PSYCHOLOGY 1001 syllabus

PERSONALITY
1. The concept of personality: in search of the "soul".
2. Psychoanalytic and psychodynamic approaches to personality.
3. Cognitive and behavioural approaches to personality.
4. Humanistic and existential approaches to personality.
5. Psychobiological and lexical approaches to personality.
6. Personality assessment and applications.

References:
3. Personality Theories: [http://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/perscontents.html](http://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/perscontents.html)

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY
1. Introduction to Forensic Psychology.
   What is Forensic Psychology? What do Forensic Psychologists study?
2. Crime investigation: Witnesses I.
   Testimony accuracy and memory suggestibility. The false/repressed memory debate.
3. Crime investigation: Witnesses II.
   Eyewitness identification evidence.
4. Identification and Evaluation of Criminal Suspects I.
   Profiling and detection of deception.
5. Identification and Evaluation of Criminal Suspects II.
   Police interrogations and false confessions,
6. The Psychology of Juries
   Jury selection and jury deliberation

References:
**SCIENCE AND STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

1. Distinguishing scientific theories and explanations from pseudo-science.

2. Constructing hypotheses: understanding null hypotheses and experimental hypotheses and the distinction between seeking proof and disproof.

3. Understanding the role of constructs in psychological measurement. Understanding the appropriateness of scales of measurement.

4. Research designs in psychological research. The distinction between true experiments, quasi-experiments and correlational studies and how choice of design affects internal and external validity.

5. Variability in measurement as expressed by standard deviation, and the normal curve.

6. The use of statistics in scientific decision making. The role of probability in understanding scientific conclusions.

7. The role of the p-value and power. Recognizing the role of the sample and sample size in understanding conclusions.

**References:**


3. The Skeptic’s Dictionary: [www.skepdic.com](http://www.skepdic.com)

**NEUROSCIENCE**

1. The lecture syllabus consists of two halves, each taking a different approach to describing the nervous system:

2. The first part presents basic information about the anatomy and physiology (what and how) of the nervous system. It includes a description of the basic concepts of reception, coding and transmission of information by cells of the nervous system, as well as the chemical communication between cells and the effects on this by psychoactive drugs.

3. The second part of the syllabus takes a ‘systems’ approach to neuroscience, concerned mostly with the functional anatomy of the nervous system. Topics include the involvement of various brain areas in sleep and wakefulness, motivation and emotions, sensory and motor function, and language.

**References:**


4. [http://www.vh.org/Providers/Textbooks/BrainAnatomy/TOC.html](http://www.vh.org/Providers/Textbooks/BrainAnatomy/TOC.html)

5. [http://www.sfn.org/content/Publications/BrainBriefings/index.html](http://www.sfn.org/content/Publications/BrainBriefings/index.html)
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. Introduction to social psychology.
   What is social psychology? What do social psychologists study? Research methods used in social psychology: Descriptive methods vs. Experimental Methods.

2. Social influence I: Social facilitation.

3. Social influence II: Social loafing
   What is social loafing? Factors that contribute to social loafing. Theories of social loafing (Latané and colleagues). How to stop social loafing in groups.


   What is obedience? Milgram’s (1963) obedience experiments. Studies of minority influence (Moscovici).

6. Social Perception I: Attributions; stereotypes
   Attribution theories. Person vs. situational attributions. Attributional biases (e.g., the fundamental attribution error). Stereotypes and attributions. The self-fulfilling prophecy.

7. Social Perception II: Attitudes and summary
   What are attitudes? How attitudes guide our behaviour. Summary of the social psychology lectures.

References:

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Introduction to Human Development and its research methods: Challenges for developmental researchers across the lifespan; Naturalistic research methods; Cross-sectional vs longitudinal methods; Experimental vs correlational methods.

2. Nature vs Nurture: (a) Genetic contributions to normal and abnormal development; single gene, polygenic and multifactorial inheritance; twin, family and adoption studies.

3. Prenatal development: Normal development; Environmental influences on normal and abnormal development.

4. Cognitive development from infancy to adolescence: Piaget’s theory.

5. Adolescent development across adolescence: physical and emotional development and how they interact.

References:
Basic information about most of these topics can be found in the Psychology 1 textbook. Page numbers will be given in lecture web notes. You can deepen your understanding by consulting one of the many textbooks on developmental psychology. Three excellent texts are listed below (earlier editions would also be useful).
