

TRAUMA COURSES

Dear Psychology Majors,

Working to address trauma and disaster is a growing field within psychology. The UN Refugee Agency estimates suggest 25.4 million people were refugees in 2018. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 1.4 million people worldwide lose their lives to violence each year and that last year close to 160 million individuals were affected by natural disasters. For every person counted in these lists, many more are injured and suffer from a range of physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health problems. In Chicago alone, family and community violence impacts the lives of countless children and adults. To address the needs of victims and communities, the department has created two new courses. Each course has a full description below.

In anticipation of strong interest, the department created a Trauma Psychology track within the Community Psychology concentration. We hope you will strongly consider these courses as you register for your classes. Each Autumn and Winter Quarter we offer PSY 372 – Psychology of Disaster and Crisis Intervention; each Winter and Spring Quarter we offer PSY 378 – Psychology of Trauma.

PSY 372 - PSYCHOLOGY OF DISASTER AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

This course is designed for psychology majors as well as students from a variety of fields interested in careers related to crisis intervention. Students will learn about the psychological sequelae of natural and man-made disasters, terror, and war, as well as different models for crisis interventions. Students will review a combination of book chapters, scientific reviews, and primary empirical sources, and class discussion will be used to advance students' understanding of the state of this field and the central issues that practitioners face when working with vulnerable disaster survivors. Multiple assessment methods will be used to evaluate student learning and application of course material.

PSY 378 – PSYCHOLOGY OF TRAUMA

This course is designed for psychology majors as well as students from a variety of fields interested in careers working with children and adults who have experienced trauma. Students will learn about the psychological sequelae of different traumatic experiences, with emphasis on violence and victimization, as well as assessment methods and interventions aimed at reducing violence and addressing post-traumatic stress symptoms. Students will review a combination of book chapters, scientific reviews, and primary empirical sources. Lecture and class discussion will be used to advance students' understanding of the central psychological theories of trauma and issues that need to be addressed to advance this field. A variety of evaluation activities will be used to assess student learning and application of key concepts to real life issues.

For more information, contact

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