

Spring 2025
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: First-Year Seminar: Families and Children (3)

Instructor: Dr. Shauna Cooper (001)

This 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.

NSCI 061: First-Year Seminar: The Psychology of Mental States and Language Use (3)

Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Reissner (001)

The course will tackle questions through classroom discussions, lectures, movies, writing assignments, and a visit to a research laboratory and a treatment facility. Students will be introduced to fundamental concepts in addiction research. Honors version available.

[Lower-Level Undergraduate Courses \(PSYC 100-399\)](#)

PSYC 101: General Psychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Jeannie Loeb (001 & 002)

PSYC 101 is a prerequisite for all psychology courses. This course will give an overview of the many different scientific perspectives from which to understand behavior, including the biological, cognitive, developmental, social and psychopathological perspectives. This course is offered in two formats: a large-course format and as a First-Year Launch.

NSCI 175: Introduction to Neuroscience (3)

Instructor: Dr. Monica Gaudier-Diaz (001), Dr. Ally Nowlan (01F & 02F)

Provides an introduction to the structure and function of the nervous system. Fundamental principles will be introduced including nervous system anatomy; molecular and cellular properties of the nervous system; sensory and motor systems; current methods used in neuroscience; and how the nervous system produces behavior and cognition. This course provides greater breadth and depth of neuroscience topics, as compared to Biopsychology (PSYC 220). Previously offered as PSYC 175 and 315.

PSYC 180: Social Media, Technology, and the Adolescent Brain (3)

Instructor: Dr. Rosa Li (001)

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 & 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. Students may not receive credit for both PSYC 210/PSYC 210H and PSYC 215/PSYC 215H.

PSYC 220: Biopsychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sara Estle (001), Annie Dankert (002), Dr. Daniel Christoffel (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Introductory course which surveys the biological bases of behavior. Topics may include nerve cells and nerve impulses, sensory systems, wakefulness and sleep, reproductive behaviors, and cognitive functions. This course would be an appropriate foundational course for Advanced Biopsychology (PSYC 402).

NSCI 221: Neuropsychopharmacology. (3)

Instructor: TBD (001), TBD (002)

Prerequisite: NSCI 175 or both PSYC 101 and PSYC 220

This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of psychopharmacology, with emphasis on drugs of abuse and psychotherapeutic drugs. Previously offered as NSCI/PSYC 320.

NSCI 222: Learning (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sara Estle (001), Thery Sanon (002), Dr. Donald Lysle (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NSCI 175

Topics in Pavlovian and operant (instrumental) conditioning, learning theory, higher order cognitive learning, and application of those principles to mental-health related situations. Previously offered as PSYC 222.

NSCI 222H: Learning (3)

Instructor: Dr. Todd Thiele (001)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NSCI 175

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

NSCI 225: Sensation and Perception (3)

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001), Iuliia Fokina (002)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NSCI 175

Topics in vision, audition, and the lower senses. Receptor mechanisms, psychophysical methods, and selected perceptual phenomena will be discussed. Previously offered as PSYC 225.

PSYC 230: Cognitive Psychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001), Nikki Fackler (002), Annaliisa Powers (003)

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: Dr. Desiree Griffin (001), Emma Dear (002), Nick Myers (003), Robin Brown (004)

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.

PSYC 245: Psychopathology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Desiree Griffin (001), Adrianna Richards (002), Emily Carrino (003)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

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

PSYC 245H: Psychopathology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Wiss (001)

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

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

PSYC 250: Child Development (3)

Instructor: Dr. Rosa Li (001), Alison Russell (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), Natalie Frye (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. Natasha Parikh (001 & 002)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

Students in this course will be exposed to a survey of methodology (i.e., experimental, quasi-experimental, non-experimental) used across various disciplines in psychology (i.e., social, clinical, development, cognitive, and neuroscience). In addition, students will work as a class to conduct research projects on a common theme. Students will spend class time planning, conducting, and writing up the results of this project. Class time will also be used to discuss methodological considerations in psychological research more broadly.

NSCI 271: Cellular Mechanisms in Addiction Lab (3)

Instructor: Dr. Shveta Parekh (001 & 002)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175 Pre or corequisite: PSYC 210 or STOR 155

Cellular Mechanisms in Addiction is a laboratory and research-based course aimed at investigating the cellular underpinnings of drug addiction. Students will gain hands-on experience in cutting-edge approaches utilized in addiction research. Utilizing rodent brain tissue and immunohistochemistry techniques, students will delve into the cellular and molecular changes associated with addiction. Majors only.

NSCI 278: Molecular Imaging of the Brain (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Robertson (001 & 002)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175 Pre or corequisite: PSYC 210 or STOR 155

Students will design novel experiments to examine and visualize sex differences in the nervous system. Students will learn how to handle brain slices, neuroanatomy, microscopy, immunohistochemistry and imaging analysis techniques by studying neuronal diversity in the norepinephrine system of mice. Students will have the opportunity to develop and test hypotheses, write a research proposal, and present their work in poster form. Students may only receive credit for one: [NSCI 274](#), 276, [277](#), [278](#) and [279](#). Majors only.

NSCI 326: Neuroscience Career Development, Networking & Applications in the Working World (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Robertson (001)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175

This course provides students interested in the neuroscience field an opportunity to gain valuable networking, job application and interviewing skills. Over the course of the semester students will meet with neuroscience professionals and create application packages. Students will learn from individuals in neuroscience related jobs about the diverse careers options available and strategies for navigating the job market successfully. Students will explore advances in neuroscience research and how they relate to industry, research, etc. Majors only.

PSYC 391: Pedagogy Course for Psychology & Neuroscience Undergraduate Learning Assistants (3)

Instructor: Annabel Gereau (001)

Prerequisites: Application only

This course gives an overview of teaching methods that facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and understanding as well as entails hands-on experience in the classroom. Common misconceptions of learning as well as legal and ethical considerations related to working closely with an undergraduate population will also be covered. Departmental application and approval required.

[Upper-Level Undergraduate Courses \(PSYC 400-699\)](#)**NSCI 422: Genetics of Brain Diseases (3)**

Instructor: Dr. William Snider (001)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175 or both PSYC 101 and PSYC 220

This course will explore the manifestations and causes of important neurological and psychiatric diseases. A particular focus will be the impact of advances in genetics on our understanding of these disorders. Disorders that affect large numbers of patients including Alzheimer's disease, autism, and schizophrenia will be studied in detail.

NSCI 440: Behavioral Neuroscience and Experimental Methods in Rodents (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sylvia Fitting (001)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175 or PSYC 220

This is to survey the wide variety of experimental methods used in rodent studies to assess behavioral outcomes, including memory, anxiety, depression, and drug seeking. This will be combined with readings on how changes in brain circuitry can affect behavioral outcomes, such as drugs of abuse or other disease states.

PSYC 471: The Study of Adolescent Issues and Development (3)

Instructor: Dr. Eva Telzer (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 250 and either PSYC 210 or 215

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 490: Psychotherapy: Practice and Research (3)

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Rodebaugh (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

This is a course on the treatment of psychological problems through the application of interventions grounded in psychological theory and focusing on behavior or mental processes. Students will become familiar with the more popular schools of psychotherapy, including their historical context, techniques, theoretical underpinnings, and research support.

PSYC 490: Illusions of the mind (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sami Yousif (002)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or NSCI 175

What is real, and what is merely an illusion? In this course, we will explore the mysterious realm of illusion. From space to time, and from memory to love, we'll challenge our assumptions about reality. In the process, we'll uncover what these phenomena reveal about the workings of the mind and the nature of human experience.

NSCI 490: Animal Perception (3)

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Chanon (001)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175 or PSYC 101

The course will focus on discussing and identifying how animals' "Umwelt" (perceptual experience of their environment) may differ from ours and how differences in their sensory receptors, sense organs, etc. lead to this difference in experience. NSCI 225 Recommended

NSCI 493: Internship in Neuroscience (3)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Buzinski (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and completion of application process

Required preparation, minimum of two other neuroscience courses and junior/senior standing. Designed for highly motivated neuroscience majors interested in exploring professional opportunities in neuroscience-related areas. Students complete hands-on internships at community sites for approximately 120 hours across the semester. Students also attend a weekly one-hour class with other interns. This course is only for those students who have been accepted into the Karen M. Gil Internship Program: <https://psychology.unc.edu/gil-internship/>

PSYC 493: Internship in Psychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Buzinski (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and completion of application process

Required preparation, minimum of two other psychology courses and junior/senior standing. Designed for highly motivated psychology majors interested in exploring professional opportunities in psychology-related areas. Students complete hands-on internships at community sites for approximately 120 hours across the semester. Students also attend a weekly one-hour class with other interns. This course is only for those students who have been accepted into the Karen M. Gil Internship Program: <https://psychology.unc.edu/gil-internship/>

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 505: Sports and Performance Psychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Desiree Griffin (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 242 or PSYC 245

This course examines the mental health and psychological factors that impact the performance of athletes. Furthermore, the mental health of sports fans, along with the physiological and psychological impact of being a spectator will be examined.

NSCI 507: Autism (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sara Estle (001)

Prerequisites: NSCI 175 or PSYC 101

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterized by difficulty in communication and social interaction. This course will examine scientific advancements in diagnosis, causes, and interventions for ASD. Additional topics include neurodiversity and inclusion.

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

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Bauer (001)

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

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

PSYC 534: Introduction to Computational Statistics (3)

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Gates (001)

Prerequisites: Psyc 210, SOCI 252, or STOR 155

Introduction to programming and the implementation of statistical techniques. Topics include data manipulation, graphical procedures, writing loops and functions, data simulation, use of regular expressions, and scraping data from the web.

PSYC 564: Interpersonal Relationships (3)

Instructor: Dr. Sara Algoe (001)

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

[PSYC 270](#) Recommended. This advanced course will comprehensively cover the social psychological literature on normally-developing interpersonal relationships, with implications for relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and romantic partners. This is a research-intensive course with a major aspect involving an independent research project to facilitate learning by doing.

PSYC 566: Attitude Change (3)

Instructor: Dr. Steven Buzinski (001)

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

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

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

Instructor: Dr. Paschal Sheeran (001)

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

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 575: Positive Psychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Fredrickson (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

This course examines positive psychology, also called the science of thriving. One basic premise of positive psychology is that thriving individuals and thriving communities require the presence and interplay of positive emotions, positive relationships, and positive meaning. A second basic premise is that thriving does not result simply by curing pathology and eliminating problems. Rather, thriving requires building and capitalizing on human strengths and capacities. Students will apply course concepts in their everyday lives.

PSYC 602: Evolutionary Psychology (3)

Instructor: Dr. Charlie Wiss (001)

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and either PSYC 210 or PSYC 215

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. Keely Muscatell (001)

Prerequisites: A cumulative GPA of 3.3, completion of PSYC/[NSCI 693H](#), at least one semester of PSYC/[NSCI 395](#) or the approved equivalent, and acceptance into the Psychology or Neuroscience Senior Honors Program; PSYC/[NSCI 694H](#) must be taken in the second semester of the last year of studies.

This course comprises the second semester in the two-semester sequence of Senior Honors in Psychology/Neuroscience. There are two components to the course: research that you will conduct under the direction of your faculty thesis advisor, and this class, which you will attend with the other senior honors students to learn about research-related topics and receive consultations with the instructor and your classmates. Admission to the psychology honors program required.

NSCI 694H: Honors in Neuroscience II (3)

Instructor: Dr. Charlotte Boettiger (001)

Prerequisites: A cumulative GPA of 3.3, completion of PSYC/[NSCI 693H](#), at least one semester of PSYC/[NSCI 395](#) or the approved equivalent, and acceptance into the Psychology or Neuroscience Senior Honors Program; PSYC/[NSCI 694H](#) must be taken in the second semester of the last year of studies.

This course comprises the first semester in the two-semester sequence of Senior Honors in Psychology/Neuroscience. There are two components to the course: research that you will conduct under the direction of your faculty thesis advisor, and this class, which you will attend with the other senior honors students to learn about research-related topics and receive consultations with the instructor and your classmates.