

Psychology: Course Descriptions

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PSY 101/General Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Core Course

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content

Introduction to major topics in psychology, including biopsychology, development, cognition, counseling-clinical psychology, social psychology, and psychology in industrial/organizational settings.

PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Core Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Introduces students to asking and answering questions from a psychological perspective. It is an experiential course in which students focus on learning the basics of creating and evaluating knowledge in psychology. Students will learn to appreciate the strengths as well as to understand the limitations, of various research methods. Students will read research articles, create hypotheses, collect and interpret data, and learn how to present results in APA style.

PSY 203/Design and Analysis

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Core Course

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Restriction: Open only to psychology majors

The purpose of this course is to bridge basic knowledge of scientific inquiry (gained through "Methods and Tools") and more complex application of scientific inquiry (which is the major goal of "Research Seminar"). This course will provide knowledge of basic designs, design issues, data analysis (theoretical and practical knowledge), and communication/interpretation of results.

PSY 212/Biopsychology

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Explores biological influences on human behavior. Topics include sensation, sleep, hunger, sexual behaviors, memory, attention, movement, fear, stress, aggression, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and schizophrenia. Students learn how neurotransmitters and hormones influence behavior, and how these effects are modified by drugs.

PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

This course introduces students to cognitive science. Major topics include the neural basis of cognitive processes, the nature of consciousness, visual pattern recognition, attention, memory acquisition, encoding and retrieval errors, associative networks, semantic knowledge, language, decision-making, and problem-solving.

PSY 216/Personality Theory and Research

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Examines contemporary theories of personality, as well as research characteristic of each theoretical approach. Theories will be critically evaluated and applied to case studies. Cultural contexts will be examined.

PSY 217/Abnormal Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Examines the main forms of behavior disorders and considers possible etiology and potential treatments.

PSY 218/Social Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Within the context of social psychology, this course will focus on how power and privilege in society lead to the intentional and unintentional oppression of others. Students will examine how issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and other significant social categories impact the complex relationships among numerous groups in society. A primary focus will be on understanding how prejudice can be reduced.

PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content

An examination of the biological, psychological, socioemotional, and social/contextual changes that occur during development, across the human lifespan (i.e., infancy, childhood, adolescence, young and middle adulthood, old age, and death). The emphasis is on understanding the important theories, concepts, and controversies relating to human development, rather than an accumulation of discrete facts.

PSY 267/Organizational Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Foundation Course

Prerequisite: Three credits of psychology

This course examines current theory and issues in organizational psychology. It has an applied emphasis and should prepare a student for entry and participation in business organizations.

PSY 299/Research Seminar [in Area of Concentration]

(Fall and Spring)

Psychology Core Course

Prerequisite: PSY 203

replaces PSYC 301

Restriction: Open only to psychology majors

Basic concepts in applying scientific methods to psychological problems (especially the experimental method). Collect and analyze data, and write research reports in American Psychological Association format.

PSY 303/Advanced Behavioral Statistics

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 203

Applied statistical methods building on concepts and techniques presented in PSYC or PSY 203. Emphasis on assumptions and applications of the general linear model. Topics include matrix operations, analysis of variance, regression, and factor analysis. Extensive use of software packages for data analysis.

PSY 311/Sensation and Perception

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

The basic structure and function of the sensory systems are examined and related to our experience of the world. Topics include anatomy and physiology of sense organs, perception of color, form, movement, space, sound, and illusions, perceptual development, and perceptual motor coordination.

PSY 312/Psychology and Art

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Explores the common ground shared by Psychology and Art. Topics include: the concept of art, principles of perception applied to art, creativity, the role of art in mental health and mental illness, plus topics introduced by students.

PSY 316/Applied Behavioral Analysis

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Provides a foundation in behavior-analytic theory and explores how behavior-analytic principles are applied to the treatment of such disorders as autism, anxiety disorders, and developmental disabilities. Emphasis will be placed upon experimental design and data collection in applied settings.

PSY 325/Cognitive Neuroscience of Aging

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: Six credits of psychology

A study of human development from young adulthood through old age. Examination of stages, as well as physical, cognitive, and personality development throughout the lifespan. Life transitions (such as marriage, parenthood, divorce, work, illness, retirement, death) are discussed.

PSY 331/Clinical Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 216 and PSY 217 and PSY 299

Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

Introduction to common clinical methods of personality assessment and diagnosis. Emphasis on the most common therapeutic theories and techniques.

PSY 335/Developmental Psychopathology

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 217 and PSY 220

An introduction to psychological disorders of children and adolescents from a developmental perspective. The course will emphasize conceptual and controversial issues with respect to disorders including: autism, attachment disorders, ADHD, conduct disorders, schizophrenia, depression and suicide, eating disorders, and substance abuse. In addition, factors associated with psychopathology, especially family factors (e.g., child abuse, divorce) and social factors (e.g., poverty, societal oppression), will be examined.

PSY 338/Sport & Exercise Psychology

(Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

The purpose of this course is to understand the psychological components of sport and exercise in order to become a more effective competitor and/or to become more consistent in one's exercise program. In addition, the course will address the psychosocial aspects (e.g., group cohesion, gender and racial differences, team vs. individual sports) and the health aspects of sport and exercise (e.g., burnout, recuperating from injuries, athletes with asthma or diabetes, etc.). Each student will work with an athlete or an individual who exercises to enhance the mental aspect of their performance.

PSY 340/Health Psychology

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: PSY 101, and either PSY 212 or a college-level biology course

Examines how psychological, social, and behavioral factors interact with and affect the success people have in maintaining their health, getting medical treatment, coping with stress and pain, and recovering from serious illness.

PSY 342/Clinical Psychopharmacology

(Fall)

Prerequisite: PSY 212 or permission of instructor

This seminar will explore how psychological disorders are influenced by neurotransmitters, hormones, and neurotrophic factors, and by interventions that increase or decrease these chemicals. Clinical disorders will include: depression, anxiety disorders, anorexia/bulimia nervosa, attention deficits, dementia, and schizophrenia. Both intended effects and side effects of drugs will be studied, as well as individual differences in effects (due to genes/environments).

PSY 343/Behavioral Pharmacology and Drug Abuse

(Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 212

Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

Explores the pharmacological and behavioral events with several drugs of abuse including cocaine, nicotine, alcohol, opiates, hallucinogens, and caffeine, as well as other drugs such as inhalants and Ecstasy.

PSY 346/Cognitive Neuroscience

(Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 212

Cognitive neuroscience blends the study of behavior (psychology) with the study of the brain (neuroscience). This course will introduce students to this field by examining the brain's role in behaviors such as perception, attention, memory, learning, planning, and other cognitive activities.

PSY 348/Emotion

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

This course will introduce students to major theories and topics of the psychology and neuroscience of emotion. Areas explored include the role of the brain and peripheral physiology in emotion, facial expressions, cultural differences, development of emotions, social and cognitive aspects of emotion, and the role of emotion in health and psychopathology.

PSY 350/Psychology of Women

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: Three credits of psychology

Perspectives on the World: Social Sciences-Content, Gender

Examines the psychology of women in light of biological, social, and cultural influences. A variety of psychological theories and research findings will be explored to study the development and behavior of women in various social contexts.

PSY 353/Psychology of Gender

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Gender; Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

Students will explore the construct of gender from various psychological perspectives including: social, personality, developmental, communications, personal relations, cross-cultural, and cognitive psychology. The role of gender will be examined within psychological theory and research.

PSY 354/Self and Identity

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 216 or PSY 218 or PSY 220

The purpose of this course is to explore themes surrounding questions of identity by comparing identity models, empirical findings, and applications to students' and others' personal lives. Topics might include identity and gender, sexuality, lifespan development, health and psychotherapy, and racial, ethnic, white, multiple, national, or environmental identities.

PSY 356/Psychology of Personal Relationships

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Focuses on the development and dynamics of personal relationships. Psychological principles will be applied to the study of close relationships and examined via critical evaluations of theories and research. Topics might include interpersonal affiliation and attraction, love, sexuality, relationship development, social networks, communication, commitment, conflict, power, jealousy, dissolution, loneliness, and therapeutic interventions.

PSY 361/ Seminar in Interviewing

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

This course is designed to help students improve their interviewing skills through activities involving unstructured, structured, and semi-structured interviews. These activities cover a broad range of purposes for which interviews are used including telephone surveys, personnel selection, diagnosis of physical and mental health problems, counseling/clinical interventions, police interrogation, as well as psychological research.

PSY 364/ Industrial Psychology

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

Introduces students to the content areas of industrial psychology and the application of psychological theory to organizational issues. Topics include employment law, job analysis, recruitment and selection, training, performance appraisal and discipline, employee motivation, and workplace safety. Using an applied approach, this course will help prepare students for their roles as employees and managers.

PSY 365/Consumer Psychology

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: Three credits of psychology

Examines consumer behavior from a psychological point of view. The psychological principles of learning, cognition, and motivation are examined in their relation to advertising, consumer behavior, and consumer attitudes.

PSY 366/Personnel Selection and Placement

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 203 or ECON 231

Introduces the student to the psychometric principles of measurement. Various methods of assessment will be reviewed with a hands-on component whenever possible. Current issues and misuses of testing and selection will also be addressed.

PSY 370/Developmental Seminar

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 220

The Developmental Seminar's focus will vary across semesters with respect to both age (children/adolescents/adults) and topic (e.g., peer relationships, identity). These seminars will be specialized courses for the Developmental Concentration, and students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 371/Cognitive Seminar

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 214

Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

The Cognitive Seminar will provide students with opportunities for in-depth study of specific topics within Cognitive Psychology. The topic will vary across semesters. These seminars will be specialized courses for the Cognitive Specialization, and students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 373/Counseling and Clinical Seminar

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 121, and PSY 216 or PSY 217

The seminar will provide students with the opportunity for in-depth study of a specific topic within counseling and clinical psychology. The topic will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 374 I/O Psychology Seminar

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 299 or permission of instructor

The I/O Seminar will provide students an opportunity for in-depth study of a specific topic within Industrial/Organizational Psychology. The topic will vary across semesters. These seminars will be specialized courses for the I/O Concentration, and students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 375/Social Psychology Seminar

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 121 & 1 foundation course

Community Based Learning; Behavioral, Social or Cultural Perspectives

The seminar will provide students opportunities for in-depth study of specific topics within social psychology, thus offering topics of interest to students in the social specialization as well as students from other specializations. The topic will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 383/Counseling Clinical Field Study Seminar

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 216 and PSY 217

Field experience in a mental health setting, with classroom supervision of the clinical activities. Students in the counseling-clinical specialization will integrate knowledge from various courses as they apply concepts in a clinical setting. Both an appropriate piece of written work and an oral presentation to the class will be required. Faculty advisor approval of each placement is necessary.

PSY 385/Seminar in Applied Psychology

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

PSY 386/Psychological Testing

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

An introduction to theoretical, practical, and ethical issues in psychological testing and measurement. Psychometric principles such as reliability, validity, and utility will be examined in the context of selecting the most appropriate assessment instruments to inform decision making. The development and psychometric properties of widely-used intelligence, achievement, personnel, and clinical/personality tests will be discussed.

PSY 390/Collaborative Research

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: varies with semester. Check department website.

In-depth study of an area of psychology. Seminar discussions, individual/group reports, research and/or field work. By advisement, may be taken more than once for credit.

PSY 391/Independent Study in Psychology (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Reserved for Sophomores with a minimum GPA of 2.5
Students are guided by a faculty member on a discrete literature-based or empirical research project.

PSY 393/Independent Research (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Reserved for Sophomores with a minimum GPA of 2.5

Writing Intensive

Students work with a faculty member on a discrete literature-based or empirical research project. Cross-listed with PSY 493.

PSY 396/Senior Honors Thesis I (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 299 with a minimum Grade of a B or better; and reserved for Juniors

Writing Intensive

In-depth empirical work (e.g., experimental, field study, survey, or archival research) or a substantial and integrative review, designed jointly by the student and thesis director, spanning two semesters.

PSY 397/Instructional Internship (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Writing Intensive

Instructional Interns learn about the teaching of psychology. Students gain a deeper understanding of the particular course content area, gain insight into curriculum goals and methods of achieving them, and develop instructional skills in the areas of providing written feedback, creating and/or delivering learning activities, and constructing learning tools. Instructional Interns (IIs) are associated with a particular section of a course and work closely with the professor. Instructional Internship can be taken a maximum of two times and cannot be repeated for the same course. Specific duties for the instructional intern are detailed in a contract that is developed and signed by both the student and faculty sponsor.

PSY 399/Internship (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Reserved for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors with a minimum GPA of 2.5

Writing Intensive

Application of psychology principles through placement in a paid or non-paid work setting such as a mental health, community, educational, business or government setting.

PSY 419/History of Psychology Senior Seminar

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: PSY 299, senior standing, and permission of instructor

This course will consider how psychology's goals, methods, and beliefs have evolved over its history. As a senior experience, this course will allow students to integrate experiences from various areas of the discipline, to analyze and evaluate psychology's past and to make recommendations for its future.

PSY 470/Senior Topics Study Group

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisite: PSY 299

Writing Intensive

Each course under this umbrella is relevant to a different set of specializations. As a senior experience, students use their prior knowledge as a foundation for individualized study of theoretical, empirical, or clinical issues. The study group is a community of learning in which students direct their own in-depth exploration of a field, discuss their ideas with others in the group, and express their discoveries and conclusions in successive drafts of a major written paper.

PSY 492/Senior Collaborative Study

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 299 and a GPA of 2.5 or better; reserved for Psychology Majors; and permission of instructor is required.

Writing Intensive

In lab learning, students are involved in the central core of activity in a psychological research laboratory. The laboratories maintain an ongoing scholarly research program, directed by a full-time faculty member, and run collaboratively with a team of student research assistants. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience. Cross-listed with PSY 390.

PSY 493/Senior Independent Research (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 299 and a GPA of 2.5 or better; reserved for Psychology Majors; and permission of instructor is required

Writing Intensive

Students work with a faculty member on a discrete literature-based or empirical research project. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience.

PSY 496/Senior Honors Thesis II (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 396 and GPA of 2.5 or better

Writing Intensive

In-depth empirical work (e.g., experimental, field study, survey, or archival research) or a substantial and integrative review, designed jointly by the student and thesis director, spanning two semesters. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience.

PSY 499/Senior Internship (1-8 credits)

(Fall and Spring)

Prerequisites: PSY 299 and a GPA of 2.5 or better; reserved for Psychology Majors; and permission of instructor is required

Writing Intensive

Application of psychology principles through placement in a paid or non-paid work setting such as a mental health, community, educational, business, or government setting. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience.