PSYC 5209 – PHYSIOLOGICAL SYNCHRONY

Course	PSYC 5209: Physiological Synchrony
Instructor	Dr. Chad Danyluck
Term	Fall 2022
Course Delivery	In-Person
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Office Location	Loeb B547 (in-person)
Office Hours	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Have you ever felt an instant connection or "chemistry" with a stranger? 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? In each of these scenarios, there is a chance that physiological synchrony—mutual changes in physiological arousal shared by social partners—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., neuroendocrine, electrodermal, autonomic). Moreover, physiological synchrony explains a variety of interesting and important social outcomes like friendship interest, marital dissatisfaction, and team performance.

At present approaches to modeling physiological synchrony are varied. Yet there is little by way of theoretical frameworks to ground this research. Accordingly, this course will engage students to think critically about the theoretical and methodological gaps within research on physiological synchrony while offering 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, using multi-level modeling).

Students are expected to attend and participate in class; come to class prepared to discuss topics based on assigned readings; write a Tri-Council formatted research grant proposal based on a research question relevant to physiological synchrony (final paper).

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

TEXT

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