



# *Psychology Department*

## *Student Handbook*

Department Office: Flagg 168

Phone: (315) 267-2606

Web: [www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Psych](http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Psych)

Note: This brochure is a general program guide, which may not reflect current changes in the major, the minors, or other degree requirements. Please contact your academic adviser or the department chair regarding the current degree requirements.

**Updated February 2018.**



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## The SUNY Potsdam Psychology Department

The objective of the Psychology Department is to promote knowledge of the causes and patterns of behavior and thought, with emphasis on the formation of a scientific attitude and an appreciation of the complexity of the human's role in society and the environment. Approximately 350 students, both majors and minors, are served by the Psychology Department. During your first two years you will take courses that will provide you with an initial background in the field. As you progress through the program, more advanced and specialized courses will become available to you. Further, you may take advantage of the opportunity to do research or an internship. These opportunities are available for individuals who are interested in many areas of psychology.

## Declaring Psychology as Your Major

Declaring a psychology major is easy. Just contact the Department secretary, Mrs. Holly Hammond:

267-2606

Flagg Hall 168

hammonhr@potsdam.edu

You will be assigned an adviser, or you may choose your own.

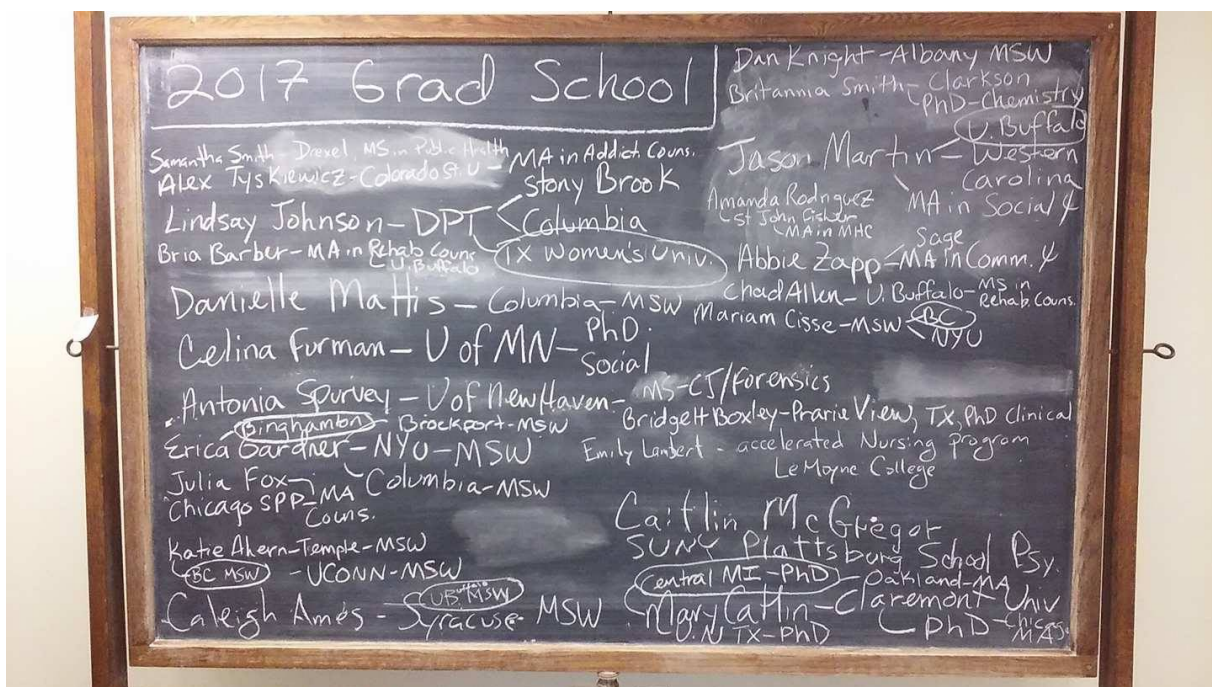
Check out our website to view information about our program and the opportunities that are open to psychology students:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Psych/index.cfm>

We also have a Facebook page – just search for SUNY Potsdam Psychology.

# What About Graduate School?

A SUNY Potsdam graduate can choose many different career paths. Recent graduates have entered the workforce in positions including clinical settings (e.g. hospitals, clinics, developmental centers), childcare centers, and substance dependent programs (e.g., rehabilitation, detoxification, and community residential settings). For students interested in graduate school, the BA from Potsdam can lead you to various Masters or doctoral programs. The Ph.D. is the traditional terminal degree for both experimental and clinical areas. Clinical and counseling careers are possible with masters degrees in such areas as school psychology, counseling, clinical, and social work. It is also possible to obtain a Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree, which prepares you to work in a variety of treatment settings. Graduate programs are very competitive and require a combination of academic excellence (i.e. superior GPA and GRE scores), internships, and research experience. Each semester, we hold a GRE/ Graduate School Information Session so you can learn more about the process. Students are encouraged to speak to the Psychology faculty to help guide them through this endeavor. You may also borrow graduate school and GRE reference materials from the main Psychology office.



The Psychology Department Grad School board.

# Psychology Faculty & Courses

Heather M. Beauchamp, Ph.D. (SUNY Albany): Cognitive; Learning & Memory; Adolescence; Research Methods; Child Development

Victor J. DeGhett, Ph.D. (Bowling Green State University): Correlation & Regression; Introductory Psychology; Animal Behavior

Nancy Dodge-Reyome, Ph.D. (Cornell University): Child Maltreatment; Adolescence

Melissa J. Dolese, Ph.D. (CUNY Graduate Center): Sensory Psychology, Statistics, Psychology of Art

James W. Fryer, Ph.D. (University of Rochester): Adolescence, Theories of Personality, Social Psychology

William E. Herman, Ph.D. (University of Michigan): Educational Psychology; Adolescence; Psychology & Science Fiction: Honors; Seminar on Motivation

David A. Smith, Ph.D. (Ohio State University): Child Development; Honors Child Development

Claire J. Starrs, Ph.D. (McGill University): Abnormal Psychology, Counseling Theory and Methods, Tests and Measurements

Arlene M. Stillwell, Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University) (**Department Chair**): Social Psychology; Social Psychology Seminar; History of Psychology

Michael A. Tissaw, Ph.D. (Georgetown University): Research Methods, Educational Psychology, Child Psychology, Wittgenstein: Language and Psychology –Honors

My experience with the SUNY Potsdam Psychology department has been nothing short of amazing. Aside from learning about many different areas of psychology from wonderfully dedicated and brilliant professors, the Psychology department at SUNY Potsdam also helped me grow as a person.

Rebecca Rubinstein, Class of 2009

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT MAJOR REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET**

\_\_\_\_\_ (student) is officially accepted as a psychology major as of \_\_\_\_\_ and must satisfy the requirements below to qualify for graduation as a psychology major.

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Department Chair)

COURSES	COMPLETED (Semester & Year)	IN RESIDENCE (Y/N)
<b>The 3 following courses are all required</b>		
PSYC-100 Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)		
An Approved Probability & Statistics Course (3 credits)		
PSYC-300 Research Methods (4 credits)		
<b>TWO Group I Courses (select 2 courses from the following list)</b>		
PSYC-340 Learning & Memory		
PSYC-380 Animal Behavior		
PSYC-381 Biopsychology		
PSYC-384 Cognitive Psychology		
PSYC-385 Sensory I: Vision & Major Senses <u>or</u> (you may NOT take both courses for Group I)		
PSYC-386 Sensory II: Hearing & Vestibular Senses		
PSYC-400 History of Psychology		
<b>TWO Group II Courses (select 2 courses from the following list)</b>		
PSYC-320 Advanced Topics in Child Development <u>or</u> (you may NOT take both courses for Group II)		
PSYC-322 Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities		
PSYC-330 Social Psychology		
PSYC-370 Theories of Personality		
PSYC-375 Abnormal Psychology		
PSYC-390 Tests & Measurements		
<b>FOUR Psychology Electives:</b> Any other psychology courses including Group I & II courses not used above. NOTE: Independent Studies and Internships cannot be included as psychology electives.		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
<b>TOTAL</b> Major Requirements for Graduation: 34 credits	<b>Total =</b>	

ADDITIONAL MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
<b>1. GRADE REQUIREMENT:</b> All above courses must be passed with a minimum grade of 2.0 to count toward the Major. Students considering opting to S/U a psychology course should consult their advisors.
<b>2. INDEPENDENT STUDIES &amp; INTERSHIPS</b> do not satisfy psychology major requirements.
<b>3. 15 UPPER DIVISION CREDITS</b> are required to complete requirements for the Major. PSYC-300 and non-psychology cognate or non-cognate courses cannot be used to meet upper division requirements.
<b>4. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT:</b> A minimum of 15 upper division psychology credits must be completed at this college.
<b>5. TRANSFER OF CREDITS:</b> The following <b>three</b> requirements (i.e., a.-c. below) all must be met:
a. Courses transferred into the Major must be approved by the Psychology Department Chair.
b. The Department will accept transfer credits for PSYC-100 and statistics if they are at least 3 credit hours and students have earned a minimum of 2.0 or its equivalent (e.g., C). All other transferred courses <b>MAY</b> be accepted as meeting the "Elective" requirement.* If a transferred course is equivalent to a Group I or Group II course, a line will be drawn through the Group I or II course equivalent, and the student must take another course from that group. PSYC-300 is required to be completed at SUNY Potsdam. *Students may petition the Chair to have a transferred course accepted for credit toward the Major.
c. All courses transferred from two-year colleges carry lower division credit only.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT MINOR REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET**

\_\_\_\_\_ (student) is officially accepted as a psychology minor as of \_\_\_\_\_ and must satisfy the requirements below to qualify for graduation as a psychology minor.

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Department Chair)

COURSES	COMPLETED (Semester & Year)	IN RESIDENCE (Y/N)
<b>The 3 following courses are all required</b>		
PSYC-100 Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)		
An Approved Probability & Statistics Course (3 credits)		
PSYC-300 Research Methods (4 credits)		
<b>ONE Group I Course (select 1 course from the following list)</b>		
PSYC-340 Learning & Memory		
PSYC-380 Animal Behavior		
PSYC-381 Biopsychology		
PSYC-384 Cognitive Psychology		
PSYC-385 Sensory I: Vision & Major Senses		
PSYC-386 Sensory II: Hearing & Vestibular Senses		
PSYC-400 History of Psychology		
<b>ONE Group II Course (select 1 course from the following list)</b>		
PSYC-320 Advanced Topics in Child Development		
PSYC-322 Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities		
PSYC-330 Social Psychology		
PSYC-370 Theories of Personality		
PSYC-375 Abnormal Psychology		
PSYC-390 Tests & Measurements		
<b>TWO Upper Division Psychology Electives:</b> Any other <i>upper division</i> psychology courses including Group I & II courses not used above. NOTE: Independent Studies and Internships cannot be included as psychology electives.		
1.		
2.		
<b>TOTAL</b> Minor Requirements for Graduation: 22	<b>Total =</b>	

ADDITIONAL MINOR REQUIREMENTS
<b>1. GRADE REQUIREMENT:</b> All above courses must be passed with a minimum grade of 2.0 to count toward the Minor. Students considering opting to S/U a psychology course should consult their advisors.
<b>2. INDEPENDENT STUDIES &amp; INTERSHIPS</b> do not satisfy psychology minor requirements.
<b>3. 12 UPPER DIVISION CREDITS</b> are required to complete requirements for the Minor. PSYC-300 and non-psychology cognate or non-cognate courses cannot be used to meet upper division requirements.
<b>4. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT:</b> A minimum of 12 upper division psychology credits must be completed at this college.
<b>5. TRANSFER OF CREDITS:</b> The following <b>three</b> requirements (i.e., a.-c. below) all must be met:
a. Courses transferred into the Minor must be approved by the Psychology Department Chair.
b. The Department will accept transfer credits for PSYC-100 and statistics if they are at least 3 credit hours and students have earned a minimum of 2.0 or its equivalent (e.g., C). All other transferred courses MAY be accepted as meeting the "Elective" requirement.* If a transferred course is equivalent to a Group I or Group II course, a line will be drawn through the Group I or II course equivalent and the student must take another course from that group. PSYC-300 is required to be completed at SUNY Potsdam. *Students may petition the Chair to have a transferred course accepted for credit toward the Minor.
c. All courses transferred from two-year colleges carry lower division credit only.

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT: MINOR  
PRE-CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY  
REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET**

\_\_\_\_\_ (student) is officially accepted as a Pre-Creative Arts Therapy Minor as of \_\_\_\_\_ and must satisfy the requirements below to qualify for graduation as a Pre-Creative Arts Therapy Minor.

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Department Chair)

COURSE	PLANNED (Semester & Year)	COMPLETED
<b>The following courses are all required</b>		
PSYC-100 Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)		
PSYC-220 Child Development OR PSYC-321 The Psychology of Adolescence (3 credits)		
*PSYC-300 Research Methods (4 credits) or PSYC 322 Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities (3 credits)		
PSYC-370 Theories of Personality (3 credits)		
PSYC-375 Abnormal Psychology (3 credits)		
PSYC-364 Counseling Theories & Methods (3 credits)		
<b>TOTAL</b> Minor Requirements for Graduation: 18/*21	<b>Total =</b>	

\*A Probability and Statistics course is needed (only if PSYC 300 is selected above) (3 credits)

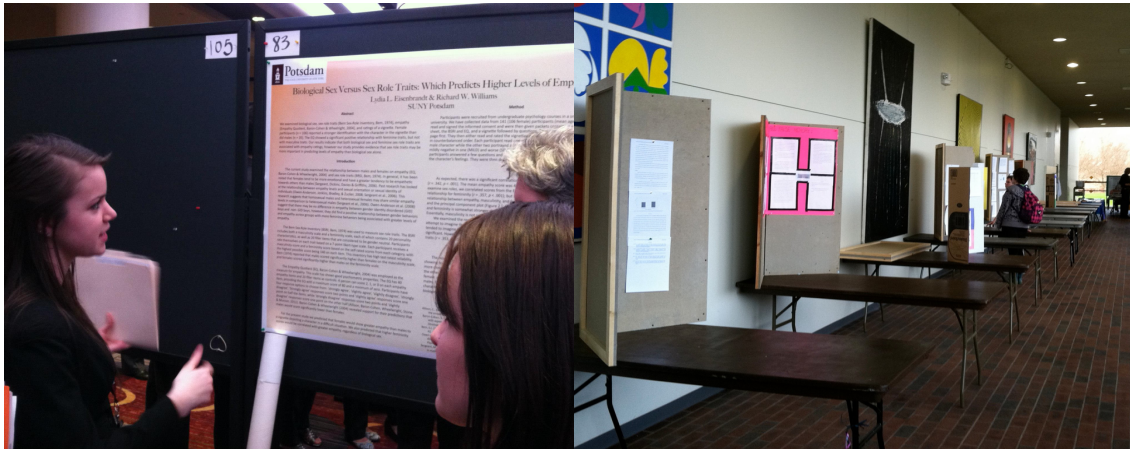
ADDITIONAL MINOR REQUIREMENTS
<b>1. GRADE REQUIREMENT:</b> All above courses must be passed with a minimum grade of 2.0 to count toward the Minor. Students considering opting to S/U a psychology course should consult their advisor.
<b>2. PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR/MINORS:</b> Psychology Major/Minors may not take this minor but may select the courses stated above to achieve a concentration in this area.
<b>3. APPROVED MAJORS:</b> Students who take this minor must major in at least one of the following areas: Studio Art, the BFA in Visual Arts, Dance, Theatre, English: Creative Writing, or English: Literature.
<b>4. TRANSFER OF CREDITS:</b> must be approved by the Psychology Department Chair.

Notes:

- A. When courses are listed as "either-or", please meet with an advisor to select the option most appropriate to meet your educational/career goals.
- B. Though not required, the following courses are highly recommended: Child Psychopathology, Adulthood and Aging, and Tests & Measurements. Interested students should consult their advisor for more specific recommendations.



# Honors in Psychology



The Psychology Honors Program provides an opportunity for select students to go above and beyond the major requirements. Students will work closely with faculty members to design and carry out a research project. Honors students gain an in-depth understanding of research and most students find that completion of the honors program was one of the best things they did to prepare for graduate school.

## Required Courses (in addition to Major Requirements):

PSYC-494 Honors Seminar (3 credit hours)

PSYC-496 Honors Thesis Research I (3 credit hours)

\_\_\_\_\_ One upper-division course relevant to the student's research topic, chosen under advisement, which may count as major elective credits if in psychology.

PSYC-499 Honors Thesis Research II is optional, and may count as psychology elective credit.

Students enroll in Honors Seminar in the Spring of their junior year, and they complete their project during their senior year.

## Special Notes: Students graduating with the Honors Psychology Program

Concentration must have maintained a minimum 3.50 grade point average overall and in psychology. Completion of the thesis is required. Students may petition the Departmental Honors Committee if their grade point average (GPA) falls slightly below the stated requirements. Check our website to see a recommended timeline and sample forms:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/Psych/index.cfm>

## Recommended Coursework

Students are urged to consult with the chair and/or a departmental adviser to ensure that their educational and professional objectives are met. These objectives include choosing specific courses within and outside of the Major.

### Suggested tracks within the major include:

Art Therapy: Abnormal Psychology, Child Development, Counseling Theories and Methods, Tests and Measurements.

Clinical/Counseling: Abnormal Psychology, Biopsychology, Counseling Theories and Methods, Tests and Measurements.

Cognitive Development: Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities, Child Development, Cognitive Psychology.

Cognitive Science: Cognitive Psychology, Learning and Memory, Biopsychology, Sensory Psychology.

Developmental: Psychology of Adolescence, Child Development, Advanced Child Development, Adulthood Middle-age and Aging.

General Graduate Directed: STAT 200 and 300, Psychology Honors program, Seminars in Psychology, Research in Psychology, Independent Study/Tutorial courses.

School Psychology: Tests and Measurement, Educational Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Child Development, STAT 200 and 300.

Sport Psychology: Abnormal Psychology, Counseling Theories and Methods, Social Psychology, Elements of Behavior Modification, Learning and Memory.

## Psychology Course Descriptions

### **COURSES ARE OFFERED EACH SEMESTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.**

**PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology** 3 Cr.

Survey of the science of psychology: what psychologists do, the methods they use, and conclusions they draw.

**PSYC 195, 295, 395, 495 Special Topics** 1-3 Cr.

**PSYC 198, 298, 398, 498 Tutorial** 1-3 Cr.

**PSYC 220 Child Development** 3 Cr.

Major issues, topics and theories of child development with emphasis on early years.

**PSYC 300 Research Methods in Psychology** 4 Cr.

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 and Statistics.

**PSYC 301 Teaching of Psychology 3 Cr.**

Tutoring students enrolled in various psychology courses. Tutors work closely with instructor to learn more effective means of teaching. Prerequisite: permission. (Non-liberal arts credit.) As demand warrants.

**PSYC 313 Cognitive Development 3 Cr.**

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 demand warrants.

**PSYC 320 Advanced Topics in Child Development 3 Cr.**

Theories of human development, study of the child in various contexts (e.g., school, home), cognitive development. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 220. Offered occasionally.

**PSYC 321 Psychology of Adolescence 3 Cr.**

Developmental characteristics and theories of adolescent behavior. Emphasis on empirical research. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 220 or sophomore standing.

**PSYC 322 Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities (formerly Mental Retardation) 3 Cr.**

Causes, assessment techniques, etiological classification and theories of retardation. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 or 220 or permission. Fall.

**PSYC 323 Adulthood, Middle Age and Aging 3 Cr.**

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 Cr.**

An introduction to the social side of human behavior. Topics include: aggression, prejudice, attitudes, group behavior, helping, attraction and relationships. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300.

**PSYC 337 Audiologic Principles in Hearing 3 Cr.**

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 demand warrants.

**PSYC 340 Human Learning and Memory 3 Cr.**

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.

**PSYC 350 Educational Psychology 3 Cr.**

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, or PSYC 220 or PSYC 321, and junior standing.

**PSYC 361 Elements of Behavior Modification 3 Cr.**

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 Cr.**

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 Cr.**

This course provides students the opportunity to learn how to conceptualize cases and to apply counseling theories. We make use of the extensive case studies covering numerous disorders (e.g., anxiety, depression, substance, school phobia, eating disorders, ADHD, autism, personality disorders) and types of therapy (e.g., behavioral, cognitive behavioral, family, interpersonal, creative arts therapy). Prerequisite: PSYC 375.

**PSYC 370 Theories of Personality 3 Cr.**

Exposition and critical examination of the major schools of thought in personality theory. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 6 additional hours in psychology.

**PSYC 375 Abnormal Psychology 3 Cr.**

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 Cr.**

This class is designed to take an in-depth look at child behavior disorders. This class includes a mix of research and clinical information and extends from Abnormal Psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 375. Offered occasionally.

**PSYC 377 Forensic Psychology 3 Cr.**

This course covers the major issues related to psychology and the law. It covers such topics as: expert testimony, eyewitness accounts, false memory, malingering, jury selection, criminal profiling, lie detection, interviewing techniques, and related psychological syndromes. Is it expected that students will gain a psychological understanding of the legal system. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. Offered occasionally.

**PSYC 380 Animal Behavior 3 Cr.**

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 Cr.**

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 Cr.**

Advanced instruction and laboratory exercises in human and non-human physiological psychology using contemporary instruments, techniques and methodologies. Prerequisite: PSYC 381. As demand warrants.

**PSYC 383 Drugs and Behavior 3 Cr.**

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 behavioral outcome. Mechanisms of action within the brain, various perspectives of addiction and withdrawal, and treatments will be discussed. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300.

**PSYC 384 Cognitive Psychology 3 Cr.**

Cognitive psychology involves the experimental study of mental representation and processing in its various manifestations: cognitive science, attention, pattern recognition, reasoning, problem solving, cognitive development, artificial intelligence, and linguistic processing. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and 300.

**PSYC 385 Sensory Psychology I: Vision 3 Cr.**

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 Cr.

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. Spring.

**PSYC 390 Tests and Measurements** 3 Cr.

Principles of psychological testing and assessment. Test construction and evaluation, clinical techniques, evaluation and comparison, and ethical questions related to these methods. Prerequisites: a course in statistics and junior or senior standing. Fall.

**PSYC 392 Experimental Psychology** 4 Cr.

Basic experimental design for research in some or all of the modern areas of experimental psychology. As demand warrants.

**PSYC 400 History of Psychology** 3 Cr.

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 and 300, and senior standing. Fall.

**PSYC 405 Wittgenstein and Psychology: Honors** 3 Cr.

This course examines conceptual problems in psychology through the lens of Ludwig Wittgenstein's (1889-1951) later writings. Topics including meaning and understanding, rule-following, cognition, intention, and the emotion. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 or PHIL 100 and junior or senior standing.

**PSYC 409 Classic Psychology** 3 Cr.

In this course, students will critically examine psychological writings from before 1970, and discover why certain writings have become classics.

**PSYC 415 Research in Psychology** 3 Cr.

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 Cr.

Similar to PSYC 415 — check with the professor

**PSYC 417 Research in Psychology** 1 Cr.

Similar to PSYC 415 — check with the professor

**PSYC 424 Child Maltreatment** 3 Cr.

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 Cr.

Student-arranged internship provides direct experience and training in human service settings. Prerequisite: instructor permission and junior or senior standing (Non-liberal arts credit). As demand warrants.

**PSYC 445 Internship in Psychology** 6-12 Cr.

Similar to PSYC 444 — check with the professor

**PSYC 451 Psychology and Sci Fi: Honors 3 Cr.**

This course explores the intersection of the field of psychology and social science fiction. The rich portrayal of psychological and sociological themes in 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 the SUNY Potsdam Honors Program and completion of an introduction to a social science discipline (e.g., PSYC 100, SOCI 101, ANTC 102, etc.) or permission of the instructor.

**PSYC 484 Psychology of Linguistics 3 Cr.**

Theory and research on topics such as language development, the biological basis of language, language comprehension and production, and the role of culture. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and junior or senior standing.

**PSYC 493 Seminar in Psychology 3 Cr.**

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. Offered occasionally.

**PSYC 494 Honors Seminar 3 Cr.**

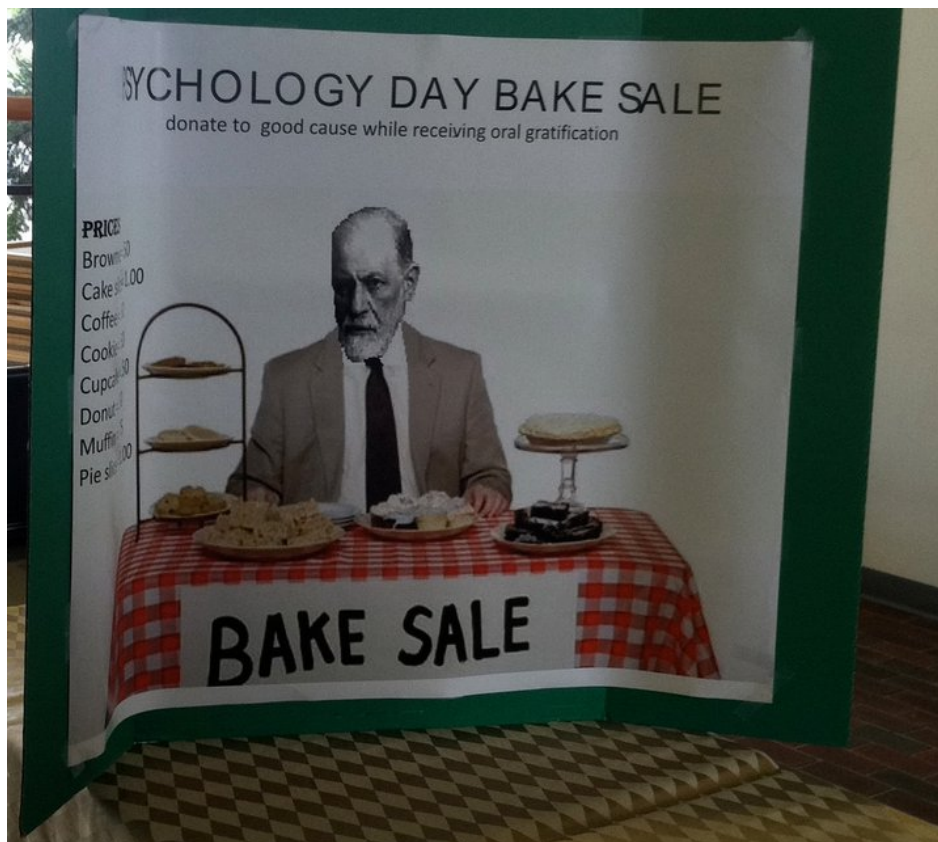
Student selection of honors topics determines content. Current issues in psychology are discussed. Spring. [This may not count as psychology elective credit]

**PSYC 496 Honors Thesis Research I 3 Cr.**

Selection, preparation and beginning of Honors Thesis. As demand warrants. [This may not count as psychology elective credit]

**PSYC 499 Honors Thesis Research II 3 Cr.**

Completion and defense of written Honors Thesis. As demand warrants. [This may count as psychology elective credit]



# Statistics Course Descriptions

**STAT 100 Probability and Statistics 3 Cr.**

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 195, 295, 395, 495 Special Topics 1 – 12 Cr.**

**STAT 198, 298, 398, 498 Tutorial 1 – 3 Cr.**

**STAT 200 Correlation and Regression 3 Cr.**

Correlation, regression, and their related bivariate and multivariate techniques like discrimination function analysis, path analysis, cluster analysis, factor analysis, etc. Emphasis will be placed on the application of these statistical procedures in psychological and social research and theory. Students will gain experience using SPSS. Prerequisite: STAT 100 or another introductory statistics course. Spring.

**STAT 300 Probability and Statistics II 3 Cr.**

Topics include t-tests, F-tests, multiple regression, analysis of variance, basic non-parametric techniques, some multivariate techniques of hypothesis testing. Prerequisite: STAT 100 or another introductory statistics course.

**STAT 350 Experimental Design Statistics 3 Cr.**

Prerequisite: STAT 100 or another introductory statistics course.

**STAT 401 Applied Statistics 3 Cr.**



The honors program has prepared me for graduate school and has given me knowledge and skills that I can carry with me throughout my career in psychology.

Celina Furman, Class of 2013

# Get Involved Outside of the Classroom

Whether you are heading to graduate school or starting your career after graduation, it is important that you get involved in psychology outside of the classroom. By participating in research, internships, volunteer activities, and psychological organizations, you will gain the first-hand knowledge that can help you decide what to do in the future. These experiences may be useful for your resume or graduate school application. The ties that you establish during your interactions may also result in future employment opportunities. Most importantly, actively participating in psychology allows you to help people in need. So, what are you waiting for?

**Internships:** Many faculty members in the Department of Psychology regularly sponsor student internships. Several work sites have repeatedly supervised students in these positions; however, students are also encouraged to initiate contact with additional internship sites. Internship sites that students have worked at include: Canton-Potsdam Hospital Chemical Dependency Unit, St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, Sunmount Developmental Disabilities Services Organization, Renewal House, Rose Hill, St. Regis Mohawk Mental Health Tribe, and a variety of area school guidance counseling offices. Students should contact the SUNY Potsdam Experiential Education Office, the Psychology Department Chair or individual faculty members concerning the possibility of doing an internship. The minimal requirements to qualify for an internship include:

- ◆ Junior or senior standing (60 or more credit hours).
- ◆ 12 credits of coursework completed at SUNY Potsdam.
- ◆ An overall GPA of at least 2.5.

Refer to the SUNY Potsdam Internship website: <http://www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc/eeo/internships/>

## **Research:**

### Participate in Research Experiments

- ◆ learn first-hand how research is conducted
- ◆ signups are usually found in PSYC 100 classes

### Do an Independent Study

- ◆ conduct your own research project (see course descriptions for details)
- ◆ help a faculty member with his/her research
- ◆ ask a faculty member if he or she is currently conducting work in an area that interests you

Take PSYC 415 Research in Psychology

## **Volunteer:**

See our website for a list of the contact information for the following places in which students have donated their time to helping people. These include:

- ◆ Big Brother/Big Sisters
- ◆ Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley
- ◆ North Country Adolescent Outreach
- ◆ Reachout of St. Lawrence County
- ◆ Renewal House
- ◆ Seaway Valley Prevention Council
- ◆ St. Lawrence County Health Initiative
- ◆ St. Lawrence NYSARC
- ◆ SUNY Potsdam Counseling Center



# Student Organizations

## Psychology Club:

Consider joining the Psychology Club at SUNY Potsdam. It consists of students majoring in psychology and others who are interested in supplementing their education with activities outside the classroom. The club has a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer as well as a faculty member who is present at each meeting. Some activities include topical discussions and social gatherings, as well as psychology conference trips and the annual Psychology Day, in conjunction with Psi Chi. Contact persons: Dr. Arlene Stillwell ([stillwam@potsdam.edu](mailto:stillwam@potsdam.edu)) or Dr. Melissa Dolese (dole

## Psi Chi:

Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology. Psi Chi was founded in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging, stimulating, maintaining scholarship in, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate men and women who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests and who meet certain qualifications. Psi Chi is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). Contact person: Dr. Michael A Tissaw ([tissawma@potsdam.edu](mailto:tissawma@potsdam.edu))



*Members of Psychology Club with Dr. Phil Zimbardo, at the 2013 EPA conference.*

## Become an APA Student Affiliate:

Undergraduates are eligible to become student affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA) for a small annual fee which includes a subscription to the APA Monitor, (psychology's monthly magazine) and the American Psychologist (the APA Journal covering issues and trends that affect all of psychology). The APA Student Affiliation allows students to subscribe to journals and purchase books at greatly reduced costs, as well. [Go to <http://www.apa.org>]

# Laboratory Facilities

**HUMAN PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY LABORATORY:** Includes equipment for the recording and analysis of a wide range of human physiological responses, including galvanic skin response (GSR).

**OBSERVATION ROOM:** This large observation room is equipped with a large one-way mirror and an FM wireless sound transmission system.

**PSYCHOLOGY STATISTICS LABORATORY:** Housing four dedicated Psychology work stations with the most current version of SPSS (Statistical Program for the Social Sciences) software, a local and network laser printer access, our entire major program is enhanced by this facility.

**STUDENT AND FACULTY RESEARCH LABS:** Several basic laboratory rooms are available to students and faculty for their research projects. They contain tables and chairs that may be configured so as to suit the investigator's research activities.

**COMPUTER FACILITIES:** Perhaps more important than the Department's own local computers, which are used by faculty, students for their research activities, is the fact that the department is a part of a more complete interconnected campus wide network of computing facilities. A fiber optic network connects all buildings on campus. Further, most areas have W@SP wireless technology available. There are also ten smart classrooms in Flagg Hall that are available for student and faculty use. They are reserved through the Registrar's Office.



## Student Lounge



Located on the first floor of Flagg Hall (Flagg 167), the student lounge is both a formal and informal meeting place for students.

## Annual Psychology Events

### GRE and Grad School Night:

The Psychology department hosts a night in which students may come and ask the faculty any questions that they have regarding graduate school and the GRE. Common questions include:

- ◆ the graduate school process (i.e., applications, interviews, etc.)
- ◆ how various degrees differ (i.e., MA, MS, MSW, CAS, PhD, PsyD)
- ◆ preparing for the GRE

### Honors Thesis Presentations:

Every spring, Psychology Honors students defend their honors thesis research projects. Please come support these students as they present their findings. You may learn a great deal from such presentations.

### Psi Chi Induction Ceremony:

At this annual event, students who meet the criteria for the psychology honor society are recognized for their efforts.

### Psychology Day:

The Psychology Club and Psi Chi have teamed up to offer a day devoted to the study of Psychology. Typically, this day involves:

- ◆ demonstrations of psychological phenomena
- ◆ student and faculty research posters
- ◆ a book and bake sale

# Psychology Department Awards

The Psychology Department Awards are given to outstanding psychology majors who have completed at least 15 hours in Psychology at SUNY Potsdam:

## **The Psychology Interdisciplinary Award**

This award is given in the spring semester to a current junior (rising senior) who is majoring in Psychology and another discipline, and who is engaged in scholarly work/research. The award is accompanied by a monetary prize that is donated annually by an alumnus. The award money is intended to help support the student's scholarly work/research during their senior year. This award is presented at the Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation.

## **Psychology Departmental Scholar Award**

The Departmental Scholar award is given to outstanding junior or senior psychology majors with a GPA of 3.25 or higher (both in psychology and overall). Additional factors considered will be internships, volunteer experiences, and independent studies. Students must also have completed at least 15 hours in Psychology at SUNY Potsdam to be eligible for this award. The award (a certificate) is given at the Psychology Honors Convocation in late April.

## **Canfield Award**

The Canfield Scholarship is given each spring to an outstanding sophomore or junior psychology major. The selection is based on achievement, demonstrated ability, and potential for further professional growth. Research experience and research potential are important factors for this award. The Canfield Scholarship includes a monetary prize. It is applied to the student's tuition bill in the fall, and is awarded at the Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation.

## **Psychology Achievement Award**

The Psychology Achievement Award is given each spring to an academically outstanding senior psychology major. The outstanding student will be expected to have excellent grades and to have conducted independent research. The Psychology Achievement Award includes a monetary prize. The Psychology Achievement Award is given at the Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation.

## **Shearer Prize for Research in Psychology**

The Shearer Prize is awarded each spring to a graduating senior to recognize an excellent honors thesis project or independent research project. The award is accompanied by a \$100 prize that is donated annually by an alumnus. The award money is intended to help support the student's scholarly work/research in graduate school. The Shearer Prize is given at the Arts & Sciences Honors Convocation.

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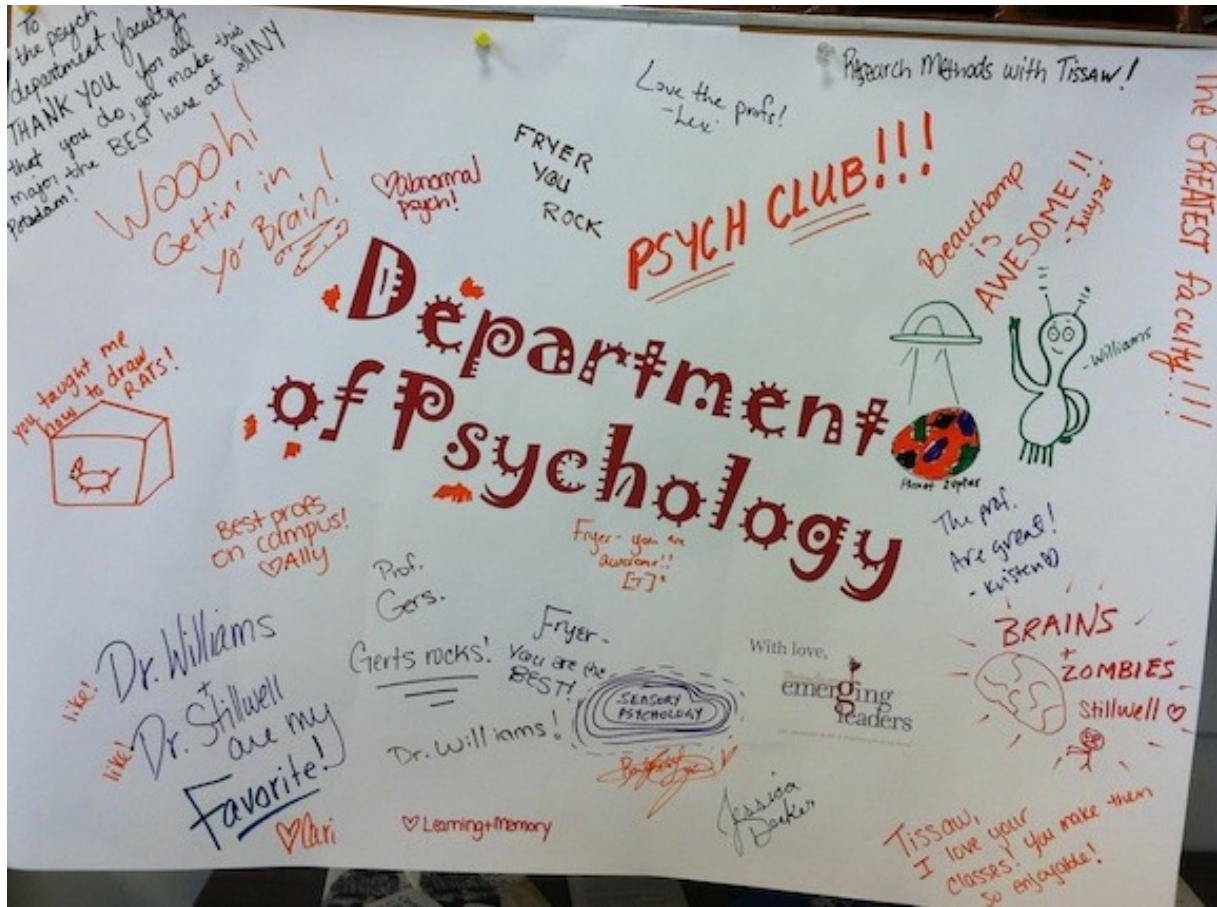
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I simply cannot say enough good things about the Department of Psychology at SUNY Potsdam. This department is an academic gem, nestled in the peaceful North Country, and I give it my highest recommendation to prospective students.

Andrew Foster, Class of 2011

## Notes