

**Spring 2019**  
**UNC Department of Psychology**  
**Undergraduate Courses**

\*For the complete list of undergraduate Psychology courses, please refer to the  
[Undergraduate Bulletin\\*](#)

**First-Year Seminars (FYS)**

**PSYC 053: First-Year Seminar: Talking about Numbers: Communicating Research Results to Others (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Viji Sathy

This course introduces the many ways that research results are disseminated to the public in our everyday lives--through advertising and mass media, Internet, and research-based policy statements.

**PSYC 069: First-Year Seminar: Racism, Racial Identity, and African American Mental Health (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Enrique Neblett

This seminar examines the connections among racism experiences, racial identity, and mental health with a focus on African American children, adolescents, and young adults.

**PSYC 089: First-Year Seminar: Special Topics**

Instructor: Dr. Marsha Penner

Content varies by semester.

**PSYC 089H: First-Year Seminar: Critical Thinking in Psychology and Beyond: How to use Your Brain**

Instructor: Dr. Jon Abramowitz

Honors version. This course focuses on the development of critical thinking skills, especially as they relate to psychological science. In addition to learning basic skills of logic, students will learn about the logic of the scientific method and the common errors of human cognition that impede critical thinking.

**Lower-Level Undergraduate Courses (PSYC 100-399)**

**PSYC 101: General Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Loeb (001), Dr. Desiree Griffin (002), Dr. Elizabeth Adams (003)

A survey of major principles of psychology and an introduction to scientific modes of thought about behavior. Students participate in ongoing psychological research in the department. PSYC 101 is a prerequisite for all psychology courses.

**PSYC 175: Introduction to Neuroscience (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Robertson (001), Dr. Rachel Penton (002), Dr. Sabrina Robertson (003)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

Neuroscience is a field that seeks to understand the structure and function of the nervous system and brain. This course provides a broad overview of the field. Topics include current methods used in neuroscience, the function of nerve cells, neuroanatomy of the mammalian brain, neuroplasticity, and diseases of the brain.

**PSYC 210: Statistical Principles of Psychological Research (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Harrison (001), Dr. Viji Sathy (002)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Consideration of the methodological principles underlying psychological research, descriptive and inferential techniques, and the manner by which they may be employed to design psychological experiments and analyze behavioral data. Three lecture hours and one laboratory hour a week.

**PSYC 220: Biopsychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Hermes (001), Jaqueline Paniccia (002)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Introductory course which surveys the biological bases of behavior. This course would be an appropriate foundational course for Introduction to Neuroscience ([PSYC 175](#)) and/or Advanced Biopsychology ([PSYC 402](#))

**PSYC 222: Learning (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001), Christina Lebonville (002), Rachel Haake (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Topics in Pavlovian and operant (instrumental) conditioning, learning theory, higher order cognitive learning, and application of those principles to mental-health related situations.

**PSYC 225: Sensation and Perception (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001), Zachary Buchin (002)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Topics in vision, audition, and the lower senses. Receptor mechanisms, psychophysical methods, and selected perceptual phenomena will be discussed.

**PSYC 225H: Sensation and Perception (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Peter Gordon (001)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Honors version. Topics in vision, audition, and the lower senses. Receptor mechanisms, psychophysical methods, and selected perceptual phenomena will be discussed.

**PSYC 230: Cognitive Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Neil Mulligan (001), Kathryn Weatherford (002), Shaina Roth (003), Giulia Pancani (004)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Topics in attention; memory; visual, auditory, and other forms of information processing; decision making; and thinking.

**PSYC 242: Introduction to Clinical Psychology\* (3)**

Instructor: Kelsey Ludwig (001), Katie Smith (002), Sarah Owens (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Overview of clinical psychology: history, scientific basis, and major activities and concerns including assessment, psychotherapy, and other psychological interventions, community psychology, ethics, and professional practice.

*\*This course will replace the older PSYC 505 (Introduction to Child Psychology) and will NOT count toward the Psychology major if a student has previously taken PSYC 505 for credit.*

**PSYC 242H: Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Mitch Prinstein

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Honors version. Overview of clinical psychology: history, scientific basis, and major activities and concerns including assessment, psychotherapy, and other psychological interventions, community psychology, ethics, and professional practice.

**PSYC 245: Abnormal Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Desiree Griffin (001), Yun Chen (002), Danielle Weber (003), Alexandra Wojda (004)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Major forms of behavior disorders in children and adults, with an emphasis on description, causation, and treatment.

**PSYC 245H: Abnormal Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Don Baucom (001)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Honors version. Major forms of behavior disorders in children and adults, with an emphasis on description, causation, and treatment.

**PSYC 250: Child Development (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Adams (001), Kylie Bezdek (002), Dana Pettygrove (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Study of the development of social and intellectual behavior in normal children and the processes that underlie this development. Emphasis is typically on theory and research.

**PSYC 260: Social Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Steve Buzinski (001), Holly Shablack (002), Amelia Goranson (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Introductory survey of experimental social psychology covering attitudes, interpersonal processes, and small groups.

**PSYC 270: Laboratory Research in Psychology (4)**

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Harrison (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, and 210 or 215

This course will give students the opportunity to engage in psychological research by conducting a team-based research project. Students will also develop the skills required to critically evaluate research findings.

**PSYC 330 Introduction to Cognitive Science (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of the mind, intelligent behavior, information processing, and communication in living organisms and computers.

**PSYC 390: Current Topics in Psychology: Neuropsychopharmacology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Rachel Penton (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 220 or PSYC 315

This course will provide an introduction to the scientific study of neuropsychopharmacology, with an emphasis on drugs of abuse and pharmacological treatments for addiction, neurodegenerative disease, and neuropsychiatric illness. Both physiological and behavioral effects of drug actions will be examined.

## Upper-Level Undergraduate Courses (PSYC 400-699)

### **PSYC 424 Neural Connections: Hands-On Neuroscience (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Marsha Penner (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 220 or PSYC 315

This class will explore links between the brain and behavior through neuroscience outreach activities. Students will also reflect on the meaning of community engagement. By the end of the semester, each student must complete a minimum of 30 hours of service within the community.

### **PSYC 428 Neuroscience, Society, and the Media (3)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Marsha Penner (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, and 220 or 315

Neuroscience is a “hot” topic in popular media. In this course we will consider media coverage of neuroscientific research by reading the popular press versions of studies alongside the findings from primary sources. We will also consider what kinds of topics are most often covered by the media and why.

### **PSYC 432: Psychology of Language (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Arnold (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 230, or LING 101, or LING 400.

This course examines the mental representations and cognitive processes that underlie the human ability to use language. Covers what people know about language, how they process it, and how people make inferences about the speaker’s meaning based on context. Recent work in experimental psycholinguistics is discussed.

### **PSYC 438: Psychology of Language (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Arnold (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 270, at least one course in linguistics (e.g. PSYC 432)

Examines the cognitive mechanisms behind language comprehension, focusing on how we make predictions about the speaker's meaning, based on context, background, gestures, and other cues. In this course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE), groups of students generate novel research questions, perform their own research experiments, and present the results in spoken and written format.

### **PSYC 469: Evolution and Development of Biobehavioral Systems (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Jean-Louis Gariépy (001)

Prerequisites: BIOL 101 and PSYC 101, and 210 or 215

Examines the evolution and development of behavior patterns and their physiological substrates.

### **PSYC 490: Social Neuropsychobiology of Stress (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Keely Muscatell (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

Stress, from major life events (loss of a loved one) to daily hassles (traffic) to more chronic stressful life circumstances (living in poverty), is a common experience in modern life. A large scientific literature has focused on understanding how the brain and the body respond to stress, as well as how we can intervene to prevent stress from impacting our physical and mental health. This course will cover this exciting area of interdisciplinary research, focusing on how stress gets “under the skin” and “into the skull” to influence health and well-being.

**PSYC 490: Applied Machine Learning in Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Oscar Gonzalez (002)

Prerequisites: PSYC 210

As opposed to hypothesis-driven data analysis, machine learning takes an exploratory and predictive approach to data analysis. This course introduces machine learning approaches in psychology to identify important variables for prediction and uncover complex patterns in datasets, such as nonlinearity, interactions, or clusters. Classes include theoretical lectures and hands-on examples.

**PSYC 490: Genetics of Brain Diseases (3)**

Instructor: Dr. William Snider (003)

Prerequisites: An introductory course in neuroscience, PSYC 220 or PSYC 315

This new course will explore the manifestations and causes of important neurological and psychiatric diseases. A major focus will be the impact of advances in genetics and genomics on our understanding of brain disorders. Diseases having a major impact on society including autism, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's Disease will be studied in detail. The course will provide excellent preparation for further study of brain disorders in the setting of psychology, medicine, public health, or public policy. Course credits count towards a major in Psychology and a minor or major in Neuroscience.

**PSYC 490: Advanced Molecular Neuropharmacology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Rachel Penton (004)

Pre-requisites: PSYC 175 OR PSYC 101 and PSYC 220; as well as PSYC 320 or PSYC 390

This course provides a detailed study of the mechanisms of drug action at the molecular level by examining primary literature in depth. The focus will be on ligand-receptor interactions and modulation of receptor number, structure, and function by drugs. Detailed examples will examine the molecular details of both ligand-gated ion channels and G-protein coupled receptors. The course will use primary literature to delve into research where central themes will include developing critical thinking and communication skills.

**PSYC 490: Neurotechnology in Modern Neuroscience Research (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Robertson (005)

This course addresses fundamental challenges inherent in studying the brain and explores the theory, applications, and limitations of new and traditional neurotechnology. The unique ethical issues and significance of interdisciplinary approaches in neuroscience will also be highlighted. Students will analyze research literature and focus on cellular, molecular and genetic techniques that are essential staples in the neuroscientist's toolkit. Students will also design experiments, utilize publicly available resources, and analyze big data generated by high-throughput approaches to investigate research questions

**PSYC 493: Internship in Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Steve Buzinski (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and completion of application process

**PSYC 500: Developmental Psychopathology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Eric Youngstrom (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, 245, and 250

A survey of theories bearing on atypical development and disordered behavior, and an examination of major child and adolescent behavior problems and clinical syndromes.

**PSYC 501: Theoretical, Empirical Perspectives on Personality (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Wiss (001)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

An in-depth coverage of the traditional clinically based personality theories of the early 20th century contrasted with more recent empirically based perspectives.

**PSYC 525: Psychological Archival Data Science (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Eric Youngstrom (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 270 and PSYC 245 or PSYC 500

This course addresses techniques in answering new questions with existing data. Students will learn about data from multiple perspectives: different data source and types, intended audiences, and visualization, analysis, and presentation formats. This will make students more savvy consumers as well as producers of data.

**PSYC 531: Tests and Measurement (3)**

Instructor: Dr. David Thissen (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 210

Basic psychometric theory underlying test construction and utilization. Detailed study of issues and instruments used in assessing intellectual functioning, educational progress, personality, and personnel selection.

**PSYC 533H: The General Linear Model in Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Gates (001)

Prerequisites: ECON 400 or PSYC 210 or 215 or SOCI 252 or STOR 155

Honors version. Consideration of multiple regression and the general linear model in psychological research, including hypothesis testing, model formulations, and the analysis of observational and experimental data.

**PSYC 565: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Keith Payne (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, 260, and 210 or 215; PSYC 270 recommended

Examines the determinants, functions, processes, and consequences of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. Prospects for change are considered. Class presentations and participation required.

**PSYC 566: Attitude Change (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Steven Buzinski (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 260, and 210 or 215.

A detailed consideration of the theoretical issues in attitude and belief change.

**PSYC 568: Emotion (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Lindquist (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of the scientific study of emotion. Topics will include theoretical models of emotion process and structure. A range of perspectives, including social, cultural, developmental, clinical, and cognitive psychology, as well as behavioral neuroscience, will be considered.

**PSYC 570: The Social Psychology of Self-Regulation (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Paschal Sheeran (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 210, PSYC 260. PSYC 270 recommended

Surveys cutting-edge research across the field of social psychology and how it matters for everyday life. Topics include morality, mind perception, judgment and decision making, happiness, affective forecasting, emotion, relationships, negotiation, personality, free will, stress/health, and religion. Clear communication of research also emphasized through figures, presentations, and papers.

**PSYC 601: Psychology and Law (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Desiree Griffin (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 210 or 215

Examines the legal system from the perspective of psychology methods and research, with a focus on criminal law. Discusses dilemmas within the law and between the legal system and psychology.

**PSYC 602: Evolutionary Psychology (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Wiss (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

Major topics of general psychology are examined from an evolutionary perspective with an emphasis on empirical studies asking why much current human behavior and experience would have been adaptive for our early ancestors.

**PSYC 694H: Honors in Psychology II (3)**

Instructor: Dr. Beth Kurtz-Costes (001 & 002)

Prerequisites: PSYC 693H

Admission to the psychology honors program required. To be taken as the second course in the two-semester honors sequence. Students conduct research under the direction of a faculty advisor and receive classroom instruction in research-related topics.