

Department of Psychology

Psychology Course Descriptions

Courses are offered each semester unless otherwise designated.

@ = Indicates a non-liberal arts course. Please refer to page XX for a description of non-liberal arts credits.

PSYC 195, 295, 395, 495 – Special Topics (1-12)

PSYC 198, 298, 398, 498 – Tutorial (1-3)

PSYC 100 – Introduction to Psychology (3) Survey of the science of psychology; what psychologists do, methods they use, and conclusions they draw. Gen Ed: SA credit. Fall and Spring.

PSYC 111 – Exploring Psychology (1) This class is designed to provide first-year students with a focused look at the field of Psychology, the Psychology faculty and major at SUNY Potsdam, as well as related fields and opportunities. First and second year students only.

PSYC 220 – Child Development (3) Major Issues, topics and theories of child development with emphasis on early years. Gen Ed: SA credit. Fall and Spring.

PSYC 270 – Issues of Exceptionality (3) Human exceptionality: historical and cross-cultural perspective. Not currently offered.

PSYC 300 – Research Methods in Psychology (4) Introductory laboratory course examining research methods, experimental designs and basic experimental theory. Psychology writing style is developed using data from animal and/or human studies. Lecture and lab. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, Introductory Statistics. Gen Ed: WI credit. Fall and Spring.

PSYC 301 – @Teaching of Psychology (3) Tutoring students enrolled in various psychology courses. Tutors work closely with instructor to learn more effective means of teaching. Prerequisite: permission. As warranted.

PSYC 313 – Cognitive Development (3) Designed to explore cognitive development during childhood and adolescence. Focuses on changes in children's thinking that occur over time in a variety of domains. Topics: current approaches and theories of cognitive development, developmental changes in memory, perception and language; assessment of intelligence and creativity; cognitive bases of such social phenomena as perspective taking and moral reasoning. As warranted.

PSYC 320 – Advanced Topics in Child Development (3) Theories of human development, study of the child in various contexts (e.g., school, home), cognitive development. Prerequisites: A General Education Freshman Speaking course and either PSYC 100 or 220. Offered occasionally. Gen Ed: SI credit.

PSYC 321 – Psychology of Adolescence (3) Developmental characteristics and theories of adolescent behavior. Emphasis on empirical research. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 220 or Sophomore standing. Gen. Ed: SA credit. Fall and Spring.

PSYC 322 – Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities (3) Causes, assessment techniques, etiological classification and theories of retardation. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 220 or permission. Fall.

PSYC 323 – Adulthood, Middle Age and Aging (3) Psychological, biological and sociological aspects of development from early adult years to death. Theories of aging and bio-physiological aspects of aging. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 220. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 330 – Social Psychology (3) An introduction to the social side of human behavior. Topics include: aggression, prejudice, attitudes, group behavior, attraction and relationships. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300, or SOCI 315.

PSYC 337 – Audiologic Principles in Hearing (3) Acoustics, anatomy and physiology of the ear; theories of hearing, hearing disorders and their treatment. Basic methods of audiometric testing with limited practicum and observation in a clinical setting. As warranted.

PSYC 340 – Human Learning and Memory (3) This course will provide an overview of the scientific and theoretical approaches to the basic principles of human learning and memory. Particular emphasis will be placed on how these principles apply to educational and therapeutic settings. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300. Fall.

PSYC 350 – Educational Psychology (3) Human behavior in educational settings; the effective teacher, role of motivation, use of tests and testing, exceptional children, learning, teacher roles, classroom management and control. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 220 or 321, and junior or senior standing. Fall and Spring.

PSYC 361 – Elements of Behavior Modification (3) Basic principles of behavior, their application to human behavior, the influence of social and physical environments and modification of behavior in natural and institutional settings. Prerequisite: PSYC 300 or permission. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 363 – Psychology of Women (3) A survey of women's psychological development from infancy through adulthood and how it is influenced by social and biological factors relevant to women. This course is usually conducted as a seminar. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 364 – Counseling Theory and Methods (3) Provides an introduction to the major historical theories of counseling and some of the counseling methods used by proponents of these theories. Prerequisite: PSYC 370 or 375.

PSYC 370 – Theories of Personality (3) Exposition and critical examination of the major schools of thought in personality theory. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 6 hours in psychology.

PSYC 375 – Abnormal Psychology (3) An in-depth investigation into the symptoms and causes of the major diagnoses in use today. Included is the concept of "mental health" vs. "mental illness" and the major theories of abnormality. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

PSYC 376 – Child Psychopathology (3) This course focuses on issues of childhood mental illness. Examination of psychiatric disorders, issues of abuse and neglect, and social/cultural issues are also examined. Prerequisite: PSYC 375.

PSYC 377 – Forensic Psychology (3) This course covers the major issues related to psychology and the law. It covers such topics as: expert testimony, eyewitness accounts, false memory, lie detection, malingering, jury selection, criminal profiling, interviewing techniques, and the use of psychological testing. It is expected that students will gain a psychological understanding of the legal system. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

PSYC 380 – Animal Behavior (3) Behavioral adaptations found in broad sampling of vertebrate and invertebrate animal species. Emphasis on systems involved in survival and adaptation. Prerequisite applies to majors only: PSYC 300.

PSYC 381 – Biopsychology (3) Neurophysiological bases of psychological processes. Basic anatomy, chemistry and cell electrophysiology, as related to behavior are emphasized. Sensory processes, sleep and sex are also discussed. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300.

PSYC 382 – Biopsychology Laboratory (3) Advanced instruction and laboratory exercises in human and non-human physiological psychology using contemporary instruments, techniques and methodologies. Prerequisite: PSYC 381. As warranted.

PSYC 383 – Drugs and Behavior (3) This course is a scientific approach to the way in which psychoactive drugs of use and abuse influence brain and behavior. Major addictive drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine, heroin, nicotine, alcohol, and other illicit substances such as LSD, marijuana and synthetic analogs are discussed. Also, psychiatric medications (e.g., antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics) are also discussed in terms of modes of activity and behavior outcomes. Mechanisms of action within the brain, various perspectives of addiction and withdrawal, and treatments will be discussed. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 384 – Cognitive Psychology (3) Cognitive psychology involves the experimental study of mental representation and processing. Topics include: neurology, attention, pattern recognition, reasoning, problem solving, cognitive development, and linguistic processing. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300. Spring.

PSYC 385 – Sensory Psychology I: Vision (3) Processes by which physical stimuli are translated into psychological phenomena and organized into perceptions. Emphasis on vision, taste, touch, smell. Prerequisite: PSYC 300. Fall.

PSYC 386 – Sensory Psychology II: Hearing (3) Transforming acoustic vibrations; encoding and perceiving them as tones, noise, speech, etc. Topics: sound and middle ear function, anatomy and electrophysiology of inner ear and nervous system, psychoacoustic measurement of pitch and loudness, masking, critical bandwidth, frequency discrimination, binaural hearing and perception. Prerequisite: PSYC 300 or permission. Spring.

PSYC 390 – Tests and Measurements (3) Principles of psychological testing and assessment. Test construction and evaluation, clinical techniques, evaluation and comparison, and ethical questions related to these methods. Prerequisites: course in statistics and junior or senior standing. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 392 – Experimental Psychology (4) Basic experimental design for research in some or all of the modern areas of experimental psychology. As warranted.

PSYC 400 – History of Psychology (3) Why is psychology the way it is? Where did it come from and where is it going? Recommended for potential graduate students. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 300 and senior standing. Fall.

PSYC 401 – Seminar on Evolution (3) Implications and applications of evolutionary theory. Paleontological, biological and behavioral evidence for evolution, and impact on natural and social sciences. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing. Cross-listed with the Geology Department. Fall.

PSYC 405 – Wittgenstein and Psychology (3) This course examines conceptual problems in psychology through the lens of Ludwig Wittgenstein's (1889-1951) later writings. Topics include meaning and understanding, rule-following, cognition, intention, and the emotions.

PSYC 409 – Classic Psychology (3) Through this course, and through examining psychological writings that are at least 40 years old, students will come to their own well-reasoned conclusions concerning the definition of "classic psychological writings," decide why they define "classic" the way they do, discover why certain writings have become classics, and see if there is anything that some or all classic psychological writings have in common that would help explain their remarkable staying power within psychology. Through addressing those issues, students will come to see for themselves what are the core values and fundamental issues that have been important within psychology for decades, and remain salient temporarily. Prerequisite: A Gen Ed Freshman Speaking course and PSYC 300. GEN ED: Sl. Taught Fall/Spring.

PSYC 415 – Research in Psychology (3) Guided research in area chosen by instructor. Topics announced as course is offered. No more than 3 credits of Research in Psychology may be used as elective in psychology, and no more than 6 credits may be taken in student's career. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing and permission of instructor. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 416 – Research in Psychology (2) Same as PSYC 415.

PSYC 417 – Research in Psychology (1) Same as PSYC 415.

PSYC 424 – Child Maltreatment (3) Exploring the field of knowledge pertaining to child and adolescent maltreatment with emphasis on understanding the impact of maltreatment on child/adolescent development. The course is a seminar with considerable student participation expected. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 444 – @Internship in Psychology (1-5) Student-arranged internship provides direct experience and training in human service settings. Prerequisite: instructor permission and junior or senior standing. As warranted.

PSYC 445 – @Internship in Psychology (6-12) Same as PSYC 444.

PSYC 451 – Psychology and Sci Fi: Honors (3) This course explores the intersection of the field of psychology and social science fiction. The rich portrayal of psychology and social science fiction serves as a unique vantage point to understand the impact of science upon literature, film, and what it means to be human in a social setting. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program and completion of an introduction to a social science discipline (e.g., PSYC 100, SOCI 101, ANTC 102) or permission of the instructor. Fall.

PSYC 480 – Sociobiology (3) Central theoretical structure of sociobiology, data supporting the theory, implications of the theory and criticisms. Human and animal social behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 380 or permission. As warranted.

PSYC 484 – Psychology of Language (3) Theory and research on topics such as language development, the biological basis of language, language comprehension and production, and the role of culture.

PSYC 493 – Seminar in Psychology (3) Student selection of topics determines content. Instructor presents current issues in psychology throughout semester. Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing, at least 12 semester hours in psychology or permission. Some sections carry Gen. Ed: Sl credit. Offered occasionally.

PSYC 494 – Honors Seminar (3) Student selection of honors topics determines content. Current issues in psychology are discussed. Gen. Ed: Sl credit. Spring.

PSYC 496 – Honors Thesis Research I (3) Selection, preparation and beginning of Honors Thesis. As warranted.

PSYC 499 – Honors Thesis Research II (3) Completion and defense of written Honors Thesis. As warranted.

Statistics

STAT 100 – Statistics (3) Variability, uncertainty, techniques of data description, sampling, hypothesis testing and regression. Not open to students who have completed another entry-level statistics course. Prerequisite: high school algebra or equivalent.

STAT 200 – Correlation and Regression (3) Correlation, regression and their related bivariate and multivariate techniques like discriminant function analysis, path analysis, cluster analysis, factor analysis, etc. Emphasis will be place on the application of these statistical procedures in psychological and social research and theory. Students will gain some experience using SPSS. Prerequisite: STAT 100 or other introductory statistics course. Spring.

STAT 300 – Statistical Methods (3) T-tests, F-tests, multiple regression, analysis of variance, basic non-parametric techniques, some multivariate techniques of hypothesis testing. Prerequisites: STAT 100 or other introductory statistics course.