



## Psychology Course Descriptions

**PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 101 Introduction to Psychology*). Studies psychology as a system of scientific inquiry into behavior, mental processes, and social relationships. Major concepts and principles of the discipline are presented.

**PSYCH 105 Psychology First-Year Seminar** (1 credit). Provides skills and strategies for a successful transition to college for first-year Psychology majors. The course acquaints students with academic expectations, resources, and careers in psychology. Enrollees must be first year-students who have declared Psychology as their major or have permission of the instructor. *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYC 131 Psychology of Well-being and Adjustment** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 131 Psychology of Adjustment and Well-Being*). Emphasizes growth and well-being, concepts of stress and coping, and psychosocial competence in adulthood. This course requires active participation in class discussion and willingness to challenge one's preconceptions and consider alternative psychological points of view. It concerns the application of psychological concepts and research to stress and coping in everyday adult life, emphasizing coping skills and techniques.

**PSYC 150 Applied Psychological Statistics** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 160 Applied Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*). Introduces and applies fundamental statistical concepts, principles, and procedures to the analysis of data related to the behavioral sciences. Students learn computation, interpretation, and application of commonly used descriptive, correlational, and inferential statistical procedures as they relate to behavioral science research.

**PSYC 210 Child Development** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 211 Early Child Development*). Examines concepts and issues related to child development from the prenatal period through middle childhood. Summarizes major concepts, theories, research, and best practices in physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

**PSYC 211 Adolescent Development** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 212 Adolescent Development*). Studies cognitive, social, emotional, and biological development during the transition from childhood to adulthood (roughly the second decade of life) and personal and social issues affecting adolescents. This course will especially benefit students who desire to improve understanding of their own development and/or who work with or plan to work with adolescents providing, e.g., instruction, parenting, health or psychological care, or supervision. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

**PSYC 212 Lifespan Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 210 Lifespan Psychology*). Examines concepts and issues related to human development from conception to death. Summarizes major developmental milestones in physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development. Discusses major theories and perspectives on human development. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

**PSYC 217 Adult Development and Aging** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 311 Adulthood and Aging*). Examines the psychological development of individuals moving from their early twenties into old age. With an equal emphasis on young, middle, and late adulthood, this course explores personality development, cognitive development and everyday problem solving, friendships, love relationships, parenting, career growth and challenges, healthy lifestyles and successful aging. In addition to concluding with end-of-life health concerns and decisions, topics also include wisdom, life satisfaction, and happiness. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

**PSYC 218 Principles of Gerontology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 218 Principles of Gerontology*). Examines areas of growth and decline in the lives of adults in their sixties and older. The themes of successful aging and positive psychology are emphasized, along with cultural, lifestyle, gender-based and individual differences. The course explores the areas of family and intimate relationships, employment, retirement, civic engagement, and lifelong learning, cognitive and intellectual functioning, and changes in personality and self-concept. The areas of coping, assistive technologies, financial assistance, housing assistance, involvement with a caregiver, and end-of-life decisions are also explored. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

**PSYC 230 Social Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 253 Social Psychology*). Introduces the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are affected by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Topics include social perception and cognition, aggression, conformity, helping behavior, relationships, group processes. Prerequisite: PSYC 100.

**PSYCH 235 Introduction to Abnormal Psychology** (3 credits). Introduces the nature, diagnosis, etiology, epidemiology, prevention and treatment of cognitive, affective, behavioral and personality disorders. Also covers relevant theoretical perspectives and research findings. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYC 250 Research Methods in Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 281 Research Methods*). Builds on students' background in statistics (PSYC 150) and affords opportunities for students to interpret and design basic psychological research, improve their information literacy, and apply APA ethical standards. Topics covered include the scientific method, research approaches and designs, and ethical issues in psychological research. Prerequisites: PSYC 100 and PSYC 150 (minimum grade of C).

**PSYCH 309 Cognitive Development** (3 credits). Studies cognitive development in humans. Focus is on theories of cognitive development and research on the development of memory, problem solving, language and literacy, intelligence, neurological correlates of cognition, as well as social cognition. Factors affecting motivation, achievement, and self-control may also be considered. Additional emphasis placed on instructional implications of theories and research. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 210 or 211, and 60 credits earned. *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYCH 321 Psychological Tests and Measurements** (3 credits). Introduces the logic of psychological measurement including the applied and practical aspects of psychological testing with emphasis on reliability, validity and test norms. Provides background for test evaluation. Helps prepare students for

graduate training in a variety of subfields within psychology (e.g., school, clinical, rehabilitative, or counseling psychology) and related fields such as occupational or speech therapy. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 150, and 250 (minimum grade of C). *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYCH 327 Positive Psychology** (3 credits). Examines theories, research, and best practices related to positive experiences, positive traits, and enabling institutions. Debunks common misconceptions and refutes the “bad science” that pervades the self-help movement and compromises the discipline’s credibility. Affords students opportunities to apply positive psychology concepts through experiential activities, self-reflective exercises, and case studies. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, and PSYC 250 (minimum grade of C). *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYC 335 Psychological Disorders** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 335 Psychological Disorders*). Surveys the description, causation, prevention and treatment of maladaptive behavior and psychological disorders. Considers biological, psychological and social factors. Also covers relevant theoretical perspectives and research findings. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350.

**PSYC 336 Psychology of Personality** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 336 Theories of Personality*). Conveys to students a basic understanding of personality theory as a scientifically defensible model of human functioning as well as a philosophical statement regarding human nature. It will engage students in a critical study of holistic theories of personality, including psychodynamic, trait, biological, cognitive, humanistic, existential/phenomenological, and cross-cultural perspectives. There is an emphasis placed on the healthy, adaptive personality. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350.

**PSYC 337 Child Psychological Disorders** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 337 Developmental Psychopathology*). Examines psychological theory, research, and best practices related to mental disorders that affect children and youth. More specifically, this course surveys the literature on the prevalence, symptoms, causes, and course of child psychopathologies. This course also investigates ethical issues surrounding the assessment and treatment of mental disorders in children and youth. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 210 or PSYC 211, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350.

**PSYC 350 Research Lab in Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 282 Research Applications*). Allows students to use their background in applied statistics (PSYC 150) and research methodology (PSYC 250) to design and/or conduct studies with human participants and nonhuman animal subjects. This course affords opportunities for students to improve their information literacy, apply APA ethical standards, and learn to write effectively in psychology. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, and PSYC 250 (minimum grade of C).

**PSYC 360 Cognitive Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 360 Cognitive Psychology*). Studies cognition in humans. Research and theory related to human use of attention, perception, memory, language and problem solving are central topics of study. Other topics may include creativity, reasoning, and decision-making. Traditional research approaches to understanding human thinking, as well as neuroscientific approaches, are presented. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350.

**PSYC 375 Psychology of Learning** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 375 Psychology of Learning*). Examines the theoretical and experimental bases of learning in animal and human behavior. The course focuses on basic principles of classical conditioning and operant conditioning. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350.

**PSYC 376 Behavior Modification** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 376 Behavior Modification*). Examines the basic methods of behavior modification as they are used in individual therapy as well as in institutionalized settings. The course connects behavior modification techniques to the theoretical concepts that they are based on, especially: operant conditioning, respondent conditioning, observational learning, and cognitive models. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250 (minimum grade of C).

**PSYC 380 Behavioral Neuroscience** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 380 Behavioral Neuroscience*). Examines the cellular bases of behavior, emphasizing contemporary views of and approaches to the study of the nervous system. Neural structure, function, and organization are considered in relation to sensory and motor function, learning and memory, and other basic behaviors. An overview of brain function will be presented, drawing on basic concepts in the biological, physical, and behavioral sciences. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350.

**PSYCH 390 Special Topics in Applied Psychology** (3 credits). Examines theories, research, and best practices related to various topics in applied psychology. This course affords undergraduates the opportunity to explore the synergy between the basic and applied psychological sciences through traditional classroom-based or distance education lectures, discussions, experiential activities, and multimedia presentations. Depending on the topic, the course also may include community-based activities. This course may be repeated as an elective with different topics. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, and PSYC 250 (minimum grade of C). *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYCH 401 History of Psychology** (3 credits). Examines the history of psychology. Places the discipline of Psychology in historical context in relation to the philosophical and scientific underpinnings of the field, as well as in relation to social and cultural influences on the development of the discipline. Reviews historical trends in research questions, methodologies, and explanations. Discusses major figures in the history of the field. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, PSYC 350, and at least one of the following PSYC 335, PSYC 337, PSYC 360, PSYC 375, or PSYC 380. *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYC 406 Senior Seminar in Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 406 Psychology Seminar*). Provides for an advanced study of significant topics in psychology. Requires in-depth analysis and discussions of current research. This course may be repeated with a different topic. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, PSYC 350, and consent of instructor. Seminars may have additional prerequisites depending on the topic.

**PSYCH 439 Introduction to Clinical Psychology** (3 credits). Surveys clinical psychology and the role of the clinical psychologist in community and hospital mental health programs, clinical assessment, and diagnosis. Examines concepts in and models of psychotherapy. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, PSYC 350, and either PSYC 335, PSYC 336, or PSYC 337. *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYC 441/442 Theory and Practice of Academic Psychology** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 441/442 Theory and Practice of Academic Psychology*). Utilizes a seminar format classroom experience along with opportunities to work with students in PSYC 100 through discussions, presentations, reviews, and tutoring. Using PSYC 100 content, students will explore pedagogical techniques and assessment methods. There is a strong emphasis on ethical and professional behaviors in all interactions, including

those with PSYC 100 students and other teaching assistants. Students will develop items as part of a professional portfolio as preparation for employment or graduate work. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350, 60 earned credits, and permission of the instructor.

**PSYCH 464 Advanced Experimental Design** (3 credits). Presents an advanced consideration of the planning, conduct and evaluation of research in the social and behavioral sciences, employing parametric and/or nonparametric statistics. Emphasizes inferential statistics, design, analysis, interpretation, and computer utilization. Students will acquire advanced skills in these areas. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350. *Note: As of Fall 2023, this course is no longer offered.*

**PSYC 493 Independent Study** (3 credits, *formerly PSYCH 466 Independent Study in Psychology*). Provides for the study of a topic via review and research of technical psychological literature and/or empirical manipulation of variables in the field or laboratory under supervision of a psychology faculty member. Successful completion includes a written paper. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, PSYC 350, consent of the Instructor, as well as approval by the student's faculty advisor, the Department chairperson, and the Dean.

**PSYC 498 Psychology Internship** (3 to 15 credits, *formerly PSYCH 497 Psychology Practicum*). Applies psychological knowledge through study, observation, and practice in a community or university setting. Provides experience in a work setting in the field. Processing experiences through class discussions, writing assignments, and interactions with field supervisor. Forty hours must be completed at placement site per credit hour during the course of the semester, including a weekly meeting with the site supervisor or their designee. Weekly 90-minute class meeting with faculty supervisor and peers in small groups. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, PSYC 150, PSYC 250, and PSYC 350, 90 credit hours completed, and consent of the instructor.