Psychology Department Changes

PSY 189 ~~310~~, Science and Pseudoscience, 3 cr, 3 cl hrs

~~Prerequisite: PSY 121 or Consent of Instructor~~

 This course examines methods for determining whether given claims are science or pseudoscience. Several controversial topics will be explored, with emphasis on coming to objective decisions about such claims. Topics include logical fallacies, the Scientific Method, creationism, global warming and climate change, hidden codes in the Bible, Relativity theory, 9/11 Truth conspiracy claims, Dark Matter, UFO sightings, Perpetual Motion Devices, Quantum Mechanics, Quack medical claims and more.

PSY 335, Human Factors in Science and Engineering, 3 cr, 3 cl hrs

Prerequisite: PSY 121 or Consent of Instructor

 This course will investigate how human capabilities and limitations influence decision making and performance in Science and Engineering. We will focus on how cognitive processes and biases in perception, attention, memory and problem solving influence performance. We will study examples of "human error" and ways in which error can be averted. The class will investigate how equipment and technology may be better designed to match the cognitive and motor abilities of humans. Comparisons will be made between human and artificial intelligence.

The Science and Pseudoscience course has previously been approved. The course number of this course and prerequisite is being changed, with a slight addition to the description. The Human Factors course is being added to the course catalog. It has been taught once before as a trial course.