PSYC 4001 C : PHYSIOLOGICAL SYNCHRONY

Instructor	Chad Danyluck
Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In-Person
Email Address	Chad.Danyluck@carleton.ca
Office Location	Loeb B547 (in-person)
Office Hours	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Have you ever felt an instant connection with a stranger, what might be described as having a feeling of "chemistry"? Have you ever played a game in which the athletes on your team played like one connected body? Or have you ever had an argument with a romantic partner that escalated out of control? Physiological synchrony—mutual changes in physiological arousal shared by social partners—may have partially shaped these events. Physiology synchrony occurs across a range of relationship types (e.g., married couples, friends, strangers), over varied social contexts (e.g., competitive, cooperative), and has been measured in numerous physiological systems (e.g., neural, neuroendocrine, autonomic). Moreover, physiological synchrony explains a variety of interesting and important social outcomes like friendship interest, team performance, and sexual attraction.

Present approaches to modeling physiological synchrony are varied and few theoretical frameworks exist to ground this research. Accordingly, this course will engage students to think critically about the theoretical and methodological gaps within research on physiological synchrony. The course will also offer perspectives from psychology and psychophysiology that might provide a way forward for future, theoretically grounded research. This course will also engage students with a range of methodological and analytical issues involved in conducting research on physiological synchrony (e.g., recording physiological data, data analytic approaches).

Students are expected to attend class prepared to discuss topics based on assigned readings.

EVALUATION

Evaluation is based on a diverse array of assessments, including class exercises, and quizzes.

TEXT

There is no textbook assigned for this course. Journal articles will be assigned weekly.