

Psychology

Requirements

Natural Sciences Division

Psychology is taught as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The psychology curriculum provides an opportunity for majors and non-majors to examine diverse theoretical views and findings in such areas as cognition, human development, learning, neuroscience, personality, social psychology and abnormal psychology. At all levels of study, the department gives students the opportunity to pursue research and to become involved in the work of local educational and mental-health agencies that are affiliated with the Off-Campus Activities in Psychology Program (OAPP).

NEW STUDENTS

Students should begin with PSYC 100 "Introduction to Psychology," the department's introductory course and a prerequisite for all of the other psychology courses. This course explores a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research, including the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, cognition, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and variability in behavior related to culture. Students who have completed PSYC 100 (or who have taken psychology AP and earned a score of 5 on the exam) and are considering majoring in psychology should next take PSYC 150 "Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology." In this course, students will learn the basics of research in the field. They will participate in research projects conducted across different areas of psychology, using techniques such as observation and interviewing, psychological tests and measures, physiological measures, and computerized tasks.

Students who elect to major in psychology will take statistics and an advanced research methods course along with at least one course in each of the following areas of psychology: biological bases of behavior; learning and cognition; developmental perspectives; clinical and health issues; and sociocultural perspectives. Finally, all majors enroll in a senior seminar, in which they collaborate with their peers and professor while developing expertise on a topic of their choice.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students majoring in psychology must earn at least 5.5 units of credit in the Psychology Department, with a minimum 2.5 major GPA.

1. Foundations

The foundation courses required of students include PSYC 100, PSYC 150 and PSYC 200. Majors are strongly advised to complete PSYC 200 by the end of their sophomore year. A grade of C or higher in PSYC 150 and PSYC 200 is required to declare a major in psychology.

- PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 150 Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
- PSYC 200 Statistical Analysis in Psychology

2. Intermediate Courses

At the intermediate level, students are required to have a balanced curriculum within the discipline. Students take at least one course in each of the following general areas of psychology:

Biological Bases:

NEUR 212 Introduction to Neuroscience

NEUR 302 Neuroethology and Comparative Psychology

NEUR 305 Behavioral Neuroscience

NEUR 307 Sensory Processes

PSYC 308 Drugs and Behavior

PSYC 310 Cognitive Neuroscience

Cognitive Processes and Learning:

PSYC 301 Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 303 Learning and Motivation

PSYC 306 Psychology of Language

PSYC 310 Cognitive Neuroscience

Developmental Perspectives:

PSYC 322 Adult Development

PSYC 323 Child Development

PSYC 324 Educational Psychology

PSYC 326 Theories of Personality

PSYC 348 Adolescence

Clinical Issues and Health:

NEUR 304 Neuropsychology

NEUR 347 Psychopharmacology

PSYC 321 Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 330 Health Psychology

PSYC 342 Clinical Psychology

Sociocultural Perspectives:

PSYC 325 Social Psychology

PSYC 327 Cross-Cultural Psychology

PSYC 328 Latino Psychology

PSYC 344 Human Sexual Behavior

PSYC 346 Psychology of Women

PSYC 350 Psychology In Context

3. Advanced Research

Students also are expected to get more advanced research experience by taking either an upper-level research methods course or two semesters of advanced research (PSYC 450) in psychology with the same instructor.

Current Research Methods Courses:

NEUR 405 Research Methods in Behavioral Neuroscience

NEUR 406 Research Methods in Sensory Processes

PSYC 402 Research Methods in Cognition

PSYC 403 Research Methods in Learning and Motivation

PSYC 410 Research Methods in Human Neuroscience

PSYC 421 Research Methods in Developmental Psychology

PSYC 422 Research Methods in Personality

PSYC 423 Research Methods in Social Psychology

PSYC 424 Research Methods in Cross-Cultural Psychology

PSYC 425 Research Methods to Study Gender

PSYC 450 Advanced Research in Psychology

4. Senior Seminar

All students are expected to take a fall semester senior seminar, PSYC 475, in which they will focus on a topic of current research in psychology.

SENIOR EXERCISE

The psychology Senior Exercise will consist of a standardized test designed for undergraduate psychology majors, to measure their knowledge of core concepts in the field. It will be administered to students in October or November of their senior year. Also, students will prepare a poster to communicate their knowledge of a research question they studied during the senior seminar. The posters will be displayed during a student research day in January of the senior year, when students must be available to discuss the contents of their poster. Students' posters and their poster presentations will be judged via rubrics filled out by faculty members in the department. The poster represents a unique assignment for which students will have done some background work during the senior seminar, and which they will complete independently during the spring semester

HONORS

Students who do excellent work are encouraged to apply to the department chair during the second semester of their junior year if they are interested in admission to the Honors Program. Participants complete a large-scale research project on an approved topic during their senior year. Each project is supervised by a single faculty member, but also is reviewed periodically by all members of the department prior to an oral examination by an outside examiner in the spring.

Psychology Courses

PSYC 100 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. In this introductory course, prerequisite for all other psychology courses, you will explore a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research: the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, cognition, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and variability in behavior related to culture. This course is only open to first-year and sophomore students. No prerequisite. Multiple sections are offered every semester.

PSYC 110 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. In this foundation course you will explore a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research: the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, cognition, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and variability in behavior related to culture. Open only to junior and senior students. No prerequisite. Offered spring semester.

PSYC 150 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5 QR

In this course students will learn the basics of research in psychology. Students will participate in research projects conducted across different areas of psychology, which might involve observation and interviewing, psychological tests and measures, physiological measures, and computerized tasks. Students will learn about issues of reliability and validity in psychological research, as well as ethical issues associated with psychological research. Students will learn techniques for descriptive statistical analysis of their data, and they will communicate their research findings both orally and in writing, using the writing style of the American Psychological Association. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or AP score of 5. This course is designed for first-year and sophomore students and is typically offered every semester.

PSYC 200 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5 QR

In this course, students will learn to conduct a variety of statistical tests that are commonly used in psychological research. The course also builds the skills of choosing the appropriate statistical

tests for particular research designs and writing and interpreting the results of statistical analyses. The computer statistical package SPSS will be used. Psychology majors have preference. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 and PSYC 150. This course is typically offered every semester.

PSYC 301 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

The goal of this course is to enlighten students about human thinking processes. This course will cover research and theories regarding basic cognitive processes such as cognitive neuroscience, object perception, attention, memory, problem solving and intelligence. Emphasis will be on the study of laboratory research, with discussion of how the findings relate to real-world issues, such as eyewitness testimony. Students should gain an understanding of general cognitive processes that apply to all humans, as well as a perspective on individual differences in cognition and how they may merge with our understanding of clinical disorders. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered once a year.

Instructor: Payne

PSYC 303 LEARNING AND MOTIVATION

Credit: 0.5

This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the theories and basic principles of learning and motivation in human and non-human animals, with an emphasis on associative learning; namely, classical and instrumental conditioning. We will discuss how these principles can be applied to our everyday lives, from training pets and raising children, to the development and treatment of mental illness and drug addiction. You will learn the scientific methods of the discipline, as well as improve your critical thinking skills by reading and critiquing primary empirical sources. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or NEUR 112/212. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Millin-Lipnos

PSYC 306 PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Credit: 0.5

One thing that makes our species unique is our amazing capacity for language and complex symbol use. This course will cover basic theory with respect to the evolutionary origins of language, cognitive neuroscience of language, basic psycholinguistics theory and application, nonhuman communication research, and issues of social cognition and language, as well as special cases and conditions in which language capacity or development is disrupted. By the end

of the course, students will have gained a heightened awareness of just how complex language use really is, along with a richer appreciation of the far-reaching impact it has on their everyday lives. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every other year, or as faculty schedules permit.

Instructor: Payne

PSYC 308 DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR

Credit: 0.5

This course addresses the ubiquitous presence of psychoactive drugs in human culture. The approach to understanding how drugs affect and are affected by our body, brain, behavior, and culture will be biopsychosocial, addressing neurobiological, behavioral, and social factors that influence drug use and abuse. We will draw knowledge from basic laboratory animal research and human drug studies, as well as personal memoirs and historical summaries. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or equivalent or NEUR 112/212 or equivalent. Offered every year.

Instructor: Millin-Lipnos

PSYC 310 COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Credit: 0.5

This course focuses on human brain systems that support sensory, motor, cognitive, social, and affective phenomena. Early in the semester we will build a foundation of knowledge about brain anatomy and physiology, human sensory and motor systems and the methods used in cognitive neuroscience research. We will incorporate this knowledge into subsequent explorations of how the brain gives rise to complex phenomena such as attention, learning and memory, language, emotion and social cognition. The course aims to provide students with a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the complex relationship between brain and mind, and how our understanding of this relationship is informed by cognitive neuroscience research. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or NEUR 112/212. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Engell

PSYC 321 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This course provides students with an introductory overview of the nature, causes, and treatment of adolescent and adult mental disorders, including anxiety disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia and organic mental disorders. Included will be discussion of critical issues and

controversies in this field, such as the definition of abnormality and the labeling of abnormal behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: López

PSYC 322 ADULT DEVELOPMENT

Credit: 0.5

This course provides an overview of developmental issues related to adult life and an in-depth examination of some current theory and research in adult development and aging. We will cover the psychological, social and biological dimensions of adult development, including personality, learning and memory, family psychopathology, and some clinical interventions from emerging adulthood through the lifespan. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: White

PSYC 323 CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Credit: 0.5

This course focuses on normal human development from conception through adolescence. Biological and social influences on development are considered with an emphasis on their interaction and the context in which they occur. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Krieg

PSYC 324 EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This course involves the study of cognitive, developmental and motivational processes that underlie education. We also examine teacher behavior and other applications of psychology to education. Research and theory on student learning, motivation and development provide the core readings for the course. Individual and group differences as applied to learning environments will be addressed. Other topics include multicultural education, achievement motivation, special education, public policy with respect to education, education outside of schools and recent trends in schools and education. Students will develop their own teaching philosophy. Connections among a variety of disciplines (e.g., history, sociology, political science) will be stressed, as well as links to the real world beyond the classroom. This course is appropriate for those interested in teaching, coaching, or mentoring. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

Instructor: White

PSYC 325 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Social psychology is the systematic study of social behavior. In general, it examines how we are affected by our social environment: how we perceive and interpret the behavior of others and the social situation, how we respond to others and they to us, and the nature of social relationships. Application of social psychological theory and methodology is encouraged through participation in small-scale laboratory or field observational studies. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Fenigstein

PSYC 326 THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

Credit: 0.5

This course introduces students to major approaches to understanding both consistencies in individual behavior and differences among individuals. Students will learn about historical and modern approaches to the study of personality with an emphasis on empirical research. The course will consist of lectures, in-class activities and class discussions. Students will hone their skills in the areas of critical evaluation of research, written and oral communication, visual literacy and quantitative reasoning. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: Corker

PSYC 327 CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

There are approximately seven billion people in the world. And yet most of the theories that we use to explain psychological functioning have been based on limited samples drawn from the West. In this course, we will examine in greater detail the impact of culture on human behavior and review issues such as the role of culture in the concept of the self, the cultural influences on social behavior, the association of culture and cognition, and the measurement and experience of cross-cultural psychopathology. By integrating research from various social science disciplines (such as anthropology and sociology), students should gain a wider appreciation of the influence on culture on everyday experiences, while simultaneously understanding that culture is not a static or homogeneous entity. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every other year.

PSYC 328 LATINO PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Latino psychology is a vibrant and emerging field geared toward understanding the experiences of the largest minority group in the United States--either U.S.-born or U.S.-residing Latinos. Unlike cross-cultural psychology, its focus is less on the intercultural group differences and more on intracultural differences and similarities across Latino subgroups. More specifically, this course will focus on understanding the core experiences of Latinos in the U.S. while also revealing the heterogeneity of this group. Students will begin this course by reviewing the history of Latino psychology. Following this, topics to be explored include a review of demographic variables (such as immigration/migration, socioeconomic status, language, gender, race and sexuality), and interpersonal variables (such as psychological acculturation, ethnic identity, cultural values and perceived discrimination), and how these variables often operate in conjunction when trying to understand Latino mental health. A special focus of the class will also be on the assessment of Latino psychopathology, such as the Latino cultural idioms of distress *ataques de nervios*, *nervios* and *susto*. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course will typically be offered every other year.

Instructor: López

PSYC 330 HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Health psychology addresses the cognitive, social and emotional factors related to health and illness, with an emphasis on the prevention and modification of health-compromising behaviors. A biopsychosocial approach is used to address topics such as: promotion of good health and prevention of illness; the recovery, rehabilitation, and psychosocial adjustment that correspond with health problems; and the role of stress and coping in illness. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course will be offered every other year.

Instructor: White

PSYC 342 CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This course introduces students to the field of clinical psychology. Through readings, videos, discussion and in-class role-plays you will be exposed to the major therapeutic orientations in psychology (including psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral and person-centered therapy) as well as newer schools of interventions (including feminist therapy, multicultural counseling and community psychology). In addition, we will cover other areas in clinical psychology, such as testing and assessment, and the difficulties involved in the assessment of others. A special area of focus in this course will be forensic psychology. Case studies from the instructor's experience as a

therapist will be used throughout the course to further highlight the material. This course is best suited for students who are considering applying to graduate school in clinical psychology. PSYC 321 is recommended. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: López

PSYC 344 HUMAN SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Credit: 0.5

This course examines the biological, psychological, and social bases of human sexuality. Topics include the physiology of sex functions, variations of sexual behavior, nature and treatment of sexual malfunctions, sexual identity and attitudes, differences in sexual behavior, and the social dynamics of sexual interaction. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Fenigstein

PSYC 346 PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN

Credit: 0.5

Psychological research about women is examined critically in this course. Topics such as gender differences, gender stereotypes, eating disorders, and violence against women will be addressed with particular attention to the effects of sociocultural factors. The class will use a variety of learning tools, such as conducting projects, analyzing research articles, engaging in discussion and taking exams. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Murnen

PSYC 348 ADOLESCENCE

Credit: 0.5

This course will provide students with an overview of important issues in adolescent psychology, from early adolescence to young adulthood. The major physical, cognitive, social and emotional developments that occur during this transitional period will be covered. Influences on adolescent development such as family, peers, school, work and culture will also be explored. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: Krieg

PSYC 350 PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEXT

Credit: 0.5

This course will focus on the application of psychology to social settings and social services. We will examine a selection of social problems and the influence of social systems on individuals. In addition to regular class meetings, students will spend six out-of-class hours each week at a local community agency (e.g., Knox County Head Start). Students will integrate these service experiences with course-related material. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 and junior standing. This course is typically offered every year in the fall.

Instructor: Krieg

PSYC 402 RESEARCH METHODS IN COGNITION

Credit: 0.5 QR

This course is designed with three specific goals: (1) to provide an understanding of basic research and design; (2) to cover basic issues in the field of cognitive psychology; and (3) to give students hands-on experience with some of the classic experiments in the field. The course will include lectures and discussion, as well as laboratory exercises in which students will participate in computerized experiments, collect data, and learn how cognitive psychologists make inferences about mental processes using observable performance measures. The course also requires students to create their own research proposals and present them in class. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and PSYC 301 or 306. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Payne

PSYC 403 RESEARCH METHODS IN LEARNING AND MOTIVATION

Credit: 0.5 QR

This methods course provides students with the critical skills for understanding and conducting behavioral research in animal subjects. Students will be actively engaged in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. Students will also learn about designing research projects, making valid conclusions, critiquing journal articles and writing a scientific paper. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and previous or concurrent enrollment in PSYC 303. This course is typically offered every year.

Instructor: Millin-Lipnos

PSYC 410 RESEARCH METHODS IN HUMAN NEUROSCIENCE

Credit: 0.5 QR

This course introduces students to the methods used in human neuroscience research. Several structural and functional techniques used to investigate the brain will be discussed. However, the course will primarily focus on the two most commonly used tools in Cognitive Neuroscience: functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG). We will take a detailed look at the physical phenomena that make MRI possible, as well as the neurophysiological properties that produce the signal measured by MRI. A similar in-depth approach will be used to understand the physical and physiological processes involved in EEG. The course trains students in the practical aspects of fMRI/EEG data acquisition and analysis. We will therefore dedicate a considerable amount of time to "hands-on" data analysis using several software packages that are commonly used in the field. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and 310 or NEUR 304, 305, or 307 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Engell

PSYC 421 RESEARCH METHODS IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5 QR

This course explores the methods used in life-span developmental psychology research. Among the issues addressed are: ethics of research with children and the elderly, developmental research designs, developing measures, and data analysis. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and PSYC 322 or 323 or 348. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: Krieg

PSYC 422 RESEARCH METHODS IN PERSONALITY

Credit: 0.5 QR

This course will examine a variety of methodologies used by psychologists who conduct research in the area of personality and individual differences. The course includes lectures, discussions and assignments designed to give students hands-on experience in designing research, collecting and analyzing data, and relating their work to larger theories. During the course, students will also learn how to design research that is ethical, how to critically evaluate research, and how to write professional reports in the style developed by the American Psychological Association. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and PSYC 321, PSYC 326 or PSYC 346. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: Corker

PSYC 423 RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5 QR

Social psychology attempts to understand the ways in which our thoughts and behavior are affected by others. This course will examine the principles, methods and problems of research in social psychology. Using a variety of formats ranging from lectures to discussion of research to class and field demonstrations, students will explore the generation of research ideas are generated, critical evaluation of relevant research literatures, research design and methodology, data collection procedures using both laboratory and naturalistic settings, statistical analyses, and ways of presenting research consistent with journal publication. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and past or current enrollment in PSYC 325. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: Fenigstein

PSYC 424 RESEARCH METHODS IN CROSS-CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.5 QR

This course trains students in the skills needed to conduct cross-cultural research studies in psychology. The format will be primarily that of a lab-oriented seminar, though lecture also will be included. Through discussion and hands-on research activities, students will develop and refine their ability to generate and test cultural hypotheses, to collect and analyze relevant data, and to report and critique cross-cultural research findings. Topics to be covered include experimental design, questionnaire construction, naturalistic observation, content analysis, computer-based statistical analysis, and American Psychological Association writing style. Course requirements include two data-collection projects with lab reports, in-class presentations, and a final exam. Prerequisite: PSYC 200. Offered as department schedule permits.

PSYC 425 RESEARCH METHODS TO STUDY GENDER

Credit: 0.5 QR

Science is a valuable tool for understanding the world, but when dealing with the issue of gender, it has often been applied in flawed ways. A feminist critique of science has helped us understand both the limits and the possibilities of examining issues related to gender from a scientific perspective. In this course we will consider the application of feminist theories and methods to understanding psychological issues related to gender. You will critically analyze various research articles, conduct two class research projects and prepare written reports of the results, and develop your own proposal for a piece of independent psychological research related to gender. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and one or more of the following: PSYC 323, 325, 326, 346 and WGS 111. This course is typically offered every other year.

Instructor: Murnen

PSYC 426 RESEARCH METHODS USING QUALITATIVE APPROACHES

Credit: 0.5 QR

This course will introduce students to qualitative methods in psychological research. Topics will include data collection methodologies (e.g., interviews, focus groups, participant observation), coding strategies (e.g., thematic coding, content analysis, grounded analysis), ethics, and writing. As part of the course, students will be required to design, conduct, analyze, and write up a qualitative study. Prerequisite: PSYC 200 and one advanced-level behavior in context course. Offered as department schedule permits.

PSYC 449 THEORY AND RESEARCH ON THE SELF

Credit: 0.5

Our sense of self provides meaning and coherence to our lives, but the processes involved in the creation, structure, and functioning of the self are only beginning to be understood. This course is designed as a seminar examining recent psychological theory and research on the self. We will explore the problem of self-perception and self-knowledge, the development of self-conceptions, and the role that the self plays in our perceptions and interactions with the social world. We also will ask questions about the ways in which people evaluate themselves and enhance and protect their self-esteem. Finally we will examine the way in which the self is woven into our social lives, and the relation between the private and the public self. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 and PSYC 325 or 326 , 344 or 423. Offered as department schedule permits.

PSYC 450 ADVANCED RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Students conducting advanced research in psychology will work with a faculty member and possibly a small group of students to conduct research in the faculty member's research area. Students will critically analyze published research in the topic area and collect, analyze and write reports on data they have collected with a small group of students. Students will be expected to work independently and collaboratively, and the course will emphasize effective written and oral communication. Students who enroll in two semesters of advanced research on a particular topic can substitute this experience for a research methods course on that topic (e.g., two semesters of advanced research in personality counts the same as one semester of research methods in personality). Prerequisite: PSYC 150, 200 and permission of instructor.

PSYC 475 PSYCHOLOGY SENIOR SEMINAR

Credit: 0.5

The psychology senior seminar is a required course for senior psychology majors. Each section will have a different topic, but in every seminar students will read and discuss psychological literature, write and discuss critiques of research articles, develop a review paper on a topic in

psychology, develop a research proposal on a topic in psychology, and make a formal oral presentation to the class. Classes will be limited to ten to twelve students. Prerequisite: senior standing and psychology major. Offered every fall.

PSYC 493 INDIVIDUAL STUDY

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Individual study in psychology allows students the opportunity to pursue research on a topic of special interest. The course is designed in consultation with a faculty mentor. The level of credit can range from .25 to .5 unit of credit, and students may take more than one semester of individual study. Typically, only juniors or seniors may pursue this option. To enroll, a student must first identify a member of the Psychology Department who is willing to mentor the project. The student must give the department chair a written description of the project, including the nature of the proposed work and a list of references. The project should include reading and reviewing scientific literature and will likely entail a research project in which original data are collected. The student and faculty member are expected to meet, on average, once a week. The final project will likely be a paper written in the style of the American Psychological Association. Additional assignments may be required as well--for example, a public presentation. The amount of work required for the individual study should approximate that required of other 300-level psychology courses. It is possible for students to pursue a group project, but more work will be expected for the completed project, and each student will write her or his own individual paper.

PSYC 497Y SENIOR HONORS

Credit: 0.5

This is a program for senior candidates for honors in psychology, culminating in a senior honors thesis. The course will consist of a research project in some area of psychology. A student who wishes to conduct an honors project must meet each of the following three criteria: (1) the student must have a GPA of 3.5 in psychology and an overall GPA of 3.3; (2) the student must have participated in a Psychology Department-approved research experience (which might be research in a research methods course, independent study, or summer lab work); and (3) the student must have completed a minimum of 4 units in psychology and have taken the appropriate core courses for the proposal before the senior year.

Instructor: Department Chair

PSYC 498Y SENIOR HONORS

Credit: 0.5

See the course description for PSYC 497Y.

Instructor: Department Chair