

Psychology Course Descriptions

Psyc 511: Sensation and Perception

Explore how animals, both human and non-human, sense the environment. Integrate ideas from psychology, neuroscience, and physics. Develop an understanding of how physical events impact sensory systems that, in turn, generate what we see, hear, feel, etc.

Psyc 512: Psychology of Primates

A comparative analysis of primate cognitive, linguistic, and social processes. The origins of human behavior are explored from the perspectives of history, evolution, and contemporary work in neuropsychology, linguistic, sociobiology, and related fields. Prereq: PSYC 401.

Psyc 513: Cognition

Cognitive psychology is the study of human thought. Topics addressed are how we perceive objects, focus our attention, remember things, communicate with others, make decisions, and solve problems. We don't have much conscious access to these things (usually they feel fairly automatic and go seamlessly) but the processing underlying these skills is complex. Major findings of experimental cognitive psychology is covered by discussing behavioral and neuroscience data that have revealed the inner workings of the brain/mind.

Psyc 521: Behavioral Analysis

This course is about how organisms learn - how behavior is acquired, maintained and changed as a result of our experiences. Virtually all of our behavior, it may be argued, is affected by prior experience, so learning is necessarily a broad topic. Our focus will be on general principles of behavior that apply across a variety of species (human and nonhuman).

Psyc 531: Psychobiology

Introduces the behavioral neurosciences. Surveys research conducted by psychologists to learn about the biological basis of behavior: development, sensation, perception, movement, sleep, feeding, drinking, hormones, reproduction, stress, emotions, emotional disorders, learning, and memory. Prereq: PSYC 401.

Psyc 552: Social Psychology

This course is designed to familiarize students with the basic principles of the field of social psychology, or *the scientific study of how individuals think, feel, and behave in a social context*. Students will learn about social perception, social influence, social relations, and applications of social psychology through a wide variety of topics, including: stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination; attitudes; conformity; group processes; attraction; helping others; aggression; law; and health. Prereq: PSYC 401

Psyc 553: Personality

In particular, the course is designed to create a sense of the total functioning of the individual by understanding how the parts of personality interact to bring it about. There are a number of more specific objectives that will help develop such understanding, parallel to the divisions of the course: (a) to master the definition of personality, and basic concepts in personality theory and measurement, (b) to learn about the major parts of personality, (c) to learn about the ways in which personality is organized, both structurally and dynamically, and (d) to survey personality development and the ways in which various theorists have recommended that personality develop. Through understanding this material and how it applies to our own personalities and those of the people we know, our thinking about ourselves and why we are the way we are should become more sophisticated.

Psyc 561: Abnormal Behavior

This course provides an introduction to the historical and current views on abnormal behavior and psychological disorders. Students will learn to distinguish between the major psychological disorders, including symptoms, causes, consequences, and treatments, identify and understand current approaches to diagnoses based on diagnostic criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, 5th edition (DSM-5)*, and analyze disorders and their treatments from various theoretical approaches, including psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic-existential, and biological.

Psyc 571: Pioneers of Psychology

An introduction to the development and evolution of psychology as an academic discipline and applied science. This course will open historical perspectives on psychology that go beyond research articles to situate the authors and their work in history. Historical methods are employed to look at the sources of psychology, including psychologists' lives, the institutions where they worked, and the societies in which they lived.

Psyc 581: Child Development

This course is an introduction to the theories, empirical research, and applications of developmental psychology. The course will be roughly divided into three sections focusing on physical, cognitive, and social (emotional) development from infancy to adolescence.

Psyc 702: Advanced Statistics

We review and apply statistics you have already learned and also learn more advanced methods including regression, mediation analysis, and factor analysis. Evaluation is based on take home/ open book data analysis projects using SPSS to analyze real data. The course focuses on understanding and interpreting results from SPSS, not on computation. This will be particularly useful for students who plan to go to graduate school (strong preparation in statistics helps to make your application more competitive); students who are doing honors thesis work; and students who plan to seek jobs that involve any form of data analysis (such as research assistant, marketing, or survey research). Prerequisites: Psyc 402, 502, or permission of instructor; WI; can count toward Group 1 or Group 2 700 level course requirements.

Psyc 705: Tests and Measurement

Mental life (and personality, in particular) is often interior, hidden, and invisible. So how do you measure it? The objective of this course is to introduce the philosophy and procedures of psychological measurement and to examine some common tests and measures such as the SAT, the Big Five Inventory, selected intelligence tests, and the MMPI. Test construction, including the assumptions and methods of classical psychometrics – a branch of statistics focused on measurement -- are examined. The mathematical background required is the basic course in statistics. Prerequisites: PSYC 402; 502; or permission. WI.

Psyc 710: Visual Perception

Using a quasi-historical approach to the topic, the course is designed around nine classic articles in vision. An overview of the relevant physiology and anatomy, psychophysical methods, and physics in vision science. Working with the classic articles, an introduction to the topic is presented with a review of background material followed by discussion. The articles cover topics ranging from theoretical perspectives to basic sensory processing in vision and visual perception. Authors include von Helmholtz, Hubel and Wiesel, and Wertheimer. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 511 or 531; or permission. WI

Psyc 712: Psychology of Language

The use, development, and evolution of human language through a series of case studies and other readings. Topics may include aphasia syndromes, autism, bilingualism, implications of surgical procedures (removing an entire cerebral hemisphere or severing the corpus callosum), hearing loss and sign language, isolation and "wild child" syndrome, dyslexia, language "genes" and specific language impairment, Williams syndrome, and efforts to use human language with non-humans. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 513, or permission. WI.

Psyc 713: Psychology of Consciousness

Introduction to theory and research on both normal and altered states of consciousness, primarily from a cognitive psychology viewpoint. Topics may include brain systems and consciousness, cognitive psychology and consciousness, introspection, sleep and dreaming, hypnosis, and consciousness altering drugs. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 513; or permission. WI.

Psyc 716: Cognitive Neuroscience

Cognitive Neuroscience is a rapidly expanding scientific discipline that probes classical questions of human cognitive psychology via a broad array of cutting-edge methodological approaches, which include but are not limited to brain imaging (e.g., functional MRI and electroencephalography), lesion studies, single-cell recording, and examinations of brain injuries and other neurological disorders. We will survey the results of these approaches, which have generated fundamental insights about perception, object recognition, attention, memory, and many other cognitive processes. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 513; or permission

Psyc 720: Animal Cognition

Do animals use language or have a culture? Can birds count? Do animals use tools and understand how they function? How do ants navigate in their environment to find food and then return to their nest? How animals perceive, attend to, process, store, and represent information from their environment. Research on animal learning and behavior as a framework for investigating cognitive processes in animal learning. Quantitative versus qualitative nature of differences between people and non-human animals. Multidisciplinary approach including the fields of anthropology, physiology, philosophy, and biology. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 513 or 521; or perm. WI.

Psyc 722: Behaviorism, Culture, and Contemporary Society

Introduction to behaviorism as a philosophy of science, concentrating on modern behaviorism, especially the Radical Behaviorism of B.F. Skinner. Application of behaviorism to modern problems and issues (e.g. war, overpopulation, pollution, crime & punishment). Implications of behaviorism for the development of culture & civilization. Prerequisites: Psyc 402; 502; 521; or permission. No credit for students who have completed Psyc 522. WI.

Psyc 731: Brain and Behavior

Brain and Behavior is an introduction to neuropsychology, a field at the intersection of psychology and neurology. Experimental neuropsychologists study human and animal subjects to learn about the neurological bases of cognitive, behavioral, and emotional functions. Clinical neuropsychologists diagnose and treat individuals who have suffered brain damage. We will survey topics that represent the variety of functions and clinical disorders studied by neuropsychologists. To bring everyone up to speed, we will begin the semester with a brief review of neuroanatomy, diseases affecting the brain, and methods used to study brain activity in clinical and experimental applications. Prerequisites: Psyc 402; 502; 531; or permission. WI. 4cr.

Psyc 733: Drugs and Behavior

Drugs and Behavior is an introduction to the field of neuropsychopharmacology: the study of how drugs act on the brain to alter mood, thought processes, or behavior. We will consider the use and abuse of drugs in terms of their actions in the brain, their effects on behavior, and the social context of their consumption. The first part of the course will focus on basic aspects of neurochemistry, principles of drug action, addiction, and behavioral measures used to characterize the effects of drugs. After this we will cover stimulants and depressants, opioids, drugs with hallucinogenic and psychedelic properties, and drugs used to treat mood disorders, anxiety, and schizophrenia. This is an advanced course in the biopsychology track. Students should have completed Psychobiology (Psyc 531) or obtained permission from the instructor to take this course. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 531, or permission. WI.

Psyc 735: Neurobiology of Mood Disorders Neurobiological and neurochemical substrates underlying various psychopathologies, using both animal models and human data. Study of disorders from the field of biological psychiatry including aggression, anxiety, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, unipolar depression, bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The effectiveness of current behavioral and pharmacological therapy. Prereq: PSYC 402; 502; 531; or permission. Writing intensive.

Psyc 736: Attention Disorders

Attention encompasses several cognitive functions including, but not limited to, the ability to select relevant from irrelevant stimuli, to maintain goal-directed behavior over time, and to process multiple streams of information at once. This course explores how the normal brain "attends", and the consequences of dysfunction in neurochemical systems hypothesized to mediate these abilities including dementia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and schizophrenia. Prereq: PSYC 402; 502; 531;/or permission. WI.

Psyc 737: Behavioral Medicine

The biological and brain correlates and treatments for such health-impairing behaviors as eating disorders, obesity, excessive alcohol consumption and smoking. We will also examine health-promoting behaviors such as low fat diet and exercise. Stress and coping, Type A behavior pattern/hypertension and coronary risk, will also be covered from both preclinical and clinical perspectives. The interaction between the brain, behavior, and the immune system as it impacts disease vulnerability and how the immune system impacts our behavior and cognition as well (e.g., sickness behavior). Finally, we will discuss non-traditional medicinal practices (e.g. meditation) and how they may improve health. Prerequisites: PSYC 402; 502;531;or permission. WI.

Psyc 741W: ReShaping People: A History

This course is a history of the rise and fall of behaviorism in American psychology. Students in Psychology 722 are asked to become believers in B. F. Skinner's view of the world, while in my course they are encouraged to both appreciate and doubt Skinner's ideas. Students will see how the 20th century produced two prominent behaviorists (John B. Watson and Skinner) who promised to reshape human beings and change the basics of human society. We will study the strengths and weaknesses of these men's visions, what shaped their ideas, and the cultural backlashes that were evoked by their grand promises. The fate of their ideas when tested in laboratories and in the world will be stressed. We will read literature (e.g., *Clockwork Orange*, *Brave New World*) and watch films as well as read articles from psychology and the history of psychology. PSYCH 521 or permission. WI

Psyc 741W: Behavioral Neuroscience

The objective of this course is to introduce students to a broad field of Neuroscience and particularly to understand relationships between neurobiological processes and behavior. We will be covering functional neurobiology of the brain and its involvement in the wide variety of behaviors including addiction and most common neurobiological diseases including Schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's."

Psyc 741W: Neuroscience of Memory

The case of Henry Molaison, more famously known as H.M., illustrates there are multiple different forms of memory. In this class, we will explore these different memory systems from theoretical and neurobiological perspectives. In the first half of the class, we will explore behavioral memory including sensitization, habituation, classical conditioning and instrumental/operant conditioning. The second half of the class will focus on cognitive forms of memory including episodic, semantic and working memory. We will also explore how episodic memories are represented and stored in the brain and end with a discussion about how these different memory systems might interact.

Prereqs: PSYC 402, PSYC 502, PSYC 513 or PSYC 531 or NSB 502

Psyc 755: Psychology and Law

Understanding the legal system by the use of psychological concepts and methods. The American jury trial, including jury selection, eyewitness identification, false confession, witnesses, and jury deliberation. Special topics such as the competence and insanity, death penalty and children as witnesses. Jury trials such as Scott Peterson, Andrea Yates, and Gary Sampson. Prerequisites: PSYC402;502; or permission. Writing Intensive.

Psyc 756: Psychology of Crime and Justice

The purpose of this course is to focus on the relation between psychology and crime and justice. In the first part of the course, we will examine the origins of the causes of crime including biological, social, learning, and developmental factors, aggression and violence, and issues of psychopathy and mentally disordered offenders. Second, we will read a story about an actual New Hampshire case in which investigators find the dismembered and incinerated remains of the young lover of a middle aged woman, Sheila LaBarre. Third, we will focus on homicide, assault, family violence, and interpersonal violence. Fourth, we will study multiple murder, profiling, terrorism, violent crimes, and stalking. Finally we will conclude with a consideration of the future of crime, intervention, and prevention.

Psyc 757: Psychology of Happiness

This course focuses on questions in Positive Psychology, such as: Are there different kinds of happiness? How can we measure happiness and subjective well being? How is happiness influenced by genetic factors and also by attitudes and behaviors of individuals? What can people do to improve their happiness and life satisfaction? Students will read and discuss journal articles that describe empirical research, and also do experiential exercises and write first person reaction papers describing the effects of these experiences on their happiness and subjective well being. Prereq: Psyc 402;502. WI.

Psyc 758: Health Psychology

This course examines how psychological variables such as personality, emotions, attitudes, social relationships, stress, and behaviors are related to risk of disease. Treatment process (for example, adherence to treatment plans, placebo effects, and satisfaction with medical care) is also examined. In turn, physical health problems influence psychological well-being. Most of the course reviews research about these questions, and we will also discuss what individuals can do to improve their own health. Prerequisites: Psyc 402, 502, or permission of instructor; WI.

Psyc 762: Counseling

This class explores the roots of psychotherapy and many of the currently used psychotherapy methodologies including but not limited to psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive-behavioral, client-centered and family systems approaches. Contemporary issues in the practice of psychotherapy will also be discussed. Developing the ability to critically examine the basis for ethical and sound psychotherapy practice will also be emphasized. Psyc majors only; PSYC 402;502;553 or 561; or permission. WI. 4cr.

Psyc 763: Community Psychology

Community psychology focuses on the prevention of psychological distress rather than later intervention. It is concerned both with the individual and with the individual's family and community context. Through readings, guest lectures, class discussions, and experiential exercises students will study core concepts in community psychology including diversity, empowerment, and collaboration between professionals and clients. Social issues that community psychologists seek to address including: family violence and poverty. (prereq: 502;/or permission). WI

Psyc 775: Madness in America

This course will examine how popular and professional concepts of mental illness have changed in America. We will read the writings of former psychiatric patients as well as that of therapists, researchers, social critics, and historians of psychology and psychiatry. We will also study motion pictures, documentaries, novels, autobiographies, and biographies for their expression of cultural values, public attitudes, and popular views of mental health and illness. We will look at the impact of WWI and WWII on how people thought about madness and how it was treated. One event from the 1960s that we will study is the removal of homosexuality from the diagnostic manual of the American Psychiatric Association. Another is the rise and fall of the lobotomy (in the 1940s and 1950s). Throughout the 20th century, we consider the question: have women been stigmatized by psychiatrists and psychologists? The overall goal in the course is for students to see how psychiatric and psychological theories are shaped by historical events as well as scientific and medical research. WI

Psyc 780-Prenatal Development and Infancy

This course will cover development from conception through the child's second birthday. Emphases will be on the critical period of prenatal development, prenatal experience and learning, the birth process, the transition to parenthood, and early social-emotional and cognitive development. Most readings will be journal articles. Assignments will include reaction papers, midterm (take-home) and term paper. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 581 (or equivalents). WI.

Psyc 783: Cognitive Development

This course will focus on sex and cultural differences in cognitive development. Emphases will be placed on the role of parents, teachers and other socializing agents. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; 581; or FS 525. WI.

Psyc 785: Social Development

This course focuses on theoretical, empirical and applied issues in social development with an emphasis on infancy and childhood. For example, topics include the development of emotion, social referencing, love and attachment, social attributions and reasoning, friendship, temperament, personality, cross-cultural differences, context effects and social influences on memory and learning. The course is Writing Intensive and will include child observations. Prerequisites: Psyc 402; 502; 581; or permission. WI.

Psyc 791W Culture and Human Development

"Culture"-an essential concept that is often disregarded, much debated, or often misunderstood in many arenas. Yet, culture has wide-ranging implications in our everyday life-socially, politically, emotionally, and cognitively. This course is designed to examine the critical roles culture plays in understanding various psychological phenomena. Drawing on research in communities throughout the world, it considers how cultural values, beliefs, and goals of development shape everyday life. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; or permission. WI.

Psyc 791W: Autobiographical Memory

This course will explore autobiographical memory from a lifespan developmental perspective. Topics include flashbulb memories; the origins of personal memory in infancy and early childhood; memory and trauma; memory and the self; memory in school contexts; false memories; and gender and cultural differences in memory performance. Prereq: Psyc 402; 502; or permission. WI.

Psyc 791W: Psychology and Race: Historical Perspectives (William Woodward)

"Psychology and race" is a rapidly expanding area in the history of psychology encompassing the cultural contexts of psychological thought. We explore black ideas for secondary and higher education, how ethnic minorities entered into U.S. psychology, Jewish influences on cultural psychology in Russia, shame/guilt in Japanese psychology, an Afrocentric psychologist activist, and much more. In each case study, we focus on leading figures and place them in a cultural context. Discussion-based course, homeworks, films, quizzes, no final, and racial autobiography or research paper. WI

Psyc 791W: Psychology of Sustainability

This will be a fun course with lots of films and class discussions. Students will review what you know in psychology, both research and theory, and how to apply it to making the world greener. Our textbook is *Psychology for Sustainability* (4th ed., 2016) by Britain Scott, Elise Amel, Susan Koger, and Christie Manning. Here are the chapters: "What on earth are we doing? How did we get here? Where do we go from here? Developing an ecological world view. Psychology can help change the planet. The power of the (unsustainable) situation. It's not easy thinking green. Putting the "I" in the environment. Making ourselves sick: health costs of unsustainable living. Healing the split between planet and self: we all need to walk on the wild side. Getting psyched for sustainability: being the change we want to see." We will also do a self-change project. This course will fulfill a group II and can be designated as capstone. Prerequisites: PSYC 402, 502, or permission

Psyc 793: Internship

This course provides an opportunity to gain supervised work experience in a health or social service agency in addition to academic study of important skills and issues in the psychotherapy field. The course may be taken for 4-8 credit hours (Internship students report that their learning is greatly enhanced by spending large blocks of time at the agency, as such an arrangement encourages deep involvement with the agency and clients it serves. Therefore, an eight credit commitment (which involves working at least two full 8-hour days or the equivalent (for a total of 16 hours) each week), is recommended). The classroom component of the course consists of a weekly, three-hour academic seminar. The seminar involves work consistent with a 700 level, writing intensive psychology course including reading scholarship from the clinical psychology field, as well as academic writing assignments, oral presentations, etc. The seminar also emphasizes collegial/peer support, providing a forum for discussing problems and issues related to the internship experience. It is also a place to develop important critical thinking skills about key issues in the psychotherapy field. Prerequisites for the course include: psychology major, suitable internship placement, instructor's permission, and tentative learning agreement. Enrollment is limited to 15 students, with preference given to seniors. Prerequisites: Psyc 402; 502; 561; and 762 as a pre or co-requisite. WI. 4-8 cr.