

Psychology (PSYC)

PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology (Lab) (4)

An introduction to psychological science, for students who do not intend to pursue a major or minor in psychology. This course explores key theories, methodologies and subdisciplines within the field of psychology. Weekly laboratory sessions focus on the process of scientific inquiry, giving students experience with a variety of research approaches and methodological issues. Not open for credit to students who have received credit for PSYC 101 or for a 100-level psychology course taken at another university.

PSYC 101 Principles of Psychology (4)

An intensive examination of key areas, approaches, theories, and research methodology in psychology. This non-laboratory course is designed to provide a strong foundation for students intending to major or minor in psychology. *Open only to first-year students and sophomores.*

PSYC 190 Topics in Psychology (2 or 4)

An introductory course focusing on a topic or issue in psychology, designed for students who do not plan to pursue psychology as a major/minor. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: Not open for credit to students who have received credit for PSYC 100, PSYC 101, or for a 100-level psychology course taken at another university. This course may not be used to satisfy requirements for the major or minor in Psychology.*

PSYC 195 Introduction to Research (2 or 4)

An introduction to hypothesis-driven research in the context of a faculty member's research program. Activities may include literature reviews, training in laboratory techniques, and/or analyzing data. This course may be repeated for credit at the discretion of the instructor. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*

PSYC 201 Psychology of Personality (4)

A survey of classical and contemporary psychological approaches to studying personality, this course explores the foundational theories, historical developments, and contemporary research in personality psychology, focusing on measuring personality traits, processes, and behaviors. The topic domains include trait, psychodynamic, neuropsychological, behavior-genetic, evolutionary, learning, phenomenological, cultural, and cognitive. Students are introduced to test and measurement theory through hands-on experience assessing personality through various psychometric tools, behavioral observational approaches, and assessment methodologies. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 202 Clinical Psychology (4)

A study of clinical psychology from a scientist-practitioner perspective, including DSM diagnostic criteria, assessment measures and strategies, treatment modalities, case studies, and ethical issues. Major theoretical paradigms and research on etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness are presented and discussed. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 203 Social Psychology (4)

This course explores how social dynamics shape individuals' thoughts, emotions, and behaviors within various social contexts. Students will explore key theories and empirical research on topics, such as interpersonal attraction, attitude change, group behavior, conformity, prejudice, and altruism. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the ways in which social influences impact decision making, perception, and interactions, and applying social psychological principles to real world situations. The course also provides a critical examination of the research methods used in social psychology, helping students evaluate the strengths and limitations of different approaches. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 206 Industrial-Organizational Psychology (4)

As an introduction to the field of industrial-organizational psychology, this course examines the application of psychological theories and research to workplace issues facing individuals, teams, and organizations. Both industrial and organizational psychology will be explored to reveal the value that psychological principles and methods bring to individuals, businesses, and society. Major topics include performance appraisal, employee selection, training, motivation, stress, and leadership. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 101 or junior standing.*

PSYC 208 Cognitive Psychology (4)

An introduction to the study of cognitive processes such as attention, memory, language, and reasoning. Students consider empirical findings from a variety of methodologies as well as the methodologies themselves. Broader issues such as unconscious processes and cultural differences in cognition are also examined in this context. Students are encouraged to discover applications of findings in cognitive psychology to other areas of psychology, other disciplines, and their everyday lives. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 213 Comparative Sexual Behavior (4)

A survey and critical evaluation of research investigating individual, social, psychological, and cultural factors in sexual behavior, with some attention to the biological underpinnings of sexuality, along with comparison and contrast across individuals, cultures, and species. Common topics include sex research methodology, gender, sexual orientation, changes across the lifespan, paraphilias, and non-human sexual behavior. Readings include selections from works that have changed understanding of sexual behavior. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or 101 or junior standing.*

PSYC 221 Adolescence (4)

This course examines the physiological, cognitive, social, and emotional factors affecting adolescent development and introduces major theories and research on the subject. Topics addressed include biological changes, cognitive changes, identity, autonomy, peer influences, substance abuse, and intimate relationships. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 223 Positive Psychology (4)

Psychology has traditionally been concerned with people's responses and reactions to difficulties, deficits, and disorders. Taking the opposing viewpoint, positive psychology is a course that aims to understand and implement behaviors and mental processes that foster optimal functioning and the pursuit of the good life. Both individual level and interpersonal level functioning are examined. Students in this primarily discussion-based course must be prepared to speak in class multiple times per class period. The course also involves a significant major project. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 224 Developmental Psychopathology (4)

This course explores how studies of typical and atypical development in children inform one another; how and why deviations from typical development occur; the relationships between biological predisposition, culture and environment as they relate to development of psychopathology; and evidence-based practices used to intervene in the development of psychopathology. *Prerequisite: PSYC 202.*

PSYC 227 Health Psychology (4)

This course examines psychological issues surrounding physical health and medical care. Theories from personality and social psychology are applied to topics such as stress-related diseases, exercise adherence, coping with illness, interpersonal relationships and health, doctor-patient interactions, dying, and the hospital environment. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 229 Cross Cultural Psychology (4)

This course examines cultural influences on human behaviors and psychological processes and explores micro, meso, and macro elements affecting individuals' interactions in cross-cultural contexts. The content focuses on the way cultures shape and are shaped by psychological factors and explores psychological principles as universal or culture-specific. Students will learn about cross-cultural theories, discuss cultural similarities and differences across the globe, and develop cross-cultural awareness and competence. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 230 Child, Family, and Community Development in Rural Appalachia (4)

This interdisciplinary course addresses issues relevant to child, family, and community development in rural southern Appalachia, including (1) social and political history of the region; (2) social psychology and developmental neuroscience of stress and adaptation to stress (e.g., resilience); (3) structure and health of rural Appalachian communities; (4) community infrastructure (e.g., churches, businesses, and other local organizations); (5) design and implementation of intervention and prevention programs to foster neural, cognitive, and social development and mental health in children and families in rural communities. Sewanee faculty and visiting faculty from Yale University teach the course collaboratively. Not open for credit to students who have earned credit for PSYC 430. *Not open to first-year students.*

PSYC 231 Lifespan Development (4)

This course provides an overview of major concepts, theories, and research related to human development from prenatal to end of life. Significant factors influencing individual functioning and empirical findings related to cognitive, emotional, and social development across the lifespan will be explored. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 251 Research Methods and Data Analysis (Lab) (4)

An introduction to basic research approaches in psychology, including observational studies, correlational studies, true experiments, and quasi-experiments. Ethics, sampling, measurement, and data analysis are considered. Intended for psychology majors or for students planning to major in psychology. Weekly laboratory sessions focus on the process of scientific inquiry, giving students experience in the application of class principles. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101 or NEUR 101.*

PSYC 280 Psychology of Human Diversity (4)

This course offers a psychological exploration of human diversity, with a primary focus on minority groups in the U.S. Students examine a wide range of psychological topics within a cultural context, including gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, social class, personality, intelligence, health, intergroup relations, and intercultural communication. The course also introduces cross-cultural research methods that enable diverse perspectives to shape psychological theory and practice. Students develop a nuanced appreciation of how diversity impacts various aspects of life, including research, service delivery, workplace dynamics, and personal relationships. *Open only to first-year students and sophomores.*

PSYC 290 Studies in Psychology (2 or 4)

An intermediate-level course focusing on a topic or sub-discipline within psychology. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 295 Mentored Research (2 or 4)

Intermediate-level research in the context of a faculty member's research program. Activities may include designing and/or conducting experiments, analyzing data, and written/oral presentation of findings. This course may be repeated for credit at the discretion of the instructor. *Prerequisite: PSYC 195 and instructor prerequisite override required.*

PSYC 345 Drugs, Brain Society (4)

This introductory-level course explores how drugs impact the human brain, behavior, and society. Students will learn and apply major principles of pharmacology to understand biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors that contribute to various patterns of drug use and misuse, including substance use disorders. Students will also learn about current and emerging approaches to addiction treatment and evaluate how drug-related research informs healthcare policy, legalization, mental health services, and approaches to human flourishing. This course is intended for students who do not plan to pursue degrees in psychology and/or neuroscience and does not satisfy requirements for those majors or minors.

PSYC 349 Drugs and Behavior (4)

An examination of the effects of drugs on the brain and behavior. Content focuses on the mechanism by which legal and illicit drugs affect the brain and on how drug-induced brain changes alter behavior. In addition, major biological and psychological theories of addiction are examined. This class also explores how drugs are used and abused in different societies and cultures, the effects of this use and abuse on psychology and behavior, and how addiction is treated. This course cannot be taken for credit if the student has already received credit for PSYC 350. *Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 350 Drugs and Behavior (Lab) (4)

An examination of the effects of drugs on the brain and behavior. Content focuses on the mechanism by which legal and illicit drugs affect the brain and on how drug-induced brain changes alter behavior. In addition, major biological and psychological theories of addiction are examined. This class also explores how drugs are used and abused in different societies and cultures, the effects of this use and abuse on psychology and behavior, and how addiction is treated. Laboratory course. This course cannot be taken for credit if the student has already received credit for PSYC 349. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 352 Identities and Media (Lab) (4)

This course examines media representations of social identities including gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, (dis)ability, and profession, and discusses their impacts. The focus is on psychological theories of media effects and intergroup interactions and their applications to various media types and contents. Students will design, conduct, and present research projects at the intersections of media, cultures, and social identities. *Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 354 Positive Psychology (Lab) (4)

An experimental examination of behaviors and mental processes that foster optimal functioning and the pursuit of the good life. This discussion based lab course will examine mechanisms or interventions for living the good life. Students must be prepared to speak in class multiple times per class period. Students will conduct research for a lab project. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 223 and PSYC 251.*

PSYC 356 Social Psychology (Lab) (4)

This course provides an in-depth examination of the social factors that shape individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Students explore key theories, empirical research, and methodological approaches within social psychology, and evaluate how social contexts influence personal and group dynamics. The laboratory component offers hands-on experience in designing and conducting a student-led research project that addresses empirical questions in social psychology. Through this experience, students will cultivate skills in research design, data collection, and analysis. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 357 Child Development (Lab) (4)

An examination of the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of infants and children, with a primary emphasis on theoretical issues and scientific methodology. Development is presented as a process of progressive interaction between the active, growing individual and his or her constantly changing and multifaceted environment. Organized chronologically with an approximately equal emphasis on the prenatal through middle childhood periods of development. Includes a laboratory that focuses on designing and conducting studies (including data analyses) to answer empirical questions on human development. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: (PSYC 100 or PSYC 101) and PSYC 251.*

PSYC 358 Cognitive Psychology (Lab) (4)

An in-depth examination of selected topics within the realm of cognitive psychology. Particular topic(s) may vary across semesters, and range from traditionally studied aspects of cognition (e.g., attention, memory, language, decision-making) to more integrative themes (e.g., beliefs, framing, social change). Key concepts and theories, empirical approaches and evidence, and real-world applications and implications are considered. A laboratory component in which students pursue a question of interest to them within the focal topic(s) of the course provides valuable hands-on experience in designing and conducting research, analyzing and interpreting data, and effectively communicating results and implications. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 360 Psychology of Gender (Lab) (4)

This course will be an examination of gender differences and similarities in behavior, major theories of gender, and the role that gender plays in interacting with others. Students will design, implement, analyze, and present original research in the area of gender. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 364 Action Research in Psychology (Lab) (4)

Action research seeks to produce knowledge that communities can use to address the problems they face. In this course, students will explore how psychologists and community stakeholders engage in research collaboratively in the pursuit of social change. The course introduces qualitative, quantitative, and participatory approaches to research and provides opportunities to acquire skills in study design, data collection, data analysis, and the interpretation and presentation of results. *Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 367 Community-Based Evaluation Research (Lab) (4)

Evaluation research aims to determine whether programs achieve their intended goals. Through the course, students will work in small groups to design and conduct evaluation research in partnership with community-based organizations. This course explores multiple approaches to evaluating organizations and their programs, analyzes how the field support organizational development, and considers how organizations are embedded in social and political contexts. Ethical and scientifically sound evaluation practices, rooted in asset-based perspectives, are emphasized. Graduates of this course will possess the skills to analyze program impact and contribute to organizational capacity building. *Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 368 Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis (4)

An introduction to theoretical and methodological approaches to structuring, collecting, analyzing, and reporting qualitative data. The course explores the various theoretical perspectives on critical thinking and analysis relevant to designing and implementing research, including post-positivist, social constructivist, phenomenology, and critical theory. Research approaches studied in this course include ethnography, phenomenology, case studies, grounded theory, naturalistic inquiry, thematic synthesis, and mixed-method techniques. Various data types used in qualitative analysis are considered, including textual, visual, and observational data. In the lab sessions, students will conduct qualitative analysis to address research questions and solve practical, real-world issues through the implementation of qualitative software. *Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 370 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (4)

This course explores the psychological study of religion and spirituality as a science and examines the multifaceted ways religions impact meaning-making and identity in everyday life. Various psychological schools of thought related to the experience and practice of religion and spirituality are considered, and psychological theories involving religious beliefs, practices, and experiences are explored from an empirical and data-informed perspective. This course also engages the dialogue between psychology and religion regarding the human condition and culture. *Open only to juniors and seniors. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 380 Latinx Psychology (4)

An exploration of Latinx Psychology with a specific focus on the United States. Themes and issues relevant to and impacting upon Latinx Psychology including cultural strengths, identity, immigration, acculturation, colonialism, prejudice/stereotype, intersectionality, and mental health will be studied through first-person accounts, media, and scientific literature. *Open only to juniors and seniors. Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.*

PSYC 381 Theoretical Foundations of Psychotherapy (4)

This course will provide an introductory overview of the theoretical orientations to psychotherapy, and will focus on current theories and frameworks in the field of clinical psychology. Theories will be considered in relation to specific presenting concerns and associated treatment effectiveness. Current issues in the practice of psychotherapy will be explored, such as evidenced-based treatments, evaluation and assessment of psychotherapy, and ethical dilemmas. *Prerequisite: PSYC 202 or PSYC 203 or PSYC 221 or PSYC 223.*

PSYC 385 Cognitive Science (4)

An overview of cognitive science, an interdisciplinary field exploring cognition in living and artificial systems and including psychology, neuroscience, computer science, philosophy, cultural anthropology, and linguistics. This course provides a comparative analysis of key models and approaches to cognition, relying upon experimental, neurophysiological, and clinical data and computational models, and builds a systematic understanding of the interdisciplinary problems, principles, and methods of cognitive science. Current trends, including the most recent approaches (e.g. embodied, embedded, emotional, and extended cognition) and emerging research areas (e.g., social and cultural neuroscience, neuroarchaeology, and neuroaesthetics) are considered. *Prerequisite: PSYC 208 or NEUR 220.*

PSYC 390 Exploring Psychology: Various Topics (2 or 4)

An intermediate-level course focusing on a topic or sub-discipline within psychology. Topics may be thematic in nature and thus promote integration across different domains of psychological science. *Prerequisite: Two course in psychology at the 200-level or above.*

PSYC 391 Advanced Research Topics (Lab) (4)

This seminar is devoted to the advanced study of a selected topic within psychology, with primary emphasis on the scientific process. Content focus varies by semester, at discretion of the instructor. Students review primary literature, design an original study, collect and analyze data, and compose a final report for public presentation. This course may be repeated once for credit when the topic differs. *Prerequisite: PSYC 251.*

PSYC 395 Advanced Mentored Research (2 or 4)

Advanced research for students who have a strong background in psychology research. Students will work with a faculty research mentor to design and conduct experiments aimed to address a novel scientific question. This course may be repeated for credit at the discretion of the instructor. *Prerequisite: PSYC 195 and instructor prerequisite override required..*

PSYC 402 Community Psychology (4)

A seminar focused on examining and applying the concepts, theory, principles, research methods, and goals of community psychology. This course aims to increase understanding of the interactions among individual, group, organizational, community, and societal factors as they affect psychological well-being, human development, and human relationships. It also examines research design, program implementation, and evaluation methods applicable to community psychology. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology.*

Prerequisite: Four courses in psychology.

PSYC 408 Seminar in Clinical Psychology (4)

A study of the major conceptual approaches that are adopted as clinicians assess, define, and conduct clinical interventions. Topics addressed include the nature of the client-therapist relationship, results from empirical investigation of therapeutic outcomes, ethical dilemmas faced in clinical practice and research, and problems peculiar to subspecialties such as forensic psychology and community psychology. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 202 and three other courses in psychology.*

PSYC 411 Judgment and Decision-Making (4)

This seminar examines selected topics, perspectives, and approaches that contribute to our understanding of human judgment and decision-making. Drawing from research in psychology and related disciplines, the course explores factors influencing our judgments and decisions, and considers how we can use this evolving understanding to make better choices. Applications and implications for individual, organizational, and societal decisions across a range of significant real-world arenas are explored. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: Four courses in psychology.*

PSYC 412 Psychology of Gender (4)

A comparison of different theoretical perspectives on sex and gender and a critical examination of research on gender differences and similarities in human behavior. Patterns of public attitudes regarding gender will also be discussed. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: Four courses in psychology and/or women's and gender studies.*

PSYC 417 Seminar in Developmental Psychology: Human Development in Context (4)

This seminar provides readings and discussion of special topics in human development. It draws on primary sources of classic and contemporary theory and research and examines human development in context. The course explores the roles of family, workplace, schools, peers, community, and the larger culture in human development. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology.*

PSYC 419 Addiction (4)

This seminar focuses on special topics related to addictive diseases. The course explores theoretical and empirical approaches to studying drug addiction, though behavioral addictions and compulsive disorders may also be considered. Readings include primary research related to the psychological, neurobiological, and sociocultural factors contributing to addiction. Current approaches to treatment are also discussed. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251 and two PSYC courses.*

PSYC 420 Consciousness and Unconsciousness: Explorations in Neurophilosophy (4)

An examination of current scientific study of consciousness and the cognitive unconscious, including neural correlates of conscious actions, the emergence of consciousness in evolution, and related topics. The course emphasizes how scientific results inform understanding of the mind-body problem, the tenability of competing philosophical and neurobiological approaches to consciousness, the extent to which methods of psychology and neuroscience can provide new insights into the nature of consciousness, and how these issues take on a new form in the philosophy of artificial intelligence. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: Four courses in psychology and/or neuroscience.*

PSYC 422 Controversies in Human Sexuality Research (4)

This seminar course will review questions and controversies in current theory and research on human sexual behavior. The focus of class discussion will be the scientific literature within the field. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: Four courses in psychology.*

PSYC 423 Communicating Psychology (4)

This course examines effective methods to communicate psychological topics to diverse audiences in both face-to-face and mediated contexts. Through project-based learning, students will engage with primary psychological sources and develop effective and appropriate communication skills. Key elements include analyzing the needs and perspectives of various audience groups from professionals to the general public and communicating with or facilitating communication among different stakeholders. The course covers various settings, including oral presentations, online presence, workshops, and digital platforms such as social media, blogs, and podcasts. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: Four courses in PSYC.*

PSYC 425 The Psychology of Social Change (4)

This seminar considers how psychologists put their skills and training to work in support of transformative futures for individuals, communities, and society. To understand how social change happens, this course draws on theories from community psychology, organizational psychology, and liberation/critical psychology to explore the types of leadership practices and organizational structures needed to create and sustain social change efforts. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: Four courses in psychology.*

PSYC 444 Independent Study (2 or 4)

The student will design and execute an experimental research project terminating in a written report or will complete readings in an area of psychology. This course may be repeated more than once for credit. *Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.*

PSYC 490 Special Topics Seminar (4)

Selected topics in psychology, typically incorporating relevant primary literature. Prerequisites vary by topic. *Open only to seniors pursuing programs in neuroscience or psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 251 and three additional courses in psychology.*

PSYC 495 Topics in Psychology (2 or 4)

Selected topics in psychology. Content will vary from semester to semester. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs. This course is only available through the Sewanee-at-Yale Directed Research Program. *Prerequisite: Only open to students admitted to the Sewanee-at-Yale program.*

PSYC 499 Directed Research (4 or 8)

Students conduct research under the direction of a faculty member on a topic of mutual interest. Typically culminates in a written research report. Admission to the Sewanee-At-Yale Directed Research Program required. This course is only available through the Yale Directed Research Program. With the approval of program director and the biology department, this course may be listed as BIOL 499. *Prerequisite: An introductory psychology or introductory biology course and approval of the Sewanee-at-Yale program director..*