

PSYCHOLOGY

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MAJOR

A total of 10 courses distributed as follows:

- PSYC 290 *Statistics*
- PSYC 295 *Research Methods*

Two courses from Cluster A, at least one of which must have a laboratory:

- PSYC 300 *Comparative Animal Behavior*
- PSYC 320 *Cognitive Psychology*
- PSYC 330 *Learning*
- PSYC 335 *Sensation and Perception*
- PSYC 360 *Behavioral Neuroscience*

Two courses from Cluster B:

- PSYC 210 *Developmental Psychology*
- PSYC 230 *Social Psychology*
- PSYC 345 *Applied Psychology*
- PSYC 370 *Personality*

One course from Cluster C:

- PSYC 380 *Psychology Practicum*
- PSYC 390 *History and Systems*
- PSYC 400 *Psychology of Gender*
- PSYC 420 *Advanced Social Psychology*
- PSYC 450 *Senior Seminar*

Three electives from psychology listings at any level.

Statistics is a prerequisite for Research Methods, and Research Methods is a prerequisite for all other laboratory courses in the department.

Senior Capstone Experience

The Senior Capstone Experience for the psychology major consists of the Major Field Achievement Test (MFT) in Psychology, which is intended as an assessment device for senior psychology majors. It consists

of 140 multiple-choice items covering the major areas of psychology. The examination is normally taken during the spring semester of the senior year. The grade for the Senior Capstone Experience is based on the student's score on the Psychology MFT.

MINOR

Six courses in psychology, at least three of which must be at the 300-level or above. Note: PSYC 380 *Psychology Practicum* will not count toward the minor.

General Topics Courses

PSYC 110 *Introduction to Psychology (SB)*

An introduction to the scientific study of behavior and its underlying cognitive and biological processes. Students who have already taken two or more psychology courses at the 200-level or above will not be allowed to take General Psychology.

PSYC 250 *Thinking, Judgement, and Decision-Making*

Examination of the cognitive and motivational bases for thinking, judging, and decision-making, discussed in the context of real-life conflicts and issues. Topics include moral reasoning, intuition, and models of decision-making.

PSYC 290 *Statistics (QS)*

Descriptive and inferential techniques for analyzing research data. Factorial analysis of variance, Chi square, nonparametrics, and experimental design.

PSYC 295 *Research Methods (W2)*

Introduction to the procedures psychologists use to study behavior, cognition, and emotion. Students will evaluate, design, conduct, and present research. With laboratory. *Prerequisite: PSYC 290.*

PSYC 365 *Emotion*

Examination of the history of emotion research, as well as specific topics related to emotion such as psychological well-being, physical health, culture, and decision-making. Introduction to research methods specific to the field. *Prerequisites: Two of the following courses: PSYC 110, PSYC 210, PSYC 230, PSYC 320, or PSYC 360.*

PSYC 385 *Abnormal Psychology*

An overview of the main psychological disorders, focusing on the major scientific theories of their etiology and treatment. *Prerequisite: one psychology course.*

PSYC 490 *Topics in Psychology*

An in-depth examination of major topics within the discipline. The content and format of this course vary according to the interests of students and faculty. *Prerequisite: consent of instructor is recommended.*

Cluster A Courses

PSYC 300-A *Comparative Animal Behavior (W2)*

Study of the genetic, developmental, physiological, ecological, and evolutionary bases of adaptive behavior of animals, including humans. With laboratory. *Prerequisite: BIOL 160 or both PSYC 295 and BIOL 100. Cross-listed as BIOL 300.*

PSYC 320-A *Cognitive Psychology (W2)*

Introduction to the concepts, theories, and methods of cognitive psychology, which is the study of the mind and mental processes. Topics include attention and consciousness, memory, language, cognitive development, and neurocognition. With laboratory.

PSYC 330-A *Learning*

The course uses a behavioral and experimental approach to examine basic forms of learning. Content covers both theory and experimental methodology, maintaining a critical eye toward empirical evidence to support theoretical interpretations. The basic principles of learning will be described first, followed by examples of ways in which these principles have been applied. *Prerequisite: one psychology course.*

PSYC 335-A *Sensation and Perception*

Examination of sensory systems and perceptual processing of external stimuli and their relation to psychological and behavioral processes. Particular emphasis will be placed on the nature of the visual system, and comparisons will be made to other special senses.

PSYC 360-A *Behavioral Neuroscience*

The anatomical, physiological, and chemical bases of normal and abnormal behavior are considered, followed by the close examination of specific areas in neuroscience such as motivation, feeding, consciousness, and learning. With laboratory. *Prerequisite: PSYC 295 or Biology laboratory course.*

Cluster B Courses

PSYC 210-B *Developmental Psychology (SB)*

Overview of the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of humans throughout the lifespan.

PSYC 230-B *Social Psychology (SB)*

The influence of interpersonal processes on individual behavior. Methods of research, conformity, attribution, prosocial behavior, attitudes, impression management, environmental factors, and ethics in research. Small group research activities.

PSYC 345-B *Applied Psychology (SB)*

Real world applications of psychological theory and research. Behavior analysis and change strategies in consumer, legal, environmental, industrial/organizational, sport, health, and stress management settings. Topic emphases determined by class interest.

PSYC 370-B *Personality (SB)*

An overview of the major theories of personality with special focus on contemporary personality theory and research.

Cluster C Courses

PSYC 380-C *Psychology Practicum*

A service-learning course that enables students to obtain practical experience in educational or service-oriented community organizations and institutions. Class meetings include discussion of students' work

experiences and selected readings. *Prerequisite: junior standing and consent of instructor.*

PSYC 390-C *History and Systems*

Historical roots of contemporary psychology, including the systematic positions of early psychologists. Descartes to present.

PSYC 400-C *Psychology of Gender* (CW, W2)

Examination of the biological, social, and psychological differences and similarities of females and males, with a focus on the nature/nurture debate within the field. *Prerequisites: (a) two psychology courses (excluding Statistics) or consent of instructor; (b) junior or senior standing.*

PSYC 420-C *Advanced Social Psychology* (W2)

Experimental investigation of social behavior, with students working individually and in groups. Current journal literature, field experimentation, methodological difficulties unique to social psychology, critical discussion of student research projects. With laboratory. *Prerequisite: Consent of instructor is recommended.*

PSYC 450 *Senior Seminar in Psychology*

Discussions of current and classic controversies in psychology. Contemporary theoretical and research trends, critical assessment of readings, student-guided discussions, and independent analyses of major topics. Content changes annually as a function of participants' interests within the discipline.