

Department of Psychology

Professor: *Akert, Cheek, Hennessey, Keane, Lucas, Norem, Wink (Chair)*

Associate Professor: *Genero, Gleason*

Assistant Professor: *Pyers, Theran, Wilmer*

Senior Lecturer: *Brachfeld-Child, Carli*

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, including cognition, emotion, and motivation. The Wellesley psychology department is empirically oriented and places a strong emphasis on using scientific methods to investigate aspects of human nature such as how the mind works, how culture and environment interact with individuals over the course of their development, and how we understand ourselves, others, and social interaction.

Goals for the Major

Students will receive an overview of the major areas of psychology, including major historical controversies, developments, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings in various areas of psychology.

Students will understand the kinds of questions psychologists ask about human nature, emotion, motivation, cognition and behavior, the tools they use to answer those questions, and the perspectives and assumptions that distinguish psychology as a discipline from related fields such as anthropology, sociology, and biology.

Students will understand the role that research plays in the development of psychological theory and the knowledge base of the field and will become critical consumers of psychological literature and research. They will be equipped to work with data and understand numerical presentation and interpretations of data.

Students will have an opportunity for hands-on experience in translating psychological questions into hypotheses that can be explored empirically, in designing studies to explore those hypotheses, in analyzing data, and in preparing research reports according to the conventions of the field.

PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology

Staff

An introduction to some of the major subfields of psychology, such as developmental, personality, abnormal, clinical, physiological, cognitive, cultural, and social psychology. Students will explore various theoretical perspectives and research methods used by psychologists to study the origins and variations in human behavior.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 205 Statistics

Cheek, Genero, Hennessey

The application of statistical techniques to the analysis of psychological experimental and survey data. Major emphasis on the understanding of statistics found in published research and as preparation for the student's own research in more advanced courses. *Three periods of combined lecture-laboratory.*

Prerequisite: 101, NEUR 100, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor. Fulfillment of the basic skills component of the Quantitative Reasoning requirement. Not open to students who have taken or are taking ECON 103/SOC 190, MATH 101, MATH 101Z, POL 199, or QR 180 except for psychology and neuroscience majors, with permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning overlay course requirement. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 207 Developmental Psychology

Gleason, Pyers

Behavior and psychological development in infancy and childhood. An examination of theory and research pertaining to personality, social, and cognitive development. Lecture, discussion, demonstration, and observation of children. *Observations at the Child Study Center required.*

Prerequisite: 101, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 208 Adolescence

Kulik, Johnson

Survey of contemporary theories and research in the psychology of adolescents. Topics will include the physical, cognitive, social, and personality development of adolescents.

Prerequisite: 101, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 210 Social Psychology

Akert, Carli

The individual's behavior as it is influenced by other people and the social situation. Study of social influence, interpersonal perception, social evaluation, and various forms of social interaction.

Prerequisite: 101, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 212 Personality

Cheek, Norem

A comparison of major ways of conceiving and studying personality, including the work of Freud, Jung, behaviorists, humanists, and social learning theorists. Introduction to major debates and research findings in contemporary personality psychology.

Prerequisite: 101, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 213 Abnormal Psychology

Wink, Theran

An examination of major psychological disorders with special emphasis on phenomenology. Behavioral treatment of anxiety based disorders, cognitive treatment of depression, psychoanalytic therapy of personality disorders, and biochemical treatment of schizophrenia will receive special attention. Other models of psychopathology will also be discussed.

Prerequisite: 101, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken [224].

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 214 Evolutionary Psychology

Lucas

Evolutionary Psychology is the scientific study of human nature as shaped by natural selection. It is grounded in evolutionary biology and the psychological sciences with connections to disciplines ranging from neuroscience to anthropology and economics. Topics covered will include adaptive solutions to major life challenges including survival, mating, family relations, and group living (e.g., cooperation, aggression, and status).

Prerequisite: 101 or NEUR 100, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 215 Memory

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. Introduction to the study of human memory. Examines processes underlying encoding, storage, and retrieval of information. Will review theoretical models focusing on distinctions between different forms of memory, including short-term and long-term memory, implicit and explicit memory, episodic and semantic memory. Factors contributing to forgetting and distortion of memory will also be discussed.

Prerequisite: 101 or NEUR 100, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 216 Psychology of Language

Lucas

Introduction to the study of the psychological processes underlying language. An evaluation of theory, methods, and current research in language abilities, including speech perception, word and sentence comprehension, and language acquisition in children. Examination of the relationship between language and thought and the evolutionary and biological bases of language behavior.

Prerequisite: 101 or NEUR 100, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 217 Cognition

Keane

Cognitive psychology is the study of the capabilities and limitations of the human mind when viewed as a system for processing information. An examination of basic issues and research in cognition focusing on attention, pattern recognition, memory, language, and decision-making.

Prerequisite: 101 or NEUR 100, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 218 Sensation and Perception

Wilmer

In a split-second, a curling of lips across a crowded room is registered by one's eyes and translated effortlessly into a vividly three-dimensional, full-color perception of a baby's smile. This and other sensory and perceptual feats, unmatched by any computer, are this course's focus. Topics include consciousness, attention and inattention, perceptual learning and development, visual memory, faces, 3D depth, color, motion, and brain bases of sensation/attention/perception. Emphasis is given to abnormal and illusory perception, such as that resulting from brain damage/stimulation or artistic sleight of hand. This course shows that our perception, far from being a "copy" of the outside world, incorporates many predictions and educated guesses. Frequent in-class demonstrations will provide insights into course concepts.

Prerequisite: 101 or NEUR 100, AP score of 5 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 219 Biological Psychology

Staff

Introduction to the biological bases of behavior. Topics include structure and function of the nervous system, sensory processing, sleep, reproductive

behavior, language, and mental disorders.

Prerequisite: 101, AP credit or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken NEUR 200 or [BISC/NEUR 213].

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 248 Psychology of Teaching, Learning, and Motivation

Hennessey

The psychology of preschool, primary, secondary, and college education. Investigation of the many contributions of psychology to both educational theory and practice. topics include student development in the cognitive, social, and emotional realms; assessment of student variability and performance; interpretation and evaluation of standardized tests and measurements; classroom management; teaching style; tracking and ability grouping; motivation; and teacher effectiveness.

Prerequisite: 101, AP credit or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 250 Research or Independent Study

Students will be expected to devote 10-12 hours per week to the basic study of Psychology.

Prerequisite: By permission of instructor.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 250H Research or Independent Study

Students will be expected to devote 5-6 hours per week to the basic study of Psychology.

Prerequisite: By permission of instructor.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 0.5

PSYC 299 Practicum in Psychology

Staff

Participation in a structured learning experience in an approved field setting under faculty supervision. Does not count toward the minimum major in psychology. *Mandatory credit/noncredit, except by permission of instructor.*

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Two units above the 100 level that are most appropriate to the field setting as determined by the faculty supervisor (excluding 205).

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 300/CLSC 300 Seminar. Topics in Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences

Lucas

Topic for 2010-11: How We Choose. Every day we make many choices. Some of these choices are trivial but some can have profound effects on our lives. In this interdisciplinary course, we will investigate how individuals make choices, examining processes of decision-making that are often emotional and irrational. The focus will be on choices related to significant human desires, including those for love, money, and happiness. *Students may register for either PSYC 300 or CLSC 300 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken one of 214-219, LING 114, PHIL 215, CS 111 or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PSYC 301 Cooperation and Competition

Lucas

According to traditional models of rationality, rational agents should act in ways that will maximize their self-interest. And the study of evolution teaches us that individuals are in competition for survival. Nonetheless, we have all experienced acts of apparent selflessness and societies could not function without cooperation among their members. How, then, can cooperative and selfless behaviors be explained? In this course evidence and theories from the psychological, economic, and neurobiological literatures will be examined. Cross-cultural, developmental, and cross-species differences will be explored as will the evolutionary origins of cooperation and competition and the role of cooperation in language.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken one of 214-219, LING 114, PHIL 215, or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken this course as a topic of PSYC 300/CLSC 300.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 303 Psychology of Gender

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An examination of different theoretical approaches to the study of sex and gender, the social construction and maintenance of gender, and current research on gender differences. Topics will include: review of arguments about appropriate methods for studying sex and gender and its legitimacy as a research focus; gender roles and gender socialization; potential biological bases of gender differences; and the potential for change in different sex-typical behaviors.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PSYC 304R Research Methods in Evolution and Human Behavior

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An introduction to research methods appropriate to an evolutionary approach to the study of human nature. Student projects investigate topics across diverse areas of psychology, focusing on the psychological processes that our ancestors evolved to cope with survival and reproductive challenges. Possible topics include cooperative behavior, mate choice, adaptive aspects of language, and gender differences in cognition. Group projects with some individual exercises. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students.*

Prerequisite: 205 and one of the following: 212, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218 or 219

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.25

PSYC 305 Seminar. Advanced Statistical Methods and SPSS

Genero

Building on introductory statistical concepts and data analysis applications, this course provides an in-depth understanding of hypothesis testing and probability for use in psychological quantitative research. Topics include factorial analysis of variance, correlation, regression, and basic psychometric techniques.

Prerequisite: 205

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning overlay course requirement.

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 307R Research Methods in Developmental Psychology

Gleason, Pyers

An introduction to research methods appropriate to the study of human development. Individual and group projects. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students. Observations at the Child Study Center required.*

Prerequisite: 205 and 207.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.25

PSYC 308 Systems of Psychotherapy

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. This course examines theory, research, and practice in three schools of psychotherapy: psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, and humanistic. Topics to be covered include underlying assumptions of normalcy/pathology, theories of change, methods/techniques, and relationship between therapist and client.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken 213 or 224 and one other 200-level unit, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 310R Research Methods in Social Psychology

Akert

An introduction to research methods appropriate to the study of social psychology. Individual and group projects on selected topics. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students.*

Prerequisite: 205 and 210.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.25

PSYC 311 Seminar. Environmental Psychology

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. Exploration of the interaction between the physical environment and an individual's behavior and feelings. Emphasis on relevant topics such as territoriality, personal space, and crowding. Some attention to children and to environmental issues, such as conservation and psychological consequences of natural disasters. Specific settings, such as urban environments, playgrounds, and homes, are studied. Small groups of students will use observation, interview or questionnaire techniques to pursue small-scale research topics. There will be individual oral reports.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 312R Research Methods in Personality Psychology

Norem

An introduction to research methods appropriate to the study of personality psychology. Student projects investigate individual and group differences in personality traits, values, goals, and dimensions of self-concept. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students.*

Prerequisite: 205 and 212.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.25

PSYC 313R Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology

Theran

An introduction to research methods appropriate to the study of abnormal psychology. Topics will include affective and personality disorders, substance abuse, and stressful life events. Individual and group projects. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students.*

Prerequisite: 205 and 224 or 213. Not open to students who have taken [324R].

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.25

PSYC 314R Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology

Keane

Introduction to research methods appropriate to the study of human cognition (i.e., how people take in, interpret, organize, remember, and use information in their daily lives). Individual and group projects. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students.*

Prerequisite: 205 and one of the following, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.25

PSYC 316 Seminar. Language Acquisition

Pyers

Children around the world acquire their first language, spoken or signed, with seemingly little effort. By the end of their first year, they are saying their first words, and a mere two years later they are speaking in full sentences! We will discuss the various factors that play into children's rapid acquisition of their first language. Towards figuring out how children learn language, we will talk about early speech perception, word learning, the acquisition of phonology, morphology, syntax, and pragmatic knowledge. In addition, we will cover topics such as language development disorders (e.g., autism), the critical period hypothesis, sign language, bilingualism, and language and thought. Over the course of the semester, we will understand the empirical methods that guide the study of child language.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, including 207 and excluding 205, or permission of instructor. LING 114 may be substituted for either 200-level unit.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PSYC 318 Seminar. Brain and Behavior

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. Selected topics in brain-behavior relationships. Emphasis on psychopharmacology. Topics include principles and mechanisms underlying action of drugs, major neurotransmitter systems, major classes of psychoactive drugs, and psychological disorders and medications.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, including one of the following: 219 or NEUR 200, and excluding 205.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PSYC 319 Neuropsychology

Keane

An exploration of the neural underpinnings of higher cognitive function based on evidence from individuals with brain damage. Major neuroanatomical systems will be reviewed. Topics include motor and sensory function, attention, memory, language, and hemispheric specialization.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, including either 219 or NEUR 200, and excluding 205.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 321 Community Psychology with Wintersession Applied Research

Genero

Examines the sociocultural and developmental aspects of gender-specific instruction for girls and boys. The impact of single-gender public school education on social identity, gender stereotypes, motivation, and academic achievement will be explored. An experiential component will be conducted during Wintersession in partnership with the Office of Public School Choice at the South Carolina Department of Education. Students will collect and analyze classroom-based observational and interview data. During the spring, students will review pertinent research literature, state-wide survey data, and reflect on the psychological and public policy implications of differential education. *Not offered every year. Subject to Dean's Office approval.*

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken 205 and two 200-level courses.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Wintersession, Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 323R Research Methods in the Psychology of Human Sexuality

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An introduction to research methods appropriate to the study of individual and group differences in sexual attitudes and behavior. Student projects use archival and new survey data to investigate topics such as sexual motivation and attraction, sexual self-esteem and identity, intimacy in romantic relationships, and gender and cultural differences in sexuality. Laboratory. *Each section typically limited to 10 students.*

Prerequisite: 205 and 208 or 219. Not open to students who have taken 327.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis. Does not satisfy the laboratory requirement.

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.25

PSYC 326 Seminar. Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Theran

Description, etiology, and developmental patterns of behavior problems of children, adolescents, and their families. Topics include theories of child and adolescent psychopathology, externalizing problems such as conduct disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, internalizing problems such as depression, anxiety, and children's experiences of trauma, and developmental disorders such as mental retardation, risk and protective factors for child psychopathology, and child and family interventions.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PSYC 327 Seminar. Psychology of Human Sexuality*Cheek*

An examination of psychological approaches to individual and group differences in sexual attitudes and behavior. This course draws upon theory and research from the fields of personality psychology and social psychology. Topics include: sexual motivation and attraction; sexual self-esteem and identity; intimacy in romantic relationships; and gender and cultural differences in sexuality.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken 323R.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring, Summer

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 328 Seminar. Genes, Brains and Human Variation*Wilmer*

Why do only some people have a great sense of pitch, a keen memory for names or faces, or a remarkable ability to locate "Where's Waldo"? And why are some people only average (or even below average) in these areas? We will critically evaluate a broad range of perceptual and cognitive abilities (and disabilities) by drawing upon the fields of cognitive neuroscience, behavioral genetics, development, and human variation. We will address three types of question: What broad combination of nature and nurture, and what specific genes and experiences, contribute to differing levels of ability? What are the neural and cognitive bases of such abilities? What are their real-world consequences?

Prerequisite: Two 200-level units, excluding 205, one of which should be 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219 or NEUR 200, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 329 Seminar. Psychology of Adulthood and Aging

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An examination of how individuals develop and change over the life course. Particular emphasis on experiences associated with entry into adulthood, middle age, and older adulthood. Topics include: age-related changes in personality, emotion, and cognition; work and relationships (including marriage and parenting); life's transitions (e.g., divorce, menopause, and retirement); influence of culture and history on crafting adult lives. Different models of the life course will be discussed.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 330 Psychology of Law*Carli*

This course will document biases in jury decisions, inequalities in sentencing, factors that contribute to criminal behavior, and other contemporary research findings in the psychology of law. Students will review research on jury selection, the reliability of eyewitness testimony, factors affecting the perceived innocence or guilt of defendants, the use of hypnosis and lie-detector tests, blaming victims of crime, methods of interrogation, and issues surrounding testimony from children in abuse cases. This course will explore both theory and research on the psychology of law and will include case analyses. A fundamental goal of the course is to allow students to apply their psychological knowledge and critical-thinking skills to the analysis of legal decisions and outcomes.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken [230].

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 333 Clinical and Educational Assessment*Wink*

Current approaches to the psychological appraisal of individual differences in personality, intelligence, and special abilities will be investigated through the use of cases. Tests included in the survey are: MMPI®, CPI®, WAIS®, Rorschach®, and the TAT®. Special emphasis will be placed on test interpretation, report writing, and an understanding of basic psychometric concepts such as validity, reliability, and norms. Useful for students intending to pursue graduate study in clinical, personality, occupational, or school psychology.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 338 Social Influence

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. This course focuses on a major topic in social psychology: attitude formation and change. Techniques of social influence that we encounter in everyday life will be explored, with a particular emphasis on advertising. The findings of empirical research and theory will be used to understand persuasive messages. Topics include how emotion, gender and culture are used to maximize the effectiveness of advertisements, and how stereotypes are both perpetuated and refuted in advertising.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken 210 and one other 200-level unit, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 339 Seminar. Narrative Identity*Cheek*

Narrative psychology explores the human propensity to create and use stories about significant figures and events in the process of identity formation. Topics will include an exploration of mermaids and related figures as cultural images, metaphors for personal transformation, and archetypal symbols of the collective unconscious. *The Little Mermaid* and *La Sirene* of Haitian vodou will be examined as representations of men's fear of, and attempts to control, women's spirituality and sexuality. The personality theories of Jung and Reich provide the framework for the seminar.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Summer Unit: 1.0

PSYC 340 Organizational Psychology

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An examination of key topics, such as social environment of the work place, motivation and morale, change and conflict, quality of work life, work group dynamics, leadership, culture, and the impact of workforce demographics (gender, race, socioeconomic status). Experiential activities, cases, theory, and research.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units excluding 205, or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PSYC 341 Seminar. Psychology of Shyness

Cheek

An examination of psychological approaches to understanding shyness and the related self-conscious emotions of embarrassment and shame. Topics include: genetics of shyness, evolutionary perspectives on shyness in animals, adolescent self-consciousness, and individual and group differences in social behavior.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level courses, excluding 205, or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

PSYC 342 Seminar. Psychology of Optimism and Pessimism

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An examination of the ways in which expectations influence and are influenced by thoughts, feelings, motivation, and behavior. There are a variety of psychological constructs that fall under the general rubric of optimism and pessimism, and research has shown that they relate to physical and mental health, achievement, personal relationships, and even longevity. This seminar will explore those relationships, with an emphasis on understanding both the costs and the benefits of personal and cultural optimism and pessimism.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors with 212 or 210 and one other 200-level course, excluding 205.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PSYC 344 Seminar. Social Imagination

Gleason

An examination of the uses and types of imagination in both childhood and adulthood. This course will touch on the mechanics of mental imagery and discuss the ways in which imagery is manifest in cognition and particularly in management of social relationships. Emphasis will be placed on the connections between imagination and emotion, such as in children's enactment of scary or nurturant pretend play. How imagination affects interpersonal interactions will be considered, as will other topics such as children's creation of imaginary companions, imagination as pathology, and individual differences in imagination, imagery of individuals deprived of particular senses, and the influence of imagination on memory.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level courses, excluding 205.
Distribution: Epistemology and Cognition or Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 345 Seminar. Selected Topics in Developmental Psychology

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken 207 and one other 200-level course, excluding 205.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PSYC 348 Advanced Topics in Personality and Social Psychology

NOT OFFERED IN 2010-11. An exploration of the interface between personality and social psychology. Areas of research that are best understood by considering both personal dispositions and social situations will be examined. Topics include: conformity, romantic relationships, and social anxiety.

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken 210 and 212, or permission of instructor.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

PSYC 349 Seminar. Nonverbal Communication

Akert

An examination of the use of nonverbal communication in social interactions. Systematic observation of nonverbal behavior, especially facial expression, tone of voice, gestures, personal space, and body movement. Readings include scientific studies and descriptive accounts. Issues include: the communication of emotion; cultural and gender differences; the detection of deception; the impact of nonverbal cues on impression formation; nonverbal communication in specific settings (e.g., counseling, education, interpersonal relationships).

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors who have taken two 200-level units, excluding 205.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

PSYC 350 Research or Individual Study

Students will be expected to devote 10-12 hours per week to the advanced study of Psychology.

Prerequisite: Open by permission to juniors and seniors.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 350H Research or Independent Study

Students will be expected to devote 5-6 hours per week to the advanced study of Psychology.

Prerequisite: Open by permission to juniors and seniors.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 0.5

PSYC 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: Completion of a research methods course by the end of the junior year, and by permission of department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

PSYC 370 Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

Requirements for the Major

Psychology is a broad field, and the major is designed to allow students to gain both breadth and depth of knowledge in the field. To that end, students take 200-level courses that represent different areas of the field, but develop depth by taking a 200-level content course that then leads, along with statistics, to a corresponding research methods course in which they learn firsthand about how knowledge is developed within specific subareas of the field. For example, a student may take social psychology (210), followed by the research methods in social psychology course (310R), but she will also have taken at least two other 200 level courses, including one from the 214-219 set of courses that historically have focused on somewhat different research questions than has social psychology.

The psychology major consists of at least 9.25 units, including 101, 205 (Statistics) and a research-methods course plus at least three additional courses at the 200 level and two additional courses at the 300 level. Of the 200-level courses, at least one must be a course numbered 207-213 (courses on developmental, social, personality, and abnormal psychology) and at least one must be numbered 214-219 (courses on cognition, memory, language, sensation and perception, and biological psychology). Independent study courses (250 and 250H) count toward the major, but not toward the required three 200-level courses. Only one independent study course (350, 350H) or thesis course (360, 370) can count as one of the two 300-level courses required in addition to the research-methods course. PSYC 299 does not count as one of the nine courses for the major. At least five of the courses for the major must be taken in the department.

Statistics: 205 is the only Wellesley statistics course that will count toward the fulfillment of the major. In order to obtain Wellesley credit for a statistics course taken at another institution during the summer or academic year, approval must be obtained from the department prior to enrolling in the course. Transfer students wishing to obtain credit for statistics courses taken prior to enrollment at Wellesley should consult the chair of the department.

Research Methods Requirement: The department currently offers seven research methods courses: PSYC 304R, 307R, 310R, 312R, 313R, 314R, and 323R. Research methods courses taken outside of Wellesley will not fulfill this requirement. In order to be eligible for Senior Thesis Research (PSYC 360), students must complete the research methods course by the end of the junior year.

Requirements for the Minor

The psychology minor consists of five units, including one course at the 300 level and including 101. PSYC 299 and 350 do not count as one of the five courses for the minor. At least three of the courses for the minor must be taken in the department.

Honors

The only route to honors in the major is writing a thesis and passing an oral examination. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student should have a grade point average of at least 3.67 in all work in the major field above the 100 level; students with a slightly lower average who have a strong interest and commitment to research are welcome to submit applications. See Academic Distinctions.

Advanced Placement Policy

The unit given to students for advanced placement in psychology does not count towards the minimum psychology major or minor at Wellesley, but it does fulfill the PSYC 101 requirement. If an AP student with a score of 5 completes PSYC 101, she will receive the appropriate psychology credit, but will receive no AP credit.

Advanced-placement credit for statistics does not exempt students from or fulfill the PSYC 205 requirement. An AP student with a score of 5 in statistics must still take 205, but can receive AP credit.

Interdepartmental Majors

Students interested in an interdepartmental major in neuroscience or cognitive and linguistic sciences are referred to the section of the catalog where these programs are described. They should consult with the directors of the neuroscience or cognitive and linguistic sciences programs.