

Psychology Courses

PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)

An introduction to the basic concepts, methods, issues, and theories of psychology, including such topics as the biological bases of behavior, perception, learning and memory, human development, motivation, personality, social influences, and pathological behavior.

PSY 150/350 Departmental Seminar (2 credits each)

This course will focus on career exploration, professional development, ethical issues, course progression and program development. It is designed to facilitate an understanding of how students can best participate in the process of gaining an education in psychology. Students will take the seminar once in their freshman or sophomore year and once in the spring of their junior or senior year. Establishment and development of the student portfolio demonstrating competency in the following areas will be required: 1) knowledge base; 2) ethics; 3) oral and written communication skills; 4) information gathering skills; 5) analytical skills/research methods; 6) interpersonal skills; 7) practical application; and 8) resume or vita. Juniors or seniors will take the Major Field Achievement Test.

PSY 202 Research Methods in Psychology (4 credits)

A study of the methods of research design employed in psychology. This course includes discussion of appropriate methodology for conducting research in psychology and its related fields, as well as demonstrations and other experimental investigations of selected topics. Laboratory work develops skills in designing and conducting experiments and scientific report writing. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and Math 205. (Offered every year, generally in the Spring semester.)

PSY 220 Child and Adolescent Development (3 credits)

This course covers the cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and moral development of children from infancy through adolescence. Basic theories of developmental psychology, the role of biology vs. environment, and the role of scientifically derived information as applied to children's development will be explored. Prerequisite: PSY 101.

PSY 232 Biopsychology (3 credits)

A study of the basic concepts of the biological bases of behavior. The impact of methods and technology on research findings will be investigated, and the relationship between nervous and endocrine system structure and function in animal and human behavior will be examined. Prerequisite: PSY 101. (Offered every year, generally Fall semester.)

PSY 244 Abnormal Psychology (3 Credits)

Abnormal psychology is the study of mental and behavioral disorders (also called mental illness, psychological disorders, or psychopathology) – what they look like, why they occur, how they are maintained, and what effect they have on people's lives. The course will examine biological, psychodynamic, behavioral, and cognitive explanations for mental/behavior disorders. Prerequisite: PSY 101. (Offered every year, generally Fall semester)

PSY 260 Psychology in Legal Contexts (3 credits)

This course will emphasize psychological theory and principles as applied to police work, jury dynamics, civil commitment, forensic assessment of competency and insanity, eyewitness identification and testimony, the psychology of victims, and treatment in the correctional system. Psychological "tools" such as hypnosis, voiceprints, anatomically correct dolls, and lie detectors will also be discussed in the context of their utility and accuracy.

PSY 314 Counseling Psychology (3 Credits)

Basic processes of counseling (e.g., listening skills, rapport building, and reflection) are discovered through theoretical study and role-play. These processes will be considered in light of specific behavior and adjustment problems. Students will be expected to begin and continue a life-long process of self-evaluation as a person in a helping role. Prerequisite: PSY 101 and either PSY 220 or 244 Abnormal, or permission of instructor.

PSY 325 Drugs and Behavior (3 credits)

An examination of the biochemical and physiological systems that mediate the effects of psychoactive drugs on behavior and mental processes; consideration of the biological, psychological, and sociological explanations for drug use/abuse; classification systems: how and why specific drugs work; regulatory and legal issues; drug use among special populations (adolescents, women, athletes, HIV/AIDS); and issues of education, prevention, and treatment. Prerequisite: PSY 101, CHE 201, BIO 201 or BIO 221.

PSY 331 Social Psychology (3 credits)

Examination of the effects of social and cultural context on the behavior of individuals, including topics such as social cognition, attitude formation and change, conformity, cooperation and competition, aggression, altruism, prejudice, interpersonal relationships, and environmental psychology. Attention will be given to classic and contemporary research in social psychological phenomena. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and PSY 202. (Generally offered every other year.)

PSY 335 Organizational Behavior (3 credits)

Integrates the study of social psychology and management, and applies knowledge from these areas to understand behavior of individuals working together in groups. Topics include leadership and power, group decision-making, communication, conflict resolution, motivation, and group socialization and development. Prerequisites: PSY101, BUS 100 or BUS 331.

PSY 337 Personality Theory and Research (3 credits)

The study of current and classical theories of personality and advances in personality research. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and PSY 202. (Generally offered every other year.)

PSY 343 Learning and Motivation (3 credits)

This is a course designed to develop an understanding of the elementary principles of learning and motivation, and of how experience and biology interact to organize, activate, maintain, and change behavior. Students will explore the nature of change due to learning and seek generic principles of adaptive change. Topics covered will include classical and operant conditioning, reinforcement, punishment, forgetting, vicarious learning, individual differences, attention, drives, instincts, aggression, achievement, attitudes, affiliation, attraction, and emotion. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and either junior standing or permission of instructor.

PSY 360 Psychological Evaluation & Assessment (3 credits)

This course focuses on psychological testing and the statistical, psychometric, and ethical concepts that are incorporated in this area of psychology. The course will blend theoretical and applied material, providing students with a rationale and a basic understanding of the assessment process. Included will be a basic review of techniques and instruments used in psychological testing (e.g., intelligence tests, personality tests). Additionally, the course will prepare students to be informed consumers as test users or test takers. Prerequisites: PSY 101, MAT 205, PSY 202.

PSY 433 Cognitive Neuroscience (3 credits)

An in-depth study of the science that seeks to comprehend the relationship between brain and mind, moving from a knowledge of nerve cell structure and function to a level of understanding how biological events give rise to behaviors and consciousness. The course will consider the biological bases for higher-level perceptual functions, attention, memory, language, motor control, and consciousness, and will include study of the roles of cerebral lateralization and specialization, executive functions and the frontal lobes of the brain, and plasticity. Prerequisites: PSY 101, and PSY 202, and PSY 232..

PSY 434 Perception (3 credits)

Focused examination of theories and research in perception, with major aims being analysis and synthesis of research data and evaluation of empirical studies and of theory. Overview of the sensory systems, of advanced methodologies as applied to sensory-perceptual processes and selected topics of special interest. Prerequisites: PSY 101, and PSY 202, and PSY 232.

PSY 438 Applied Psychology (3 credits)

Advanced study of the interface between psychological research and principles, and contemporary social issues. Topics to be considered include adult life styles and physical and psychological health, environmental influences on behavior and emotions, attachment and loyalty to groups, reliability and admissibility of lie detector tests, credibility of eyewitness testimony, decision-making, job satisfaction, motivation, and leadership. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and PSY 202.

PSY 440 Psychology of Persuasion & Influence (3 credits)

In contemporary society, we are faced with continuing attempts to persuade and influence us to think, feel, and act in particular ways. This course addresses classic and contemporary theories and research regarding influence and persuasion from areas such as: media advertising and marketing, film, music, consumerism, politics, the internet, cult

indoctrinations, health care, the environment, groups in action, and cultural values. Prerequisites: PSY 101, PSY 202 or BE 333 or BE 364, or permission of instructor.

PSY 445 History & Systems (Senior Seminar) (3 credits)

A consideration of the philosophical and empirical foundations of psychology and the contribution of the various systems of psychology to understanding human and animal behavior. A synthesis of knowledge and skills expected of the undergraduate psychology major is emphasized. Prerequisites: PSY 101, PSY 202, senior standing, or consent of the instructor. (Offered every year, generally in the Spring semester)

PSY 390/490 Special Topics in Psychology (1-3 credits each)

PSY 391/491 Honors in Psychology (3 credits each)

PSY 395/495 Internship in Psychology (1-3 credits each)

PSY 398/498 Research or Teaching Practicum (1-3 credits each)