Fall 2021
UNC Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Undergraduate Courses

*For the complete list of undergraduate Psychology courses, please refer to the
Undergraduate University Catalog*
*For the complete list of undergraduate Neuroscience courses, please refer to the
Undergraduate University Catalog*

First-Year Seminars (FYS)

PSYC 054: Families and Children (3)
Instructor: Dr. Beth Kurtz-Costes (001)
The course will consider family from a life-course perspective and family influences on child development. Research and theory concerning divorced and step families, single parents, gay and lesbian parents, and family processes that shape children’s development will be examined.

PSYC 63: Drug Use and Misuse in the 21st Century (3)
Instructor: Kay Sanford (001)
This is a first-year seminar on the use of drugs in the U.S. Its purpose is to understand the effects of drug use on pain management, overdose prevention, substance use disorder, overdoses, diversion, legal consequences, public health policy, harm reduction, and treatment. Activities include lectures from technical experts, post-lecture discussions, readings and student-lead discussion, written summaries of class material, formal debates and a final class project on the effective evidence-based overdose prevention program.

Lower-Level Undergraduate Courses (PSYC 100-399)

PSYC 101: General Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Loeb (001 & 002) & TBD (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.

NSCI 175: Introduction to Neuroscience (3)
Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Robertson (001), Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz (002), Dr. Rachel Penton (003)
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 180: Social Media, Technology, and the Adolescent Brain (3)
Instructor: Dr. Rosa Li (001 & 002)
In this course, we will learn about current evidence, theory, and controversies with regards to how technology use may affect adolescent development. Questions such as how technology is changing adolescents’ social relationships, impacting their mental health, and interacting with the developing brain to influence social, emotional, and cognitive development will be explored.
PSYC 210: Statistical Principles of Psychological Research (3)
Instructor: Dr. Patrick Harrison (001) & Dr. Natasha Parikh (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: TBD (001), Shveta Parekh (002), Alexis League (003)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Study of the biological basis of behavior. Emphasis will be placed on human findings and applications.

PSYC 220H: Biopsychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Sylvia Fitting (001)
Study of the biological basis of behavior. Emphasis will be placed on human findings and applications. Honors version.

NSCI 222: Learning (3)
Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001), Ian Jacobs (002)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Topics in conditioning, verbal learning, memory, and problem solving.

NSCI 225: Sensation and Perception (3)
Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001), TBD (002)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Topics in vision, audition, and the lower senses. Receptor mechanisms, psychophysical methods, and selected perceptual phenomena will be discussed.

NSCI 225H: Sensation and Perception (3)
Instructor: Dr. Peter Gordon (001)
Topics in vision, audition, and the lower senses. Receptor mechanisms, psychophysical methods, and selected perceptual phenomena will be discussed. Honors version.

PSYC 230: Cognitive Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Joe Hopfinger (001), TBD (002)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Topics in attention; memory; visual, auditory, and other forms of information processing; decision making; and thinking.

PSYC 230H: Cognitive Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Joe Hopfinger (001)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Topics in attention; memory; visual, auditory, and other forms of information processing; decision making; and thinking. Honors version.
PSYC 242: Introduction to Clinical Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Desiree Griffin (001), Maku Orleans-Pobee (002)
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. Students may not receive credit for both PSYC 242 and 505.

PSYC 245: Abnormal Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Don Baucom (001), Alexandra Wojda (002), Jessica Janos (003)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Major forms of behavior disorders in children and adults, with an emphasis on description, causation, and treatment.

PSYC 250: Child Development (3)
Instructor: TBD (001) & TBD (002)
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. Steven Buzinski (001), Carrington Merritt (002)
Prerequisite: PSYC 101
Introductory survey of experimental social psychology covering attitudes, interpersonal processes, and small groups.

PSYC 270: Laboratory Research in Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Patrick Harrison (001), Dr. Natasha Parikh (002)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101
Experiments in biological, behavioral, cognitive, developmental, personality, and social psychology will be discussed, prepared, performed, and reported. One lecture hour and four laboratory hours per week.

NSCI 320: Neuropsychopharmacology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Rachel Penton (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101
This course will examine the use of drugs to alter behavior. Social implications of drug use and methods for preventing and treating drug abuse will also be considered.

PSYC 330: Introduction to Cognitive Science (3)
Instructor: Dr. Peter Gordon (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101; recommended: PSYC 210 or another quantitative reasoning course
An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of the mind, intelligent behavior, information processing, and communication in living organisms and computers.
Upper-Level Undergraduate Courses (PSYC 400-699)

NSCI 421: Principles of Brain Circuits (3)
Instructor: Dr. William Snider (001)
Prerequisites: NSCI 175 or PSYC 220
This course will explore how brain circuits control behavior. A major focus will be the new technique of optogenetics that is revolutionizing our approach to systems neuroscience. Circuits that control movement, sensation, homeostasis, memory, and fear will be explored in detail. Points of emphasis will be circuits mediating pain as related to actions of opiates and circuits mediating feeding behavior as related to obesity.

NSCI 423: Neurotechnology in Modern Neuroscience Research (3)
Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Robertson (001)
Prerequisites: NSCI 175; or both PSYC 101 and PSYC 220
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.

NSCI 427: Neurobiology of Aging (3)
Instructor: Dr. Kelly Giovanello (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 175 or 220
This course will survey clinical and experimental literature regarding the neurobiology of aging, considering different theories of aging, how aging is studied in the laboratory, and recent findings. Biochemical, molecular, physiological, and behavioral changes associated with both "normal" and pathological aging will be considered.

NSCI 434: Cognitive Neuroscience (3)
Instructor: Dr. Jessica Cohen (001)
Prerequisites: one of the following: NSCI 175, PSYC 220, NSCI 222, NSCI 225 or PSYC 230
Introduction to cognitive neuroscience. Higher mental processes including attention, memory, language, and consciousness will be covered, with an emphasis on the neural mechanisms that form the substrates of human cognition. Previously offered as PSYC 434.

NSCI 439: Neuroimmunology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz (001)
Prerequisites: NSCI 175 or PSYC 220
The nervous and immune systems interact with each other in complex ways to influence behavior, health and well-being. In this course, we will examine the mechanisms by which these two systems interact. Further, we will cover how the nervous and immune systems function together to serve homeostasis, behavior and disease.

PSYC 463: Development of Social Behavior and Personality (3)
Instructor: Dr. Jean Louis Gariepy (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 210
Developmental processes during early childhood as these relate to social behavior and personality.
PSYC 471: The Study of Adolescent Issues and Development (3)
Instructor: Dr. Andrea Hussong (001 & 002)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101, 210, or 215, and 250
The developmental period of adolescence is studied from a multidisciplinary perspective. The course will distinguish among early, middle, and late adolescence and will cover several theoretical perspectives.

PSYC 493: Internship in Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Steven Buzinski (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and completion of application process
Karen M. Gil Internship Program course.

PSYC 501: Theoretical, Empirical Perspectives on Personality (3)
Instructor: Dr. Charles 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 504: Health Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Karen Gil (001 & 002)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 245
An in-depth coverage of psychological, biological, and social factors that may be involved with health.

PSYC 517: Addiction (3)
Instructor: Dr. Stacey Daughters (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 245 and 270 recommended but not required.
This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the etiology and treatment of addiction, along with exposure to real-life stories of addiction.

PSYC 528: Clinical Research (3)
Instructor: Dr. Desiree Griffin
Prerequisites: PSYC 101
This course focuses on understanding behavior for the purposes of assessment and treatment by asking questions and researching the answers. The goal of this course is to expose you to the empirical basis of the field of clinical psychology by having you work with a community partner to identify a question of interest, create a research design that will quantitatively or qualitatively address the research question, analyze the subsequent data, and disseminate the findings to the community.

PSYC 533: The General Linear Model in Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Katie Gates (001)
Prerequisites: ECON 400 or PSYC 210 or 215 or SOCI 252 or STOR 155
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 559: Applied Machine Learning (3)
Instructor: Dr. Oscar Gonzalez
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 566: Attitude Change (3)
Instructor: Dr. Steven Buzinski (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101, 260, and either PSYC 210 or 515
A detailed consideration of the theoretical issues in attitude and belief change.

PSYC 570: The Social Psychology of Self-Regulation (3)
Instructor: Dr. Pascal Sheeran (001)
Prerequisites: PSYC 101, 210 or 215, and 260. PSYC 270 recommended.
An intensive review of self-regulation theory and research, focusing on the cognitive, motivational, and affective processes involved in goal commitment, monitoring, and overriding behavioral responses.

PSYC 602: Evolutionary Psychology (3)
Instructor: Dr. Charles 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 693H: Honors in Psychology I (3)
Instructor: Dr. David Penn (001 & 002)
By application to the psychology honors committee and enrollment in the honors program. To be taken as the first 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.