COURSE DETAIL

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY
Country Norway
Host Institution University of Oslo
Program(s) University of Oslo
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 112
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY
UCEAP Transcript Title PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCH
UCEAP Quarter Units 8.00
UCEAP Semester Units 5.30

Course Description

One of the hallmarks of being human is that we can suffer as well as flourish. Focusing on positive psychology and clinical psychology, psychiatry, and psychotherapy, this course offers a sustained investigation of the conceptual and philosophical problems at the heart of the study of human well-being and human ill-being. Central topics include the nature of happiness and well-being; the nature and classification/diagnosis of mental disorder; the relation between mental health and mental illness (is happiness more than the mere absence of suffering?); differing perspectives on mental disorder (neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, existentialism, phenomenology); the implicit philosophical assumptions behind major psychotherapeutic traditions, especially concerning the good life. One guiding assumption of the course is that studying well-being and ill-being side by side can be mutually illuminating. By the end of the semester, students are equipped to interpret psychological theories and therapeutic practices through a philosophical lens, as well as consider how conceptions of the good life both inform and are informed by the science and practice of psychology.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
FIL2108

Host Institution Course Title
THE PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/ifikk/FIL2108/index-eng.html

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree
Bachelor

Host Institution Department
Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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