First Year Seminars

Mon, Wed 8:00-9:15am
PSY 141 FY38 | Memory: Imperfections, Injustices and Improvements
Registration Code: 49749 | Instruction Mode: In Person
Professor Tamar Montuma
How reliable are peoples’ memories? We will investigate this question both from a personal point of view, and also within the context of the criminal justice system. You will participate in hands-on learning exercises that are designed to demonstrate the limitations of our memories. You will explore some of the techniques that “memory masters” use to help them to remember enormous amount of information. You will have opportunities to assess whether these techniques help you to remember information in your college classes or everyday lives. You will also learn about the injustices that have occurred when eyewitnesses have made memory errors in identifying the perpetrator of a crime. You will find out about the research that helps us to better understand why and when these types of errors occur, and what can be done to prevent these problems in the future.

Tue, Thu 9:25-10:40am
HIS 106 FY34 | Fighting Injustice through Numbers: Historical Perspectives
Registration Code: 51974 | Instruction Mode: In Person
Professor Gregory Umbach
America’s inequalities, from policing practices to housing segregation, occupy a newly central place in national and local politics. But fixing those inequalities, whether through court cases or social policies, often requires quantitative analysis—and so professionals with such skills expand their employment prospects. With simple numbers and no prior experience working with data or sophisticated math skills, this course introduces students to the concepts and skills that will enable them to understand social problems through data and become fierce advocates for justice with numbers. Whether through the historical context of contemporary issues in the justice system, or identifying meaningful interventions, thinking with numbers, and telling stories with numbers are crucial skills for addressing issues of social inequalities and injustices. Through a series of case studies, students will explore the historical and social context of pressing social justice questions and then learn how data can help demonstrate the nature of those problems and point toward meaningful changes.

Tue, Thu 9:25-10:40am
LIT 138 FY45 | Justice by the Book
Registration Code: 52182 | Instruction Mode: In Person
Professor Mark Alpert
Literature is a tool for understanding the complex concept of justice. Students in this course will spend a semester reading one significant work of literature in order to detect nuance, understand the context within which the work was created, and consider the ideas about justice the work represents and/or critiques. Students will build critical reading, thinking, and writing skills, and reflect on their own relationship with conflict, inequality, oppression, and other persistent issues of justice as they explore the chosen work.

Thu 12:15-1:30pm
PSY 141 FY35 | Memory: Imperfections, Injustices and Improvements
Registration Code: 49282 | Instruction Mode: Hybrid
Professor Briana Gerena
How reliable are peoples’ memories? We will investigate this question both from a personal point of view, and also within the context of the criminal justice system. You will participate in hands-on learning exercises that are designed to demonstrate the limitations of our memories. You will explore some of the techniques that “memory masters” use to help them to remember enormous amount of information. You will have opportunities to assess whether these techniques help you to remember information in your college classes or everyday lives. You will also learn about the injustices that have occurred when eyewitnesses have made memory errors in identifying the perpetrator of a crime. You will find out about the research that helps us to better understand why and when these types of errors occur, and what can be done to prevent these problems in the future.

Thu 3:00-4:20pm
PSY 141 FY56 | Memory: Imperfections, Injustices and Improvements
Registration Code: 49281 | Instruction Mode: Hybrid
Professor Nancy Yang
How reliable are peoples’ memories? We will investigate this question both from a personal point of view, and also within the context of the criminal justice system. You will participate in hands-on learning exercises that are designed to demonstrate the limitations of our memories. You will explore some of the techniques that “memory masters” use to help them to remember enormous amount of information. You will have opportunities to assess whether these techniques help you to remember information in your college classes or everyday lives. You will also learn about the injustices that have occurred when eyewitnesses have made memory errors in identifying the perpetrator of a crime. You will find out about the research that helps us to better understand why and when these types of errors occur, and what can be done to prevent these problems in the future.