

WELCOME TO PSYCHOLOGY'S SOPHOMORE TUTORIAL!

Hello and welcome! We're delighted to see that you're interested in taking Sophomore Tutorial next semester.

Fall 2024 enrollment update and waitlist info: All Fall sections are currently full. If you would like to be placed on the waitlist in case a spot in the course becomes available during Add/Drop in late August, please complete [this sectioning form](#) to indicate your availability and email the Psychology Undergraduate Office (psychology@wjh.harvard.edu) to let us know. Please also feel welcome to email us with any questions!

What is Sophomore Tutorial?

In many ways, Sophomore Tutorial (PSY 971) is the cornerstone of the Psychology concentration. This course will teach you to read, write, and think like a psychologist and prepare you for success in upper-level psychology courses. Students often say that Tutorial is a defining experience and one of their favorite courses in the concentration.

Sophomore Tutorial is taught in small sections of no more than 8 students, which creates an intensely student-focused and personalized learning environment. Tutorials are led by advanced graduate student and postdoc tutors. The course is overseen by the Psychology ADUS, Dr. Katie Powers, and DUS, Professor Jill Hooley. We specifically select tutors who are excellent teachers and are excited to work with undergraduates – you will be in great hands!

How do I enroll?

Here are the steps to enroll:

1. Complete [this sectioning form](#) by **11:59pm EST on Tuesday, April 9, 2024**. We have many schedules to accommodate from students and tutors and it is a huge help to us and to your peers if you can offer as much flexibility as possible when indicating your availability. In return, we will be as flexible as possible when creating section assignments.
2. Keep an eye on your email on **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**. We will aim to distribute section placements by the end of the day at the latest and will request confirmation from you to reserve a space in the course ASAP.
3. Petition to enroll in PSY 971 on my.harvard and formally enroll in the course, into your assigned section, by the course registration deadline (**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**).

PLEASE NOTE -- To ensure you are considered for placement into a section and can enroll in the course, please complete the sectioning form by the specified deadline and make every effort to prioritize this course in your schedule. Sections fill up quickly and we are not usually able to accommodate students who miss the initial sectioning deadline and/or provide extremely restrictive availability.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the course structure and workload?

Tutorials are structured as discussion seminars that meet for 2 hours once per week. In class, you will read empirical research studies, dissect and discuss them as a group, and engage in a variety of activities designed to build critical thinking, discussion, and writing skills. Discussions will go beyond the study findings themselves, as you learn about what makes a good research question, different ways to ask research questions, and how different perspectives and levels of analysis come together to inform our understanding of psychological phenomena.

The workload in this course is substantial. Each week, you will read 3-4 research articles and craft short comments on these readings. There are 3 short analysis papers and one final 15-page research paper that builds cumulatively over the course of the semester, which you will complete with lots of feedback from your tutor. Attending class each week is mandatory.

There are two versions of Sophomore Tutorial. Which one should I take?

PSY 971 is the general version of Sophomore Tutorial and PSY 975 is the neuroscience-oriented version.

Both versions contain some discussion of neuroscientific approaches, because sometimes psychologists seek to understand how the brain contributes to mental processes and behavior, but the emphasis is greater in PSY 975. Usually, General Track and MBB Track students take PSY 971 and CNEP students take PSY 975, but both versions of tutorial count interchangeably for concentration requirements. PSY 975 is only offered in Spring semesters.

Do I need to take any courses before taking Sophomore Tutorial?

You must take PSY 1 before enrolling in tutorial. PSY 1900 (Intro Stats) should be taken by the end of sophomore year, which may result in taking tutorial prior to or alongside PSY 1900.

Can I take this course before officially declaring Psychology as a concentration?

Sure! If you are reasonably sure that you want to become a concentrator, please plan to join us next semester.

What if I have questions about sectioning, enrollment, or the course more generally?

Email the Psychology Undergraduate Office at psychology@wjh.harvard.edu! We are happy to help. If you have a specific concern and would like to reach out to the Course Head directly, please email Dr. Katie Powers at kpowers@fas.harvard.edu.

Resources

Support for Sophomore Tutorial and studies in psychology more broadly:

- Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Katie Powers (kpowers@fas.harvard.edu)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies: Professor Jill Hooley (jmh@wjh.harvard.edu)

Support for writing and academics:

- Department of Psychology Writing Fellow: TBD
- [Department of Psychology Writing Advising](#)
- [Harvard College Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Resource Center](#)

Support for well-being:

- The Department of Psychology's "[Psychspace](#)," a pandemic resource compilation website
- [Counseling and Mental Health Services](#)
- [House Resident Deans](#)