

PSYC 177-02 – Special Topics

SENSATION-SEEKING

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Do you find the idea of jumping out of an airplane exciting or terrifying? Is your ideal vacation relaxing on a beach or climbing a mountain? Would you rather work as a psychologist or a librarian? Depending on your responses, you may be high or low in sensation-seeking behavior. But why are there differences? This course will bring together everything you have learned in your psychology courses to approach sensation-seeking and explore the topic in more depth. We will look at motivational influences, personality differences, clinical aspects, and drug use (the dark side of sensation-seeking), developmental and neuroscience differences, surveys and testing, as well as data collection and analysis. In addition to reading assignments and discussions, you will have the opportunity to test your own sensation-seeking responses in hands-on activities and will design and conduct your own research on the topic.

This course will be taught in a Blended/Hybrid format. In-person sessions will be held for hands-on activities (half on Mon./half on Wed.), and the remainder of the class will be asynchronous on-line.