

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PSYC 101

Introduction to Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course includes the fundamental treatment of the basic research findings and theories comprising the science of psychology. Topics of study include the exploration of the nature, scope, and methods involved in the scientific investigation of human behavior, stressing such topics as learning, emotions, personality, biology, psychopathology, cognition, development and counseling. Offered every semester.

PSYC 200

Psychology Seminar

One Credit LA

The course introduces students to the psychology curriculum, faculty, and programs. It includes discussion of career directions for psychology majors as well as graduate study toward advanced degrees in the profession. Professional writing and oral presentation skills required in psychology courses are emphasized. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 201

Personality Development

Three Credits LA

This course includes the study of the typical changes in personality during the stages of infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. It includes analysis of the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual elements related to healthy human personality development. These are evaluated from theoretical, cultural, historical and practical points of view. This course stresses the students' reflections upon their own personality development. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 202

Abnormal Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course involves the study of psychological disorders with particular attention to the description and causes of disorders and the various therapies for them. The causes of these problems are viewed from a perspective that integrates multiple interactive factors, namely: biological, psychological, and social influences. Cultural and developmental dimensions are also examined. Offered every semester. *Prerequisite:* PSYC 101

PSYC 203

Theories of Personality

Three Credits LA

This course focuses on the study of some of the more significant theories of personality as proposed by psychologists of the three major schools of thought: psychoanalytic, behavioral, and phenomenological-existential. Emphasis is placed on an in-depth understanding of the assumptions underlying each theory. Offered every semester. *Prerequisite:* PSYC 101

PSYC 206

Psycho-Biological Sex Differences

Three Credits LA

This course focuses on the study of sexual differences in human behavior through an examination of the empirical evidence supportive of both biological and cultural explanations for their development. It also includes a survey of how genes, sex hormones, developmental history, and current cultural and interpersonal environments contribute to sex differences. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 207

The Exceptional Child

Three Credits LA

This course provides an introduction to and study of various special needs populations, such as disability groups and the gifted. Emphasis is placed upon social-psychological and educational perspectives. Priority to students in Special Education and Secondary Education. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 208

Educational Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course explores the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development of the student with special emphasis on the relevance of these processes to the programs and procedures of schools. Priority to students in Special Education and Secondary Education. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 210

The Psychology of Sleep

Three Credits LA

This course includes a survey of the history and major fields of research on human and animal sleep. It includes an in-depth study of several current areas of behavioral research in human sleep and dreaming. It also includes such topics as research methods, sleep length, sleep deprivation, sleep problems, drug use, and dreaming. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 211

Sports and Exercise Psychology

Three Credits LA

Dual listed as HLTH 211

The study of various aspects of sports and exercise psychology, including stress, anxiety, motivation, imagery, goal setting, and self-perception and how these relate to physical activity and participation. Offered periodically. *Prerequisite:* PSYC 101

PSYC 215

Psychology of Interpersonal Communication

Three Credits LA

This course covers the principles and techniques of human communication, with an emphasis on those skills useful to persons planning to enter the helping professions. In addition to discussions of theory, students will practice methods of self-disclosure, active listening, confrontation, conflict resolution, and values clarification. It includes opportunities for students to investigate related topics such as family and marital communication processes, nonverbal communication, transactional analysis, and constructive patterns of communication in work settings. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 220

Social Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course includes the study of how the behaviors, thoughts, and feelings of the individual are influenced by the presence of other persons. Topics such as sex roles; attitude formation and change; altruism and aggression; interpersonal attraction and love; and criminal justice will be discussed. In addition, various empirical research methods will be examined and applied to these topics. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 222

Community Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course provides an overview of the applied discipline of Community Psychology, its history, its relationship to other social sciences, the types of problems that this field addresses, and a range of interventions to resolve community problems. Students will explore the ecological perspective and learn about prevention and other broad-scale approaches to problems in living. The praxis component allows students to observe and to reflect on the principles of community psychology in action. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 301

Psychobiology and Lab

Four Credits LA

This course explores the biological bases of behavior, including the roles of the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems. The course begins at the level of neurons and finishes by considering complex behavioral manifestations of brain functioning. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 302

Neurobiology of Learning and Memory and Lab

Four Credits LA

The focus of this course is the neurobiology of learning and memory. Its primary focus is on how neural structures and circuits give rise to learned behavior. It emphasizes such topics as encoding, consolidation, storage, retrieval, and underlying brain bases. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350

PSYC 303

Developmental Neuropsychology and Lab

Four Credits LA

This course is an introduction to the effects of the nervous system on human behavior from a developmental perspective. The course covers two major themes: the neuropsychological development of the normal child and the neuroscience of aging. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350

PSYC 304

Psychopharmacology and Lab

Four Credits LA

This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of psychopharmacology in relation to behavior. It examines the basic mechanisms of several types of pharmacological agents, which alter mood and behavior. Drugs that have abuse potential and drugs that are used as medication for the treatment of psychological/ psychiatric disorders are a special focus. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350

PSYC 305

Neurobiology and Neuropsychology of Learning Disabilities and Lab

Four Credits LA

This course synthesizes current knowledge regarding the biological bases of developmental disorders such as autism, learning and language disabilities, attention deficits, and the effects of social stress and maltreatment on brain development. The course considers specific areas of the brain implicated in disorders and neuropsychological assessment and diagnosis of these disorders. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350

PSYC 306

Cognitive Neuroscience & Neuropsychology + Lab

Four Credits LA

This course will begin with an overview of the structure of the nervous system and how communication happens within it; introduce students to methods of cognitive neuroscience and neuropsychology, and go on to investigate topics such as sensation and perception, attention, memory, language and executive function using these methods. In the lab portion of this course, students will participate in behavioral and psychophysiological tasks related to these topics. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350

PSYC 309

Ethics and Professional Issues

One Credit LA

The course introduces students to the ethical standards of the American Psychological Association. Case studies illustrating these principles will be discussed. A range of current and relevant professional issues will be featured each semester. Offered every semester.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and at least sophomore standing

PSYC 311

Principles of Psychological Testing

Three Credits LA

This course reviews the principles of test construction, administration, scoring, and interpretation of both group and individual tests; studies the major theories and techniques of intelligence, aptitude, and proficiency testing; surveys tests that measure interests as well as personality tests; and provides an overview of behavior assessment. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, MATH 130

PSYC 315

Human Factors Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course overviews the application of psychological principles to the design of human environment. It also provides a review of the basic human capabilities for attention, perception, memory, information processing, and decision making. It focuses on how these processes influence the design and use of equipment, computer software, and other aspects of offices and homes. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 317

Child Development

Three Credits LA

This course examines the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects in the development of the child from conception through the early adolescent period. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 318

Psychology of the Adolescent

Three Credits LA

This course provides a general review of normal adolescent development as well as some common adolescent psychopathology (i.e., substance abuse, eating disorders, depression). The course is appropriate for anyone interested in working with adolescents. Current knowledge of biological, social, sexual, and cognitive development debunks many misconceptions about adolescents.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 321

Adult Development

Three Credits LA

This course is presented from a theoretical base of lifespan development, so that individual growth and change can be viewed as a process beginning with birth and ending with death. The focus will be on development from early adulthood through old age both in terms of theory and current empirical research. Theoretical approaches of Brofenbrenner, Piaget, Erikson, Lovinger, and others will be covered. The content themes will include: development of self, cognition, memory, intelligence, sexuality, personality, social development, interpersonal relations, psychopathology, and death/dying. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 323

Lifespan Development

Three Credits LA

This is an introductory course that examines the development of individuals from conception to death. With each life stage, current and historical research and theoretical information will be presented related to socioemotional, physical, and cognitive development. Also covered will be the effect of cultural differences on human development, ethical issues related to development, and problems that occur during development. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 330

Culture and Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course examines the ways that culture and diversity (i.e., in both international and American multicultural terms) affect human thoughts, feelings, and social behaviors. Topics to be covered include the cultural aspects of human development; the self/identity; personality; emotions; sensations; perception and cognition; stereotypes and prejudice; communication and social interaction; motivation; intelligence; psychological disorders and health; and organizations. It is intended for students from a diverse array of majors. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 331

Psychology of Women

Three Credits LA

This course provides a theoretical basis for understanding women's experiences as influenced by gender differences, culture, societal roles and expectations, personality, language, socioeconomic status, age, and psychological development. Feminist research in areas such as violence against women, women's mental health, women and work, and resilience in girls and women is examined toward understanding and improving the lives of girls and women in all their diversities. Psychology of Women offers both male and female students the opportunity to study the social construction of gender relations, explore social policies and practices that advance equality and social justice, as well as empower women personally, professionally and socially. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 332

Fundamentals of Counseling

Three Credits LA

This course introduces the student to the nature of counseling and the role of the counselor as a helping professional. The student will become acquainted with interviewing and counseling skills for use in both professional and paraprofessional settings. In addition, they will be exposed to a number of theoretical approaches to counseling such as Rogerian, behavioral, and cognitive, as well as others. Clinical and ethical issues related to the counseling field also will be addressed. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 340

Attraction and Romantic Relationships

Three Credits LA

This course explores many dimensions of human "meeting and mating" behaviors from a social psychology perspective as students critically examine recent research and theories. Students examine the biological, psychological and social determinants of romantic behavior as they explore why couples are attracted to one another, what romantic love is, why couples become attached to one another, ways couples strengthen their relationships, and how the quality of mate choice may affect partnering, marriage, and relationship satisfaction. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 342

Cognitive Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course provides a survey of traditional and current theories and research in perception, attention, learning, memory, language, problem solving, concept formation, reasoning, and decision making. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 348

Psychological Perspectives on Criminal Behavior

Three Credits LA

Dual listed as CRJU 348

This course focuses on particular psychological aspects of the criminal justice system including what the criminal knows about himself/herself and how this affects his/her behavior. This topic is considered in the context of alternative answers to one question: What does society want from its convicts? That is, once people are caught and are serving a sentence, what goals would society set for them and what psychological obstacles stand in the way of their doing what society wants them to do? Answers to these questions will be presented in discussions on such issues as forensic assessment, the insanity defense, and civil commitment. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or CRJU 101

Corequisite: Junior status

PSYC 350

Psychological Research Methodology and Lab I

Four Credits LA

This course provides an introduction to nonexperimental, correlational, and experimental methods of research. Topics include ethics in research, statistics for behavioral sciences, and the use of computers for data analysis. Class discussion and student projects are designed to teach students how to read and to evaluate critically popular and professional literature in psychology. Students plan, carry out, evaluate, and write APA-style reports on research projects. Offered every semester.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, MATH 130 and CMPT 103 or EDUC 150

PSYC 351

Psychological Research Methodology and Lab II

Four Credits LA

This course provides an emphasis on experimental and quasi-experimental methods of research in psychology. It continues the study of statistical methods including analysis of variance, and use of computers to analyze data. Students plan, carry out, evaluate, and write APA-style reports on research projects. Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 350

PSYC 362

Measurement and Evaluation

Three Credits LA

In this course, students examine the role of measurement and evaluation in general and in special education. Proceeding from an understanding of the essential qualities of all measurement instruments, including validity and reliability, students learn to plan, to construct, and to analyze the results of classroom tests, to use alternative/authentic assessments, and to evaluate standardized tests. Assessment instruments are summarized using measures of central tendency, validity and reliability, and are interpreted using norms and standard scores.

Representative measures of aptitude and achievement for general and special education populations will be examined. Students also consider the current social and ethical implications involved in assessment. Priority to Education students.

Offered every semester.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 372

Psychoeducational Assessment of Educational Disabilities

Three Credits LA

This course provides an introduction to psychoeducational assessment in special education, with a focus on learning disabilities, behavior disorders, and intellectual disabilities. Emphasis is on assessment as a multifaceted process, which must proceed from an understanding of basic concepts of measurement and evaluation. Students examine various instruments currently used for standardized and informal assessment of intelligence, achievement, adaptive behavior, affect, and language. This course is designed primarily for students who will become special education teachers at the elementary or secondary level. This course is also relevant for those who will become part of the support system for students with disabilities, especially school psychologists and social workers. Offered every semester. Priority to Education students.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 207

PSYC 385

Industrial Psychology

Three Credits LA

This course is an introduction to the many areas of interest to the industrial psychologist. Students will learn how various theories in psychology have been applied to solving problems such as worker motivation, leadership, group interaction, and testing and research in the workplace. Students will analyze these problems from many different perspectives in order to understand how psychological theory can be used to improve individual and organizational functions. Offered periodically.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

PSYC 392-393

Special Topics in Psychology I–II

Three Credits each LA

“Special topics” courses serve as a vehicle by which a department may offer a topical or thematic study not included in the regular course offerings. The specific content is indicated when the course is listed in the schedule of classes.

Prerequisite: Permission of Dean

PSYC 420

Psychological Research Methods III

Three Credits LA

Extends knowledge and skills learned in PSYC 350 and 351 to more advanced research designs, statistics, and computer data analysis. Includes repeated measures ANOVA, regression analysis, and qualitative designs. Students will design projects, collect data, and write results in APA style and poster style.

Recommended for students planning to attend graduate programs. Offered periodically.

Prerequisites: PSYC 350, PSYC 351

PSYC 478

Psychological Systems (Capping Course)

Three Credits LA

This “capping” course explores the historical development of psychology as a science by focusing on the various schools of thought, systems, and theories that have contributed to its growth—both from within and outside the discipline. Its intent is to help the student gain perspective on contemporary psychology by appreciating the problems psychology has confronted over the years and its interrelationships with other disciplines. Required for all senior Psychology Majors. Offered every semester.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350, and one course from PSYC 301, 302, 303, 304, 305 or 306

PSYC 479

Educational Psychology Seminar

One Credit LA

This is a required course for psychology/education certification students to integrate educational psychology theory as part of the pre student teaching experience. The course reinforces the understanding of key concepts of psychology content by examining this content through peer teaching and field experiences. Specific implications and application of learning theories will be discussed using examples drawn from educational situations and educational programs. Emphasis is on behavioral, social, cognitive, information processing, and constructivist theories. The theme will be focused on “reflective practice”.

Corequisite: EDUC 462

PSYC 485

Supervised Research

Three Credits LA

This is a culminating experience designed for interested senior majors in Psychology. It consists of the student’s designing and executing a research proposal under the direction of one of the members of the department.

Prerequisite: Permission of Chairperson

PSYC 487-491

Fieldwork/Service Learning: I, II, III, IV, V

Three Credits each

Under the supervision of both a faculty supervisor and a field professional, students take the theories and principles learned in the classroom and apply them to their work in a field setting. Students acquire knowledge and new skills while providing service and furthering their career development. NOTE: Fieldwork experiences may not be used to fulfill the Breadth of Psychology major requirements.

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 350. Attendance at one mandatory informational workshop; Academic Good Standing; Second semester junior or senior standing