

Psychology

Natural Sciences Division

Psychology is taught as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The psychology curriculum provides an opportunity for students to examine diverse theoretical views and findings in such areas as cognition, human development, learning, neuroscience, personality, social psychology and abnormal psychology. At all levels of study, the department gives students the opportunity to pursue research and to become involved in the work of local educational and mental-health agencies through classwork, the office of Community Partnerships and the Off-Campus Activities in Psychology Program (OAPP).

New Students

Students should begin with PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology, which is a prerequisite for all of the other psychology courses. This course explores a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research, including the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, cognition, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and variability in behavior related to culture. Students who have completed PSYC 100 (or have a score of 5 on the PSYC AP exam) and are considering majoring in psychology should next take PSYC 200 Statistical Analysis in Psychology. In this course students will acquire the basic statistical skills required to conduct and understand research in the field.

Students who elect to major in psychology will take statistics and research methods courses along with six intermediate (200- and 300- level) courses in the following areas of psychology:

- Mind and Brain
- Clinical issues and Health
- Person & Society

Finally, all majors enroll in a two semester senior practicum, in which they collaborate with their peers and professor while developing expertise on a topic of their choice and developing independent senior projects.

STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2021-2022

Use the major requirements found in the [archived course catalog](#). Class of 2022 should consult the department chair if following the new major requirements.

Requirements for the Major

Students majoring in psychology must complete at least 11 courses in the psychology department, with a minimum 2.5 major GPA.

1. Foundations

The required foundation courses include:

- PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology
- PSYC 200 Statistical Analysis in Psychology
- PSYC 250 Research Methods in Psychology

Majors are strongly advised to complete PSYC 200 by the end of their sophomore year. A grade of C or higher in PSYC 200 and PSYC 250 is required for these classes to count toward the major.

2. Intermediate Courses

Students are required to have a balanced curriculum within the discipline. Students take at least one course in each of the three areas of psychology. Of the six intermediate courses taken, at least two must be at the 300 level.

Mind & Brain:

NEUR 212 Introduction to Neuroscience
NEUR 302 Neuroethology and Comparative Psychology
NEUR 305 Behavioral Neuroscience
NEUR 307 Sensory Processes
PSYC 201 Cognitive Processes
PSYC 206 Psychology of Language
PSYC 208 Drugs and Behavior
PSYC 210 Social Mind, Social Brain
PSYC 303 Learning & Motivation
PSYC 307 Language Disorders
PSYC 310 Cognitive Neuroscience

Person & Society:

PSYC 223 Child Development
PSYC 224 Educational Psychology
PSYC 225 Social Psychology
PSYC 227 Cross Cultural Psychology
PSYC 228 Latino Psychology
PSYC 232 Environmental Psychology
PSYC 246 Women and Gender
PSYC 322 Adult Development
PSYC 326 Psychology of Religion
PSYC 327 Psychology of Immigration

PSYC 333 Media Psychology
PSYC 348 Adolescence
PSYC 350 Psychology in Context

Clinical Issues and Health:

NEUR 304 Neuropsychology
NEUR 347 Psychopharmacology
PSYC 230 Health Psychology
PSYC 221 Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 231 Positive Psychology
PSYC 236 Theories of Personality
PSYC 244 Human Sexual Behavior
PSYC 309 Emotions
PSYC 341 Disaster Psychology
PSYC 342 Clinical Psychology

3. Senior Practicum

All students are expected to take a two semester senior practicum, PSYC 475-6, in which they will focus on a topic of current research in psychology. In the fall semester, students will develop expertise on a specific topic and propose an independent project that will be completed during the spring semester. Independent projects may involve a research project, literature review or community service project, each with an accompanying paper.

Senior Capstone

In the context of the senior practicum, students will complete a comprehensive project. Students will present the results of these independent projects in a departmental research conference. Students will present either a brief oral presentation or a research poster. Students' posters and presentations will be judged via rubrics completed by faculty members in the department. Additional [information about the senior capstone](#) in psychology is available on the department website.

Honors

Students who do excellent work are encouraged to apply to the department during the second semester of their junior year if they are interested in admission to the Honors Program. Participants complete a large-scale research project on an approved topic during their senior year. Each project is supervised by a primary faculty member, but also is reviewed periodically by all members of the department prior to an oral examination by an outside examiner in the spring.

More [information about honors](#) work in psychology is available on the department website.

Courses in Psychology

Introduction to Psychology

PSYC 100 CREDITS: 0.5

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. In this introductory course, we will explore a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research: the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, cognition, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and variability in behavior related to culture. This course is only open to first-year and sophomore students. This counts toward the foundations requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Offered every semester.

General Psychology

PSYC 110 CREDITS: 0.5

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. In this foundation course we will explore a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research: the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, cognition, learning and memory, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders and variability in behavior related to culture. Students who have completed PSYC 100 cannot take this course. This counts toward the foundations requirement for the major. No prerequisite. Generally offered every spring.

Statistical Analysis in Psychology

PSYC 200 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course is for psychology majors (or intended majors). Students will learn to conduct a variety of statistical tests that are commonly used in psychological research. The course also builds the skills of choosing the appropriate statistical tests for particular research designs and writing and interpreting the results of statistical analyses. Students will also learn to use the statistical software package SPSS. This counts toward the foundations requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Permission of instructor by application. Offered every semester.

Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 201 CREDITS: 0.5

The goal of this course is to enlighten students about human thinking processes. This course will cover research and theories regarding intelligence. Emphasis will be on the study of laboratory research, with discussion of how the findings relate to real-world issues. Students should gain an understanding of general cognitive processes that apply to all humans, as well as a perspective on individual differences in cognition and how they may merge with our

understanding of clinical disorders. This counts toward the mind and brain requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Psychology of Language

PSYC 206 CREDITS: 0.5

One thing that makes our species unique is our amazing capacity for language and complex symbol use. This course will cover basic theory with respect to the evolutionary origins of language, cognitive neuroscience of language, basic psycholinguistics theory and application, nonhuman communication research, and issues of social cognition and language, as well as special cases and conditions in which language capacity or development is disrupted. By the end of the course, students will have gained a heightened awareness of just how complex language use really is, along with a richer appreciation of the far-reaching impact it has on their everyday lives. This counts toward the mind and brain requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every other year.

Drugs and Behavior

PSYC 208 CREDITS: 0.5

This course addresses the ubiquitous presence of psychoactive drugs in human culture. The approach to understanding how drugs affect and are affected by our body, brain, behavior and culture will be biopsychosocial, addressing neurobiological, behavioral and social factors that influence drug use and abuse. We will draw knowledge from basic laboratory animal research and human drug studies, as well as personal memoirs and historical summaries. This counts toward the mind and brain requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5 or NEUR 212. Generally offered every year.

Social Mind, Social Brain

PSYC 210 CREDITS: 0.5

Humans are one of the very few "ultra-social" species on earth. Interacting with others is an integral part of being human. Not surprisingly then, our brains have evolved to be wired for sociality. We will explore how the brain supports complex social cognition and behavior such as understanding the minds of others, perception of faces and bodies, empathy and moral decision-making. We will also explore the need to belong and the biological nature of social pain. The course is meant to be accessible to all students with an interest in the relationship between the social mind and the social brain, regardless of prior knowledge about the biology of behavior. Students will be introduced to each topic primarily through books and essays written for non-experts. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5.

Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 221 CREDITS: 0.5

This course provides students with an overview of the classification, causes, pathways, and treatment of adult mental disorders, including anxiety, mood disorders and personality disorders. Included will be discussion of critical issues and controversies in this field, such as the definition of abnormality, as well as an extended emphasis on cross-cultural issues in psychopathology.

This counts toward the clinical issues and health requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Child Development

PSYC 223 CREDITS: 0.5

This course focuses on normal human development from conception through adolescence. Biological and social influences on development are considered with an emphasis on their interaction and the context in which they occur. Students will have the opportunity to participate in community engaged learning (CEL) in this course. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Educational Psychology

PSYC 224 CREDITS: 0.5

This course involves the study of cognitive, developmental and motivational processes that underlie education. We also examine teacher behavior and other applications of psychology to education. Research and theory on student learning, motivation and development provide the core readings for the course. Individual and group differences as applied to learning environments will be addressed. Other topics include multicultural education, achievement motivation, special education, public policy with respect to education, education outside of schools and recent trends in schools and education. Students will develop their own teaching philosophy. Connections among a variety of disciplines (e.g., history, sociology, political science) will be stressed, as well as links to the real world beyond the classroom. This course is appropriate for those interested in teaching, coaching or mentoring. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Social Psychology

PSYC 225 CREDITS: 0.5

Social psychology is the systematic study of social behavior. In general, it examines how we are affected by our social environment: how we perceive and interpret the behavior of others and the social situation, how we respond to others and they to us, and the nature of social relationships. Application of social psychological theory and methodology is encouraged through participation in small-scale laboratory or field observational studies. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Scientific Study of Personality

PSYC 226 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course introduces students to major approaches to understanding both consistencies in individual behavior and differences among individuals. Students will learn about historical and modern approaches to the study of personality with an emphasis on empirical research. The course will consist of lectures, in-class activities and class discussions. Students will hone their skills in the areas of critical evaluation of research, written and oral communication, visual literacy and quantitative reasoning. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every other year.

Cross-Cultural Psychology

PSYC 227 CREDITS: 0.5

There are close to 8 billion people in the world. And yet most of the theories we use to explain psychological functioning have been based on limited samples drawn from the West. In this course, we will examine in greater detail the impact of culture on human behavior and review issues such as the role of culture in the concept of the self, the cultural influences on social behavior, the association of culture and cognition, and the measurement and experience of cross-cultural psychopathology. By integrating research from various social science disciplines (such as anthropology and sociology), students should gain a wider appreciation of the influence on culture on everyday experiences, while simultaneously understanding that culture is not a static or homogeneous entity. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every other year.

Latino Psychology

PSYC 228 CREDITS: 0.5

Latino psychology is a vibrant and emerging field geared toward understanding the experiences of the largest minority group in the United States - either U.S.-born or U.S.-residing Latinos. Unlike cross cultural psychology, its focus is less on the intercultural group differences and more on intracultural differences and similarities across Latino subgroups. More specifically, this course will focus on understanding the core experiences of Latinos in the U.S. while also revealing the heterogeneity of this group. Students will begin this course by reviewing the history of Latino psychology. Following this, topics to be explored include a review of demographic variables (such as immigration/migration, socioeconomic status, language, gender, race and sexuality), and interpersonal variables (such as psychological acculturation, ethnic identity, cultural values and perceived discrimination), and how these variables often operate in conjunction when trying to understand Latino mental health. A special focus of the class will also be on the assessment of Latino psychopathology, such as the Latino cultural idioms of distress "ataques de nervios," "nervios" and "susto." This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every other year.

Health Psychology

PSYC 230 CREDITS: 0.5

Health psychology addresses the cognitive, social and emotional factors related to health and illness, with an emphasis on the prevention and modification of health-compromising behaviors. A biopsychosocial approach is used to address topics such as: promotion of good health and prevention of illness; the recovery, rehabilitation and psychosocial adjustment that correspond with health problems; and the role of stress and coping in illness. This counts toward the clinical issues and health requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Offered every other year.

Positive Psychology

PSYC 231 CREDITS: 0.5

Although much of psychology's past has been spent investigating the problems facing human beings, the field and people in general are coming to realize that a life devoid of the negative is not synonymous with a life well-lived. This course will focus on the aspects of life that tend to help individuals and communities flourish. We will discuss emotions (past-, present- and future-oriented), character traits (strengths and virtues), and institutions (work, school, family) and how these influence the good life. Through lecture, readings, discussions and hands-on activities, we will investigate the empirical literature on positive psychology, including points of conflict and avenues for future research. This counts toward the clinical issues and health requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Environmental Psychology

PSYC 235 CREDITS: 0.5

Everyday, we exist in a world that combines nature and buildings, open sky and low ceilings, supreme quiet and intense sound. This course considers how human beings interact with (and impact) their environment, both the natural world and human-built. What improves our well-being? What influences our performance or behaviors? And, if this earth is all we have, how can we have a positive impact and how should we best protect it? We will cover topics such as urban planning, principles of design, pro-environmental behavior and restorative spaces. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110.

Human Sexual Behavior

PSYC 244 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the biological, psychological and social bases of human sexuality. Topics include the physiology of sex functions, variations of sexual behavior, nature and treatment of sexual malfunctions, sexual identity and attitudes, differences in sexual behavior and the social

dynamics of sexual interaction. This counts toward the clinical issues and health requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every other year.

Psychology of Women & Gender

PSYC 246 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the biological, psychological and social bases of human sexuality. Topics include the physiology of sex functions, variations of sexual behavior, nature and treatment of sexual malfunctions, sexual identity and attitudes, differences in sexual behavior and the social dynamics of sexual interaction. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5. Generally offered every year.

Research Methods in Psychology

PSYC 250 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

In this course students will learn the basics of research in psychology. Students will participate in research projects conducted across different areas of psychology, which might involve observation and interviewing, psychological tests and measures, physiological measures and computerized tasks. Students will learn about issues of reliability and validity in psychological research, as well as ethical issues associated with psychological research. Students will further develop techniques for descriptive statistical analysis of their data, and they will communicate their research findings both orally and in writing, using the writing style of the American Psychological Association. This course is designed for sophomore and junior students planning to major in psychology. This counts toward the foundations requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5 and PSYC 200. Generally offered every semester.

Learning and Motivation

PSYC 303 CREDITS: 0.5

This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the theories and basic principles of learning and motivation in human and nonhuman animals, with an emphasis on associative learning; namely, classical and instrumental conditioning. We will discuss how these principles can be applied to our everyday lives, from training pets and raising children, to the development and treatment of mental illness and drug addiction. You will learn the scientific methods of the discipline, as well as improve your critical thinking skills by reading and critiquing primary empirical sources. This counts toward the mind and brain requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 or NEUR 212. Generally offered every year.

Language Disorders

PSYC 307 CREDITS: 0.5

The goal of this course is to explore the current categories of Language Disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Psychology. Aside from learning more about individual

differences in intelligence and cognitive processing, highlighted conditions include Autistic Spectrum Disorder, ADHD and Dyslexia. Another category of language disorders is Specific Linguistic Impairments (SLIs). Each student will research an assigned impairment with the goal of summarizing findings and highlighting needs for future work. A final category we will explore is linguistic patterns associated with mental illness. Students will also create a digital story to communicate important findings in the scientific literature regarding the assigned condition. This counts toward the mind and brain requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250. Generally offered every year.

Cognitive Neuroscience

PSYC 310 CREDITS: 0.5

This course focuses on human brain systems that support sensory, motor, cognitive, social and affective phenomena. Early in the semester we will build a foundation of knowledge about brain anatomy and physiology, human sensory and motor systems and the methods used in cognitive neuroscience research. We will incorporate this knowledge into subsequent explorations of how the brain gives rise to complex phenomena such as attention, learning and memory, language, emotion and social cognition. The course aims to provide students with a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the complex relationship between brain and mind, and how our understanding of this relationship is informed by cognitive neuroscience research. This counts toward the mind and brain requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 or NEUR 212. Generally offered every year.

Adult Development

PSYC 322 CREDITS: 0.5

This course provides an overview of developmental issues related to adult life and an in-depth examination of some current theory and research in adult development and aging. We will cover the psychological, social and biological dimensions of adult development, including personality, learning and memory, family psychopathology and some clinical interventions from emerging adulthood through the lifespan. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250. Generally offered every other year.

Media Psychology

PSYC 333 CREDITS: 0.5

An increasing and significant portion of human behavior and interaction either takes place through a mediated channel (a channel other than face-to-face) or involves an interaction with a mediated technology. Despite this, psychology has been slow to investigate the effects of mediated environments on previously established psychological constructs. This course will attempt to provide a general understanding of the effects of media in two ways. First, we will investigate what it means for an interaction to be mediated, the type of interactions that can be mediated and the nuance of various types of channels. Second, we will attempt to understand the effect of the technology that mediates our interactions on various aspects of human

behavior. Typically, we will cover numerous channels (movies, television, video games, virtual reality, the internet, social network sites, smartphones) and psychological concepts (self-presentation, aggression, addiction, belonging, impression formation, child development, social influence, self-disclosure etc.). This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250. Generally offered every year.

Clinical Psychology

PSYC 342 CREDITS: 0.5

This course introduces students to the field of clinical psychology. Through readings, videos, discussion and in-class role-plays you will be exposed to the major therapeutic orientations in psychology (including psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral and person-centered therapy) as well as newer schools of interventions (including feminist therapy, multicultural counseling and community psychology). In addition, we will cover other areas in clinical psychology, such as testing and assessment, and the difficulties involved in the assessment of others. A special area of focus in this course will be forensic psychology. Case studies from the instructor's experience as a therapist will be used throughout the course to further highlight the material. This course is best suited for students who are considering applying to graduate school in clinical psychology. PSYC 321 is strongly recommended. This counts toward the clinical issues and health requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250. Typically offered every year.

Adolescence

PSYC 348 CREDITS: 0.5

This course will provide students with an overview of important issues in adolescent psychology, from early adolescence to young adulthood. The major physical, cognitive, social and emotional developments that occur during this transitional period will be covered. Influences on adolescent development such as family, peers, school, work and culture will also be explored. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250. Typically offered every other year.

Psychology in Context

PSYC 350 CREDITS: 0.5

This course will focus on the application of psychology to social settings and social services. We will examine a selection of social problems and the influence of social systems on individuals. In addition to regular class meetings, students will spend five out-of-class hours each week at a local community agency (Knox County Head Start). This commitment to community engaged learning (CEL) will allow students to integrate service experiences into course-related material. Students will integrate these service experiences with course-related material. This counts toward the person and society requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5 and junior standing. Generally offered every fall.

Advanced Research Methods in Cognition

PSYC 402 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to engage in cognition research. Students will create, design and implement unique experiments in areas of attention, learning, memory, language, and problem solving. Students will acquire fundamental computer programming experience to create assessments. Data collection and analyses techniques will result in actual research findings that will be communicated through an American Psychological Association style paper, as well as a poster presentation. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and 301 or 306. Offered as department schedules permit.

Advanced Research Methods in Learning and Motivation

PSYC 403 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This methods course provides students with the critical skills for understanding and conducting behavioral research in animal subjects. Students will be actively engaged in collecting, analyzing and interpreting data. Students will learn about designing research projects, making valid conclusions, critiquing journal articles and writing a scientific paper. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in PSYC 303. Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research Methods in Human Neuroscience

PSYC 410 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course introduces students to the methods used in human neuroscience research. Several structural and functional techniques used to investigate the brain will be discussed. However, the course will primarily focus on the two most commonly used tools in cognitive neuroscience: functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG). We will take a detailed look at the physical phenomena that make MRI possible, as well as the neurophysiological properties that produce the signal measured by MRI. A similar in-depth approach will be used to understand the physical and physiological processes involved in EEG. The course trains students in the practical aspects of fMRI/EEG data acquisition and analysis. We will therefore dedicate a considerable amount of time to "hands-on" data analysis using several software packages that are commonly used in the field. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and 310 or NEUR 304, 305 or 307 or permission of instructor. Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research Methods in Personality

PSYC 422 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course will examine a variety of methodologies used by psychologists who conduct research in the area of personality and individual differences. The course includes lectures, discussions and assignments designed to give students hands-on experience in designing

research, collecting and analyzing data, and relating their work to larger theories. Students will also learn how to design research that is ethical, how to critically evaluate research and how to write professional reports in the style developed by the American Psychological Association. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and 321, 326 or 346. Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research Methods in Social Psychology

PSYC 423 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

Social psychology attempts to understand the ways in which our thoughts and behavior are affected by others. This course will examine the principles, methods and problems of research in social psychology. Using a variety of formats ranging from lectures to discussion of research to class and field demonstrations, students will explore how research ideas are generated, critical evaluation of relevant research literatures, research design and methodology, data collection procedures using both laboratory and naturalistic settings, statistical analyses and ways of presenting research consistent with journal publication. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and completion of or current enrollment in PSYC 325. Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research Methods in Cross-cultural Psychology

PSYC 424 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course trains students in the skills needed to conduct cross-cultural research studies in psychology. The format will be primarily that of a lab-oriented seminar, though lecture also will be included. Through discussion and hands-on research activities, students will develop and refine their ability to generate and test cultural hypotheses, to collect and analyze relevant data, and to report and critique cross-cultural research findings. Topics to be covered include experimental design, questionnaire construction, naturalistic observation, content analysis, computer-based statistical analysis and American Psychological Association writing style. Course requirements include two data-collection projects with lab reports, in-class presentations and a final exam. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and 321. Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research Methods to Study Gender

PSYC 425 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

Science is a valuable tool for understanding the world, but when dealing with the issue of gender, it has often been applied in flawed ways. A feminist critique of science has helped us understand both the limits and the possibilities of examining issues related to gender from a scientific perspective. In this course we will consider the application of feminist theories and methods to understanding psychological issues related to gender. Students will critically analyze various research articles, conduct two class research projects and prepare written reports of the results, and develop their own proposal for a piece of independent psychological research related to gender. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major.

Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and one of the following: PSYC 323, 325, 326, 346 and WGS 111.
Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research Methods Using Qualitative Approaches

PSYC 426 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course will introduce students to qualitative methods in psychological research. Topics will include data-collection methodologies (e.g., interviews, focus groups, participant observation), coding strategies (e.g., thematic coding, content analysis, grounded analysis) ethics and writing. Students will be required to design, conduct, analyze and write up a qualitative study. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and one advanced-level behavior in context course. Offered as department schedule permits.

Theory and Advanced Research on the Self

PSYC 449 CREDITS: 0.5

Our sense of self provides meaning and coherence to our lives, but the processes involved in the creation, structure, and functioning of the self are only beginning to be understood. This course is designed as a seminar examining recent psychological theory and research on the self. We will explore the problem of self-perception and self-knowledge, the development of self-conceptions, and the role that the self plays in our perceptions and interactions with the social world. We also will ask questions about the ways in which people evaluate themselves and enhance and protect their self-esteem. Finally we will examine the way in which the self is woven into our social lives and the relation between the private and the public self. This counts toward the advanced research requirement for the major. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 110 or AP score of 5 and PSYC 250 and PSYC 325 or 326, 344 or 423. Offered occasionally.

Advanced Research in Psychology Laboratory

PSYC 450 CREDITS: 0.25 - 0.5

Students conducting advanced research in psychology will work with a faculty member and possibly a small group of students to conduct research in the faculty member's research area. Students will critically analyze published research in the topic area and collect, analyze and write reports on data they have collected with a small group of students. Students will be expected to work independently and collaboratively and the course will emphasize effective written and oral communication. This course is offered only on a credit/no credit basis. Permission of instructor required. Prerequisite: PSYC 250 and related intermediate level study.

Psychology Senior Seminar

PSYC 475 CREDITS: 0.5

This is the first semester of the two part sequence required for senior psychology majors. Each section will have a different topic, but in every seminar students will read and discuss psychological literature, write and discuss critiques of research articles, review the literature and

develop a research proposal on a topic in psychology and make a formal oral presentation to the class. This theoretical framework will lay the groundwork for the execution of a project in the second half of the practicum. This counts toward the senior capstone requirement for the major. Prerequisite: senior standing and psychology major. Offered every fall.

Psychology Senior Practicum

PSYC 476 CREDITS: 0.5

This is the second semester of the two part sequence required for senior psychology majors. This class features hands on experience in creating and conducting research to allow students to learn by doing. We will investigate the procedure of generating research from start to finish through the lens of theory learned in the first semester Senior Seminar. This course will strongly and equally emphasize strengthening scientific writing skills, generating research designs and quantitative reasoning and application. Along the way we will practice evaluating research designs and perfecting APA style. This course is designed to prepare you for a career in research in psychology. This counts toward the senior capstone requirement for the major. Prerequisite: senior standing, psychology major and PSYC 475. Offered every spring

Individual Study

PSYC 493 CREDITS: 0.25 - 0.5

Individual study in psychology allows students the opportunity to pursue research on a topic of special interest. The course is designed in consultation with a faculty mentor. The level of credit can range from 0.25 to 0.5 unit of credit and students may take more than one semester of individual study. Typically, only juniors or seniors may pursue this option. To enroll, a student must first identify a member of the psychology department who is willing to mentor the project. The student must give the department chair a written description of the project, including the nature of the proposed work and a list of references. The project should include reading and reviewing scientific literature and will likely entail a research project in which original data are collected. The student and faculty member are expected to meet, on average, once a week. The final project will likely be a paper written in the style of the American Psychological Association. Additional assignments may be required as well, including a public presentation. The amount of work required for the individual study should approximate that required of other 300-level psychology courses. It is possible for students to pursue a group project but more work will be expected for the completed project and each student will write her or his own individual paper. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline.

Senior Honors

PSYC 497Y CREDITS: 0.5

This is a program for senior candidates for honors in psychology, culminating in a senior honors thesis. The course will consist of a research project in some area of psychology. A student who wishes to propose an honors project must meet each of the following three criteria: (1) the student must have a GPA of 3.7 in psychology and an overall GPA of 3.5; (2) the student must have participated in a psychology department-approved research experience (which might be research in a research methods course, independent study or summer lab work); and (3) the student must have completed a minimum of 4 units in psychology and have taken the appropriate core courses for the proposal before the senior year. To continue in honors, students must earn an A in PSYC 475 during the fall of their senior year to continue in the honors program. Students enrolled in this course who successfully complete PSYC 475 with an A will be automatically added to PSYC 498Y for the spring semester. Permission of instructor and department chair required.

Senior Honors

PSYC 498Y CREDITS: 0.5

This is a program for senior candidates for honors in psychology, culminating in a senior honors thesis. Students will be required to successfully complete PSYC 475 (earn an A) and PSYC 497Y. Permission of instructor and department chair required.