

PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC)

PSYC 1101 (b) Introduction to Psychology

Jennifer Honeycutt; Kacie Armstrong; Suzanne Lovett; Samuel Putnam.
Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 50.

A general introduction to the major concerns of contemporary psychology, including physiological psychology, perception, learning, cognition, language, development, personality, intelligence, and abnormal and social behavior. Recommended for first- and second-year students. Juniors and seniors should enroll in the spring semester.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2010 (b) Infant and Child Development

Samuel Putnam.
Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

A survey of major changes in psychological functioning from conception through childhood. Several theoretical perspectives are used to consider how physical, personality, social, and cognitive changes jointly influence the developing child's interactions with the environment.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2012 (b) Educational Psychology

Kathryn Byrnes.
Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

This course introduces the foundations of adolescent development and educational psychology. We examine topics such as identity development, cognitive development, social and cultural approaches to learning, risk taking, resilience, and positive youth development for young people ages 10-19. Course concepts and theories will be grounded in empirical research and will be applied to understanding contemporary opportunities and challenges faced by adolescent learning in both school and out-of-school environments. Insights for the ways in which educators can design learning experiences to better serve students' needs from a variety of backgrounds will be cultivated through a field placement working with students. (Same as: EDUC 2222)

Prerequisites: EDUC 1101 or PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 2025 (b) Psychopathology

Kathleen Collins.
Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introduction to the phenomenology, etiology, and treatment of mental disorders. Major topics include trauma, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, suicide, and the psychotic disorders. Current paradigms for understanding psychopathology, diagnosis and assessment, research methods specific to clinical psychology, and the legal and ethical challenges associated with mental health care are also a focus.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2030 (b) Social Psychology

Zach Rothschild.
Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

A survey of theory and research on individual social behavior. Topics include self-concept, social cognition, affect, attitudes, social influence, interpersonal relationships, and cultural variations in social behavior.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 2035 (b) Political Psychology

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

Human beings are political animals by nature; we seek to gain influence in an effort to become successful in life. The motivations behind those drives are central to the study of human behavior. The study of political psychology involves using scientific understandings of human behavior and cognition to explain and explore political phenomena. It requires us to think about the many factors that impact political behaviors, from the biological and neurological all the way up to the societal and institutional. In this course we will consider questions regarding how well-equipped humans are to engage in rational and political behaviors, why cooperation and selfishness emerge, why some people are persuaded while others dig their heels in, and how humans have learned to live with each other and negotiate differences. It is suggested that students enrolling for credit in PSYC should have successfully completed PSYC 1101 before enrolling in this course. (Same as: GOV 2065)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023.

PSYC 2040 (b) Cognition: The Science of How We Learn, Think, and Act
Abhilasha Kumar.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

This course explores the scientific study of human cognition—how people acquire, represent, and use knowledge to guide their everyday functioning. Students learn about scientific methods of studying and understanding cognition and building real-world tools and applications, and also dive into classic and contemporary research on several aspects of the human mind, such as memory, language, and decision-making through short lectures, podcasts, active discussions, in-class activities, and projects.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 2050 (a) Biological Psychology

Thomas Small.

Every Other Year. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introductory survey of biological influences on behavior. The primary emphasis is on the neurobiological regulation of behavior in humans and other vertebrate animals, focusing on genetic, developmental, hormonal, and neuronal mechanisms. Additionally, the evolution of these regulatory systems is considered. This course explores the structural and functional properties of the central nervous system to understand how behavior occurs—and how it is disrupted—at the molecular, cellular, and systems level. Topics discussed may include cellular processes/communication, sensation/perception, cognition, sleep, eating, sex, and aggression. Emphasis will be placed on how biological mechanisms contribute to psychological [dys]function. (Same as: NEUR 2050)

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in above PSYC 1101 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 2060 (a) Cognitive Neuroscience

Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introduction to the neuroscientific study of cognition. Topics surveyed in the course include the neural bases of perception, attention, memory, language, executive function, and decision making. In covering these topics, the course will draw on evidence from brain imaging (fMRI, EEG, MEG), transcranial magnetic stimulation, electrophysiology, and neuropsychology. Also considers how knowledge about the brain constrains our understanding of the mind. (Same as: NEUR 2060)

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in above PSYC 1101 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2099 (a) Brain, Behavior, and Evolution

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

A comparative and evolutionary approach to animal behavioral neuroscience. The primary focus is on the evolution of the brain and behavior in vertebrate systems, including humans, but invertebrates are also discussed. Topics include the evolution and diversity of sensory systems, reproductive behaviors, parental care, learning and memory, social behaviors, intelligence, and cognition. (Same as: NEUR 2099)

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in above PSYC 1101 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2510 (b) Research Design in Psychology

Hannah Reese; Kacie Armstrong.

Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

A systematic study of the scientific method as it underlies psychological research. Topics include prominent methods used in studying human and animal behavior, the logic of causal analysis, experimental and non-experimental designs, issues in internal and external validity, pragmatics of careful research, and technical writing of research reports.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2520 (a, MCSR) Data Analysis

Abhilasha Kumar; Suzanne Lovett.

Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 32.

An introduction to the use of descriptive and inferential statistics and design in behavioral research. Required of majors no later than the junior year, and preferably by the sophomore year.

Prerequisites: Two of: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101 and either BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level or PSYC 2510.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2710 (b) Laboratory in Developmental Psychology

Kacie Armstrong.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 20.

Multiple methods used in developmental research are examined both by reading research reports and by designing and conducting original research studies. The methods include observation, interviews, questionnaires, and lab experiments, among others. Students learn to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 1101 and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 2725 (b) Laboratory in Clinical Psychology

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 20.

An overview and analysis of the diverse research methods employed by clinical psychologists. Through reading, analysis, and hands-on experience, students gain an understanding of the relative merits of various approaches to understanding the nature and treatment of mental disorders. Major topics include clinical interviewing and assessment, information-processing approaches to understanding psychopathology, and the principles of behavior change. Class participation culminates with the design and conduct of an original research project.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 1101 and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 2735 (b) Laboratory in Social Psychology

Kacie Armstrong.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 20.

An examination of different research methodologies used by social psychologists, including archival research, observation, questionnaires, lab experiments, and online data collection. Students learn about the relative strengths and weaknesses of these different methodological approaches, both by reading research reports and by designing and conducting original research.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101 and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2740 (b) Laboratory in Cognitive Science

Abhilasha Kumar.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 20.

A lab-based course on modern research methodologies and techniques used in cognitive science. Students will learn how to formulate a research question, conceptualize a research study from start to finish, program and design web-based experiments, and analyze experimental data to gain deeper insights into various aspects of cognition such as memory, language, and knowledge.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 1101 or Placement in above PSYC 1101 and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2750 (a, INS) Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory: Affective Neuroscience

Thomas Small; Anja Forche.

Every Year. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 20.

A laboratory course that exposes students to modern techniques in neuroscience that can be applied to the study of affective behavior, broadly. Underlying concepts associated with various behavioral, molecular, neuroanatomical, pharmacological, and translational methods will be discussed in a lecture format. Students will apply these concepts and techniques in discussions and laboratory preparations demonstrating how affective processes are organized within the central nervous system of vertebrates. This course will explore using experimental examples how the brain influences behavior, thereby illuminating our understanding of human neuropsychological functioning. (Same as: NEUR 2750)

Prerequisites: Three of: either PSYC 2050 (same as NEUR 2050) or BIOL 2135 (same as NEUR 2135) or PSYC 2060 (same as NEUR 2060) and PSYC 2510 or either BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 and PSYC 2520 or either MATH 1300 or MATH 1400.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 2775 (a, INS, MCSR) Laboratory in Cognitive Neuroscience

Erika Nyhus; Anja Forche.

Every Year. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 20.

A laboratory course in cognitive neuroscience that studies the timing and organization of human cognition through electroencephalography (EEG), a direct measure of brain activity from scalp electrodes with millisecond precision. Students will learn the conceptual and practical foundations of experimental design, data analysis and interpretation, and be introduced to applications of EEG in medicine and technology. (Same as: NEUR 2775)

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 2040 or either PSYC 2050 (same as NEUR 2050) or PSYC 2055 (same as NEUR 2055) or PSYC 2060 (same as NEUR 2060) or BIOL 2135 (same as NEUR 2135) or PSYC 2055 (same as NEUR 2055) and PSYC 2510 or either BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level and PSYC 2520 or either MATH 1300 or MATH 1400.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 3010 (b) Social Development

Samuel Putnam.

Every Other Fall. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 14.

Research and theory regarding the interacting influences of biology and the environment as they are related to social and emotional development during infancy, childhood, and adolescence. Normative and idiographic development in a number of domains, including morality, aggression, personality, sex roles, peer interaction, and familial relationships are considered.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 2010 or EDUC 2222 (same as PSYC 2012) and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

PSYC 3011 (b) Cognitive Development

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 14.

Examines the development of cognitive understanding and cognitive processes from infancy through adolescence. Emphasis on empirical research and related theories of cognitive development. Topics include infant perception and cognition, concept formation, language development, theory of mind, memory, problem solving, and scientific thinking.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 2010 or EDUC 2222 (same as PSYC 2012) and PSYC 2520 and PSYC 2510.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021.

PSYC 3019 (b) The Psychology of Nostalgia

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 14.

A seminar focusing on the emotion of nostalgia and its place in social psychology. Readings and discussions explore evolutionary, psychological, and philosophical perspectives on nostalgic reflection to enrich our understanding of its origins and purpose. Topics include the emotional content of nostalgia, its triggers, and its psychological functions (including its connections to mood, identity, belonging, empathy, prejudice, and terror management). Special consideration will be given to cross-cultural experiences of nostalgia, along with its potential therapeutic benefits.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 2030 or GOV 2065 (same as PSYC 2035) and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021.

PSYC 3025 (b) Psychotherapy and Behavior Change

Hannah Reese.

Every Fall. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 14.

An in-depth study of the theory, research, and practice of contemporary psychotherapy. Major topics may include theoretical approaches to therapy, methods for studying its efficacy, processes of change, the role of the client-therapist relationship, and challenges to disseminating effective psychological treatments to the general public. Readings and discussion supplemented with video of psychotherapy sessions.

Prerequisites: Three of: PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520 and PSYC 2025.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

PSYC 3035 (b) Existential Social Psychology

Zach Rothschild.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 14.

An examination of how human concerns about death, meaning, isolation, and freedom influence and motivate a wide array of human behavior. Readings and discussions address empirical research on different theories of human motivation (e.g., terror management, meaning maintenance, attachment, compensatory control, and self-determination) that enrich our understanding of topics such as intergroup conflict, religious belief, prosocial behavior, interpersonal relationships, and materialism.

Prerequisites: Three of: either PSYC 2030 or PSYC 2032 - 2035 and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

PSYC 3043 (b) Intelligent Minds and Machines

Abhilasha Kumar.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 14.

Why are humans considered the most "intelligent" species on the planet? Where does artificial intelligence (AI) fall short in mimicking this intelligent behavior? This seminar course delves into several such fundamental questions about human cognition and how our species is similar to and different from other minds and machines. We will discuss classic and modern approaches to understanding the mind, critically analyze various examples of intelligent behavior (such as language, cooperation, creativity, free will, etc.), evaluate recent work in machine learning and AI, and also draw insights about intelligence from the exciting literature on comparative (animal) cognition. Students will read empirical articles, listen to podcasts, and lead discussions, and also participate through spoken presentations and short writing assignments. Computer Science or Philosophy majors/minors who are interested in this course, should email the instructor to see if they are eligible for a prerequisite override.

Prerequisites: Three of: either PSYC 2040 or PSYC 2055 (same as NEUR 2055) or PSYC 2060 (same as NEUR 2060) and PSYC 2510 and PSYC 2520.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022.

PSYC 3050 (a) Hormones and Behavior

Thomas Small.

Every Fall. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

An advanced discussion of concepts in behavioral neuroendocrinology. Topics include descriptions of the major classes of hormones, their roles in the regulation of development and adult behavioral expression, and the cellular and molecular mechanisms responsible for their behavioral effects. Hormonal influences on reproductive, aggressive, and parental behaviors, as well as on cognitive processes are considered. (Same as: NEUR 3050)

Prerequisites: Three of: either PSYC 2050 (same as NEUR 2050) or BIOL 2135 (same as NEUR 2135) or PSYC 2060 (same as NEUR 2060) and PSYC 2510 or either BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level and PSYC 2520 or either MATH 1300 or MATH 1400.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2020.

PSYC 3054 (a) Sex and the Brain: Translational Animal Models of Neuropsychopathology

Jennifer Honeycutt.

Every Other Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 14.

This seminar explores the role of sex as a biological variable on neural and behavioral outcomes, focusing on translational animal models of neuropsychopathology. Students engage with empirical research, historical perspectives, and debates on how sex- difference research in neuroscience is funded, conducted, and interpreted. Through analysis of primary literature, discussions, and presentations, students explore how sex differences— or their absence— shape our understanding and treatment of psychiatric disorders and influence research methods. The course covers several animal models, emphasizing how their neural and behavioral findings offer translational insights into human disease. By examining sex-specific neural and behavioral findings in pathological model systems, students gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between sex and typical or atypical outcomes. This course fosters critical thinking about the implications of studying sex differences in behavioral neuroscience and their impact on scientific research and public health. (Same as: NEUR 3054)

Prerequisites: Three of: either PSYC 2050 (same as NEUR 2050) or BIOL 2135 (same as NEUR 2135) or PSYC 2060 (same as NEUR 2060) and PSYC 2510 or either BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 or Placement in BIOL 2000 level and PSYC 2520 or either MATH 1300 or MATH 1400 or MATH 1756.

PSYC 3055 (a) Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory

Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 16.

An advanced discussion of recent empirical and theoretical approaches to understanding the cognitive neuroscience of memory. Readings and discussions address empirical studies using neuroimaging methods. Topics include hippocampal and cortical contributions to memory encoding and retrieval and the effect of genetic variability, drugs, emotions, and sleep on memory. (Same as: NEUR 3055)

Prerequisites: Three of: either PSYC 2040 or PSYC 2050 (same as NEUR 2050) or PSYC 2055 (same as NEUR 2055) or PSYC 2060 (same as NEUR 2060) or BIOL 2135 (same as NEUR 2135) and Placement in BIOL 2000 level or PSYC 2510 or either BIOL 1102 or BIOL 1109 and PSYC 2520 or either MATH 1300 or MATH 1400.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020.