

Winter 2022 Special Course Descriptions

ANTC 170 Antioch Seminar: Reskilling, Sustainability & Community

The Great Remembering. This is a course, in the words of David Foster Wallace, about “adjusting our default setting”; using reskilling as a tool for mindfulness and community-building. One of the consequences of increasing specialization and monetization of the economy is that skills that were once common among the general population, skills that by their nature contributed to a sense of community, skills that could not be accomplished without thought and intention, are now shared by few. Phillip Barnes describes it as “the acquisition of skills essential to satisfy basic needs in a localized and carbon-constrained future... Reskilling is a process, ongoing and never-ending, that evolves as conditions change and contexts change. It is first and foremost a community-oriented method...While one can learn the old skills by watching a video or reading a book, it is the face-to-face interactions that build community...where a talented and knowledgeable individual or group teaches other people what they know.” Together with essays and reflections on the nature of home-based work, presentations by innovators tackling difficult problems we face as we move in to a time of uncertainty, and hands-on skill-building in each session, this course offers tools for increasing awareness, self-agency and community-building.

PSYC 295: Special Topics in Psychology: Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a concept central to inter and intrapersonal conflicts. Psychology is fundamental to explain how we balance between how we think, feel, and act towards individuals, especially after moral wrongdoing. Forgiveness has been a topic of increasing interest both academically and to practitioners. The notion of forgiveness involves theoretical difficulties, as well as practical challenges, that need academic scrutiny and analysis. Despite these problems, there seems to be a healing and liberating quality to forgiveness that helps both individuals and societies move away from revenge and toward reconciliation. In a word, forgiveness offers hope. In a time of tense conflicts, forgiveness may have extraordinary value as a daily ethic, as well as a practical process.

PSYC 395: Special Topics in Psychology: Psychology as a Human Science

The study and practice of psychology as a human science has developed alongside and as a counter-knowledge to the dominant and mainstream field of psychology. This discipline-within-a-discipline is itself comprised of many voices, which, when considered together, offer an impression of the alternative values and focuses of psychology as a human science.

Psychology as a human science has developed research methods that challenge the empirical and external scientific gaze in order to pursue psychological knowledge and practices which describe, clarify, and empower the lived-experience of the people and social systems it engages. Though not just a history of psychology course, this course will offer a way of reading psychology's history as a series of politically and economically embedded debates that have been championed by movements of psychologists focusing their efforts on the advancement of marginalized communities and experiences with whom they were allied or, more often, were a part of.