowledge, but there are many dimensions of the human experience that are best addressed with qualitative research methods developed specifically to study human beings. For example, a human science approach that addresses questions of meaning, values, experience, history, culture and power is well suited for studying love, dreams, spirituality, interpersonal relationships, gender roles, race issues, and so on. Our faculty believe that human science approaches provide an appropriate and illuminating path to grasp the full depth and subtlety of human experience.

What does this mean for undergraduate students? As a psychology major, you will gain broad exposure to both the human science and natural science approaches to psychology, but our focus is firmly rooted in the human science tradition. Our Psychology Department’s emphasis on the human science perspective means that coursework aims to foster critical thinking, ethical reflection and creative attention to the nature of psychological life. Many students find that our human science orientation is especially helpful to students who plan to pursue careers or graduate study in disciplines that focus on serving others.

TEACHING/LEARNING GOALS

*Duquesne’s undergraduate psychology program aspires to help students:*

- Understand the fundamental concepts, issues, and interest areas of psychology, both as a human science and a natural science.
- Think critically and creatively about human psychology and life as a whole.
- Communicate effectively.
- Be critically and socially engaged with the contemporary world, including being appreciative of its many forms of diversity.
- Work with and apply ethical principles, both personally and professionally.
- Become prepared for careers and/or graduate study in psychology, social work, and counseling, and in related fields such as education, business, law, health care, and human services.
- Cultivate their potential as distinctive individuals and participants in society.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

The major involves 35 credits in Psychology with requirements in specified areas of study and opportunities for electives in areas of special interest. A minimum of 24 credits in psychology must be taken at Duquesne University for the major. Students must earn at least a grade of C in all courses required for the major.
B.A. Program in Psychology Curriculum for Undergraduate Psychology Majors

As early in their studies as possible, and in the following order, students take:

- Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 101) (Prerequisite for all other Psychology courses, unless otherwise specified)
- Orientation to the Psychology Major (PSYC 102) 1 credit, (May be taken concurrently with PSYC 101)
- Introduction to Psychology as Human Science (PSYC 203) (Prerequisite for PSYC 345, 410, 411, 412, and 413)

As early in their studies as possible (to fulfill both the prerequisite for PSYC 201 and the College Core Math requirement), students select one of the following:

- Fundamentals of Statistics (MATH 125)
- Introduction to Biostatistics (MATH 225)

Early in their studies students take:

- Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 201) (Prerequisite: MATH 125 or MATH 225) (Prerequisite for: PSYC 321, 345, 399, 480, and 499.)
- Brain, Behavior, and Cognition (PSYC 220)

Students select at least two of the following:

- Developmental Psychology: Childhood and Adolescence (PSYC 225W)
- Psychology of Personality (PSYC 228W)
- Social Psychology (PSYC 240W)
- Psychological Disorders (PSYC 252W)

Students select at least one of the following:

- Perspectives on Disability and Illness (PSYC 324)
- Developmental Psychology: Adulthood and Aging (PSYC 325)
- Psychology of Gender (PSYC 353)
- Psychology of Social/Cultural Diversity (PSYC 354)
- Psychology of Peace and Conflict (PSYC 356)

Students must complete nine additional credits in Psychology (from the courses listed above and/or elective courses)
**Students take:**

- Psychology and Social Engagement: A Service-Learning Seminar (PSYC 480) (Prerequisite: Junior*/Senior status and 201). *Juniors may take with permission of instructor.

- Professional Preparation for Psychology Majors (PSYC 399) 1 credit. (Prerequisite: PSYC 102 and 201), this course should be completed in the second semester of junior year or first semester of senior year.

*For a B.A. in Psychology: Students complete at least 35 credits in Psychology plus Statistics (MATH 125) or Biostatistics (MATH 225), with a grade of C or above in all of these courses. A minimum of 24 credits in Psychology must be taken at Duquesne University. Unless otherwise specified, all Psychology courses are 3 credits.*

Recommended Course: The Department recommends that students take Philosophical Roots of Psychology (PHIL 322) as their Philosophy requirement for the College Liberal Arts Core.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR**

Requirements for a minor are Psych 101, 203 and nine other credits in psychology. A minimum of nine credits in psychology must be taken at Duquesne University for the minor.

**ADVISEMENT AND DECLARING A MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Students who wish to declare Psychology as their major must meet with their academic advisor and complete the on-line "Major Declaration Form". Academic advisors must approve registration, drop-add, cross-registration, etc. The student meets with the advisor during every pre-registration and final registration period and at other times as needed during the year. Students can also schedule a meeting with the Director of Undergraduate Programs (in Psychology) if they would like additional information about the Psychology Major.

**MENTORING**

After declaring Psychology as their major, students have the opportunity to work with a mentor from the Department to discuss their participation in the program, their interests, course of study, and aspirations for the future including preparation for work and/or graduate school after completing their degree. We strive to match students and mentors according to shared interests. Depending on their interests and needs, students can opt for either a faculty member or a current Ph.D. student as a mentor. Mentorship preferences should be expressed by completing the mentoring form (available in the Psychology office at 211 Rockwell Hall) and submitting it to Dr. Koelsch.
PSYCHOLOGY CLUB AND PSI CHI

Duquesne’s Psychology Club is an active organization that helps students cultivate their psychological interests and knowledge. Club activities include experiential workshops, guest speakers, conference trips, film discussions, topical symposia, research and volunteer opportunities, and graduate school preparation. There are no requirements for participating in Psychology Club. All students, including non-psychology majors, are welcome.

Students are also invited to participate in Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. Requirements for membership are as follows:

- Completion of at least 3 semesters of university coursework.
- Completion of at least 9 credit hours in Psychology
- 3.0 Grade Point Average overall and a
- 3.0 Grade Point Average in Psychology courses.

Applications are available on our web site at www.duq.edu/psychology (follow the link to the Undergraduate organizations). Completed applications must be accompanied by a copy of the student’s transcript and may be submitted in the Department office.

PRACTICUM OPPORTUNITIES (PSYC 391 Applied Psychology Practicum 3 credits)

The Psychology Department values experiential education and offers an elective (PSYC 391 Applied Psychology Practicum) to provide students with structured opportunities for such learning, examples of Practica are: Arsenal Family & Children's Center, UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program, Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh, and a Forensic Psychology practicum opportunity that involves working with a local Psychologist.

The practicum has two components: weekly activities at the specific practicum site, and meetings with the course instructor that integrate reflection on practicum activities with scholarly reading. The course, for which students receive a letter grade, requires a final paper demonstrating reflection and integration of the experience with relevant academic scholarship.

For all sites except, Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh, you are required to have an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.5 in psychology courses. You are also required to be a Psychology major with at least 12 credits completed in psychology.

*Exact offerings will vary by semester, but here are more details about sites where we typically place students:*

**Arsenal Family & Children’s Center**
The Arsenal Practicum is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There is a class limit of 4 students. In this program, students learn about normal children by observing preschool children. In addition, they observe the teaching techniques used with normal children and learn about intervention strategies. Teachers meet with students to discuss various materials. Lectures are presented and teachers meet with students for discussion.
UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program
The practicum at the UPMC-Shadyside Hospital Elder Life Program is an innovative program designed to improve the hospital experience of older patients by exploring their past and current experiences, interest/values, and physical and psychological challenges. The practicum is 8 hours per week for the academic semester, often done in two 4-hour shifts. Orientation meetings for this practicum will take place prior to the start of the semester.

Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh
Emmaus Community serves adults with intellectual disabilities. They provide permanent homes and respite care, and are advocates for individuals in the community who are diagnosed with intellectual disabilities and/or autism. You will be at the site approximately 8-10 hours a week and scheduling is very flexible. The practicum experience will vary depending on your individual interests and agency needs, but duties could include helping the residents with tasks of daily living such as cooking, providing companionship (e.g., playing games, going out to eat), driving residents to appointments, and completing administrative tasks. Practicum students are required to possess a valid driver’s license and must be able to pass a criminal background check. There is no minimum GPA/QPA requirement for this site.

Forensic Psychology Practicum
This practicum is supervised by Dr. Eric Bernstein, a licensed psychologist who specializes in forensic based work within Family and Juvenile Courts. This entails child custody evaluations and work for Office of Children Youth and Family Services in matters concerning abuse, neglect, and mistreatment of children. Practicum students will be exposed to all aspects of this clinical practice including observing interviews, assessment, and testimony within Court.

Student activities include (1) observing and learning about the nature of a private practice and the responsibilities and practice of performing forensic work, and (2) offering administrative assistance such as filing, organizing, and other clerical duties. Depending upon students’ experience and interest, they may also assist with scoring psychological testing. This practicum requires a commitment of 8 hours per week for the entire semester. Dr. Bernstein’s office is located in a secure office building in Station Square, and all supervised field placement hours will occur during office hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
101. Introduction to Psychology

Introduction to fundamental concepts and methods of psychology, examined from both traditional and human science perspectives. Prerequisite for all other psychology courses, unless otherwise specified.

102. Orientation to the Psychology Major

This course serves as an initial orientation for psychology majors. The purpose is to help students learn basic practical information necessary for success as a psychology major (such as APA style), introduce majors to the online portfolio system, discuss departmental goals, and provide a forum to discuss topics such as future careers and graduate school. This course is to be taken immediately after a student declares a major in psychology. May be taken concurrently with PSYC 101.

201. Research Methods in Psychology

This course provides an introduction to psychological research. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are addressed, with most of the course dedicated to the former. Students will learn to be knowledgeable readers of research reports, to understand and consider ethical issues in research, and to use APA writing style. Prerequisite: Math 125 or Math 225. Prerequisite for PSYC 321, 345, 399, 480, and 499.

203. Introduction to Psychology as a Human Science.

This course introduces the student to a variety of non-positivist traditions in Continental philosophy, and their implications for psychology. Prerequisite for PSYC 345, 410, 411, 412, and 413.

204. Science, Psychology and the Holocaust.

This course examines the Holocaust historically, as well as scientifically in the sense of selected research and theories of genocide which attempt to explain or understand its occurrence and process. We are particularly interested in psychological research, theories and concepts of genocide. The course also examines notions of science, and the challenge the Holocaust poses to any science and psychology of knowing, whether it is one of explanation or one of understanding. We will also spend some time examining selected texts of Freud and Frankl’s, as well as pertinent aspects of their lives, given the acute intersections of their lives and work with the Holocaust. As a Breakaway course, there is a mandatory travel component attached to this course. We will travel to Vienna, Austria to visit Freud and Frankl's homes, and explore the city that was the psychological center of the world at the turn of the 19th century. From Vienna, we travel to Krakow, Poland, where we will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, arguably the most notorious of the Nazi death camps. Offered intermittently.

205. The Psychology of Human Experience

Takes students on a journey through a series of unique philosophical and psychological perspectives on what it means to be human. As opposed to current and historical trends in the discipline that focus predominantly on behavior, biology, evolution or the neurological basis of psychology, we take seriously the idea that human experience itself is absolutely crucial in doing psychology. This focus on distinctively human experience takes us from the analysis of dreams to exploring the existential dimension of anxiety; from the embodied experience of music to questions of what
really separates humans from other higher order mammals; from the contemplation of the question of being, to dilemmas of subjective belief, meaning and faith. The Spring Semester trip to London will bring these themes to life, with visits to: Buckingham Palace; the British Museum; Freud’s house; the National Gallery, Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre; Tate Modern; and all the traditional tourist sites London has to offer.

220. Brain, Behavior, and Cognition. 3 cr.
The course explores the biological, behavioral and cognitive approaches to psychology, with particular attention to assumptions that underlie each system of thought. The course emphasizes both classical theories and current findings.

225W. Developmental Psychology: Childhood and Adolescence. 3 cr.
This course focuses on the development of children from infancy through adolescence, addressing social, cultural, biological, cognitive, and existential aspects of child development. Writing-intensive course.

228W. Psychology of Personality. 3 cr.
Critical examination of major theories of personality. Writing-intensive course.

240W. Social Psychology. 3 cr.
Foundations of social processes, attitudes, values and roles, public opinion, propaganda and communication, personal participation in society. Writing-intensive course.

252W. Psychological Disorders. 3 cr.
An examination of the clinical features, topical questions, and main theoretical approaches to abnormal psychology. Writing-intensive course.

260. Psychology, Religion, and Spirituality. 3 cr.
An exploration of psychological perspectives on religious experiences, beliefs, and practices. The course will consider religious/spiritual approaches to phenomena such as meaning-making, self and others, consciousness, relationship, love, suffering, death, faith, reason, Spirit/God/Mystery (by whatever name), socio-political ramifications of doctrine, social engagement and justice, the natural world, meditative/contemplative practices, and personal and cultural transformation. This course fulfills the University Core requirement for the “Faith and Reason” theme area. No prerequisites required. Offered intermittently.

265. Special Topics. 3 cr.
A visiting professor presents his or her specialty, or a regular faculty member presents highly specialized studies. Repeatable. Prerequisites vary with instructor. Permission of Department Chair or Director of Undergraduate Psychology required for non-majors. Offered intermittently.
270. Special Topics 3 cr.
A faculty member presents highly specialized studies. This course may occasionally be a team taught course. This course fulfills the University Core requirement for the “Social Justice” theme area. Offered intermittently.

275. Psychology and Nature 3 cr.
This course explores the interdependence of human well-being – biological, psychological, socio-cultural, and spiritual – and the well-being of rest of nature. And so too our lack of well-being. We consider how our current eco(psychological) peril calls for a real transformation in consciousness, culture, and relationship, key areas of psychology’s expertise. And we address the relevance of ecopsychology for clinical practice, socially engaged research and action, and contemplative spirituality. The course involves textual study, lecture, conversation, and experiential activities. Open to students in all disciplines. No prerequisites required. This course fulfills the University Core requirement for the “Social Justice” theme are. Offered Intermittently.

280. The Art of Happiness: Wellbeing Theory and Practice 1 cr.
The goal of this course is not only to impart knowledge but to transform lives. Students will cultivate resilience through pursuing a life well-lived with wellbeing as a byproduct or result. Throughout the semester, we will be differentiating between “hedonic wellbeing” vs. “eudaimonic” wellbeing, with the former regarding the impossible pursuit of always having to “feel good” and the latter regarding the pursuit of a life well-lived, which begins by having students ask the timeless philosophical question, “What is the good life and how can I live it?” In responding to this question, students will be asked to critically yet compassionately examine themselves and the world in which they live. Students will be encouraged to re-evaluate their own “happiness projects” in the service of developing ones that have a different foundation, ones that are based upon pursuing a life of purpose, meaning, flourishing, and through caring for others. This course attempts a kind of synthesis between philosophy, psychology, spirituality, and scientific thought to demonstrate the shared interest in understanding what it means to be human, and most importantly, how to make the world a better place for self and others. Offered intermittently

321. Laboratory in Psychological Research. 3 cr.
This course focuses on applied research. Research design, methodology, and ethics will be explored. Students will conduct one or more actual research studies. Prerequisite: PSYC 201. (Cannot substitute SOCI 201 for prerequisite). Offered Intermittently.

324. Perspectives on Disability and Illness. 3 cr.
An overview of the impact of the environment and individual experience on issues related to having a disability or chronic illness. The influence of lifestyle occupations, personal attitudes and social justice are used to explore the unique biopsychosocial person-environment interaction when a person of any age experiences disability and chronic illness. Also listed as OCCTH 324. Offered Intermittently.

325. Developmental Psychology: Adulthood and Aging. 3 cr.
The course focuses on psychological development through adulthood, and late adulthood. It addresses psychological, social, cultural, biological, cognitive, and existential aspects of adult development, aging, and dying. Offered Intermittently.
335. Psych, Identity, and Film: Perspectives from the African Cinema  3 cr.
In this course, we will explore the psychology of identity in relation to contemporary African and African Diasporic writings and films. Our approach to understanding identity construction will be interdisciplinary. We will read texts on identity and film across the disciplines of psychology, philosophy, African studies, post-colonial and de-colonial theory, anthropology, cultural studies, literature, and film theory. We will also screen and engage films on their own aesthetic terms - that is, as art forms that offer media-specific possibilities for producing identities. This course will offer you new tools for actively constructing intellectually profound, ethically-nuanced, and culturally-complex identities as world citizens. Offered Intermittently.

345. Forensic Psychology.  3cr.
This course focuses on the interface between psychology and the law. We will explore the different roles of a forensic psychologist: advocate, researcher, and clinician. We will investigate the place of forensic psychology in the criminal justice system. Students will learn to evaluate the interaction between forensic psychology and larger societal issues. Prerequisite: PSYC 201 and PSYC 203, (PSYC 203 can be taken concurrently) or with permission of course instructor. Offered Intermittently.

353. Psychology of Gender.  3 cr.
This course explores men's and women's existence as gendered beings. The theoretical as well as existential dimensions of gender are thematized, and the biological, social, and personal contexts will be discussed.

354. Psychology of Social/Cultural Diversity.  3 cr.
This course critically explores some of the ways in which psychology understands cultural and/or social diversity and difference. Offered Intermittently.

356. Psychology of Peace and Conflict.  3 cr.
This course examines theories of conflict and violence at interpersonal, intergroup, and international levels. Additionally, theories of peace, and attempts at conflict resolution, management, and control, will also be covered. Offered Intermittently.

391. Applied Psychology Practicum.  3 cr.
An applied psychology setting provides the opportunity for interacting with clients under the supervision of professionals. Settings have included psychiatric hospitals, medical hospitals, and schools. Must be a Psychology major with at least 12 credits completed in psychology. By application. Permission of course instructor.

399. Professional Preparation for Psychology Majors  1 cr.
During this course, students will reflect on their development as psychology majors and consider future plans. Students will be asked to carefully consider their career and graduate school options. Topics such as interview skills, job search strategies, clinical skills, and research experience will be included. This course should be completed in the second semester of junior year or first semester of senior year. Prerequisite: PSYC 102 and 201.
410. Existential-Phenomenological Psychology. 3 cr.
Detailed investigation of selected works or topics in existential-phenomenological psychology, a distinctive approach within the human science model of psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 203 or permission from instructor. Offered Intermittently.

411. Post-structural and Critical Psychology. 3 cr.
This course investigates the social construction of psychological dynamics and social realities, emphasizing the role of taken-for-granted systems such as language and economics. Critical psychology is developed by asking how the fields and practices of psychology are socially constructed, and how psychology in turn nurtures the political environment in which it develops. Prerequisite: PSYC 203 or permission from instructor. Offered Intermittently.

412. Psychoanalytic Psychology. 3 cr.
An in-depth examination of the contributions of Freud (and possibly of other psychoanalysts as well), with attention to the difference between Freud’s times and cultural context and our own. Prerequisite: PSYC 203 or permission from instructor. Offered Intermittently.

413. Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychology. 3 cr.
An in-depth exploration of major theories, concepts, and practices of humanistic and transpersonal psychology, two distinctive approaches within the human science model of psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 203 or permission from instructor. Offered Intermittently.

457. Independent Studies. 3 cr.
A tutorial course for an exceptional student who wishes to pursue a particular study with a faculty member. For majors only; usually those intending graduate study; advanced coursework completed. Permission of faculty member and either Department Chair or Director of Undergraduate Psychology required.

480. Psych and Social Engagement: A Service-Learning Seminar. 3 cr.
This advanced seminar helps students integrate their studies in psychology by exploring the interrelationship of psychology, social engagement, and service. The course centers on students’ participation in a community service-learning project related to the field of psychology. Prerequisite: Senior status and PSYC 201. Juniors with permission of instructor.

490. Special Topics. 3 cr.
A visiting professor presents his or her specialty, or a regular faculty member presents highly specialized studies. Repeatable. Prerequisites vary with instructor. Permission of Department Chair or Director of Undergraduate Psychology required for non-majors.

CONTACT US: If you have any questions about the Undergraduate Psychology program, please contact Dr. Lori Koelsch (412-396-1614; mailto:koelschl@duq.edu) and view our Departmental web site at www.duq.edu/psychology/.