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:

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Applied Forensic Psychology

1. What is applied Psychology?
2. Applying psychological theory and research with children in forensic contexts
3. Investigative interviewing with children; optimizing accurate testimony
4. Suggestibility in child eyewitnesses

References:
1. Weiten Edn 9 pages 286-298 (Memory retrieval, forgetting, recovered memory); 308-309 Eyewitness fallibility); 450 (Children’s understanding of the mind)

Applied Positive Psychology

1. Can we have a science of well-being?
2. The psychology of goal attainment
3. Meaning, Purpose and engagement. What is the good life?

References:
SCIENCE AND STATISTICS IN PSYCHOLOGY

1. The role of Science in Psychology.
2. Distinguishing scientific theories and explanations from pseudo-science.
3. Constructing hypotheses: understanding null hypotheses and experimental hypotheses and the distinction between seeking proof and disproof.
4. Understanding the role of constructs in psychological measurement.
5. 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.
6. Variability in measurement as expressed by standard deviation, and the normal curve.
7. The use of statistics in scientific decision making. The role of probability in understanding scientific conclusions.
8. The role of the p-value and power. Recognizing the role of the sample and sample size in understanding conclusions.

References:

NEUROSCIENCE

1. Investigating the biological basis of Psychology
2. The organisation of the nervous system
3. Nerves and psychopharmacology
4. The biological basis of emotions
5. The biological basis of memory and thought.

References:

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: Approaches and research methods
3. Studies of early deprivation (orphanage studies) and attempts to overcome the effects of early privation (Head Start and beyond).
4. Early influences on behaviour - motor skills and language development.

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).