Psychological and Brain Sciences Courses (PSY)

This is a list of all psychological and brain sciences courses. For more information, see Psychological and Brain Sciences.

**PSY:1000 First-Year Seminar** 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

**PSY:1001 Elementary Psychology** 3 s.h.
Psychology as a behavioral science. GE: Social Sciences.

**PSY:1010 Your Brain Unlocked: Learning About Learning** 1 s.h.
Research about the human mind and brain that students can use to foster academic success at the UI; presentation of research findings that indicate best practices for studying, learning, and succeeding at the UI (not a remedial study skills course); topics range from retrieving information stored in memory to maintaining psychological health under stress; course format consists of lecture, student response to reading assignments, and discussion; readings are primarily original documents (journal articles).

**PSY:1501 Everyone's a Little Bit Biased: The Science Behind Prejudice** 3 s.h.
Tendencies to view and/or respond in favorable or unfavorable ways to individuals based solely on social group membership; social psychological concepts, underlying principles, and theories to understand how stereotypic beliefs, prejudicial attitudes, and discriminatory actions impact individuals and reinforce social inequality. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

**PSY:2105 Winning Hearts and Minds: Understanding Social Influence** 1 s.h.
What social psychologists have discovered about changing people's attitudes and behavior; social influence strategies including applications to fundraising, public service campaigns, religious cults, sales, and political campaigns.

**PSY:2130 Advanced Psychology for Pre-Medical Track** 3 s.h.
Psychology as a behavioral science; elementary psychology in more depth, advanced topics. Prerequisites: PSY:1001. Requirements: non-psychology major.

**PSY:2301 Introduction to Clinical Psychology** 3 s.h.
Introduction to abnormal psychology; scientist-practitioner model, training, ethics, research methods in clinical psychology; current approaches to intellectual, personality, behavioral assessment; theories, research on treatment of psychological disorders. Prerequisites: PSY:1001. GE: Social Sciences.

**PSY:2401 Introduction to Developmental Science** 3 s.h.
Current research in developmental science; prenatal development, brain development, motor and physical development, perceptual development, language development, cognitive development, aspects of socio-emotional development; emphasis on modern theoretical approaches. Prerequisites: PSY:1001. GE: Social Sciences.

**PSY:2501 Introduction to Social Psychology** 3 s.h.
Research and theories on people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in social situations; attitudes, attributions, person perception, aggression, stereotypes and prejudice, attraction, relationships, social influence, group processes, altruism. Prerequisites: PSY:1001.

**PSY:2601 Introduction to Cognitive Psychology** 3 s.h.
Individual human cognition; perception, attention, memory, language, learning, problem solving, decision making, thought considered from viewpoint of information processing. Prerequisites: PSY:1001. GE: Social Sciences.

**PSY:2701 Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience** 4 s.h.
Biological mechanisms of behavior; comparative study of behavior, behavioral organization, animal intelligence, social behavior, communication; behavioral neuroscience, how brain systems control sensation, movement, homeostasis, emotion, learning.

**PSY:2811 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I** 3 s.h.
Foundational knowledge in psychological research methods and corresponding statistical concepts; basic concepts of statistics, statistical inference, and research design as applied in psychological research; study of descriptive statistics, measurement, survey design, correlational analyses, and regression analysis; first in a sequence of two courses. Prerequisites: PSY:1001 or PSY:2701. GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning.

**PSY:2812 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology II** 3 s.h.
Foundational knowledge in psychological research methods and corresponding statistical concepts; basic concepts of statistics, statistical inference, and research design as they are applied in psychological research; study of experimental control, experimental design, and hypothesis testing; second in a sequence of two courses. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C-.

**PSY:2920 The Damaged Brain** 3 s.h.
Basic understanding of relationship between brain and behavior through examination of behavioral and cognitive consequences of brain damage from disease or trauma; foundations of neuropsychology, structure of the nervous system, functional specialization of the brain, cognitive functions, and assessments of brain disorders.

**PSY:2930 Abnormal Psychology: Health Professions** 3 s.h.
Introduction to psychological disorders; description of psychopathology; general issues in etiology and treatment; for non-psychology students in allied health professions. Prerequisites: PSY:1001. Requirements: non-psychology major.

**PSY:2975 Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience** 3 s.h.
Analysis of brain systems and neuroanatomy that underlie cognitive tasks such as vision, hearing, emotion, attention, language, decision making, learning, and memory. Prerequisites: PSY:2701.

**PSY:3005 Scientific Communication in Psychology** 3 s.h.
Training in modes of communication in psychological science; scientific writing; APA format for scientific papers; describing psychological research; creating research presentations tailored to different audiences. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C-.
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PSY:3275 The Science of Sleep 3 s.h.
What is the brain doing during sleep? Why do we and other animals exhibit an altered state of consciousness that renders us unresponsive to the outside world? These questions and many others are subjects of the rapidly growing field of sleep research, including neurobiological basis of sleep drive and biological clock, cognitive and emotional functions of sleep, significance of dreams, relationship between sleep and psychopathology, and impact of sleep on society (i.e., serendipitous discoveries and major disasters attributable to sleep). Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3320 Abnormal Psychology 3 s.h.
Etiology, phenomenology, and treatment of child and adult DSM-IV psychological disorders (e.g., mood disorders, psychotic disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders). Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3330 Childhood Psychopathology 3 s.h.
Major forms of childhood psychopathology; current theoretical approaches and methodological issues in diagnosis, conceptualization, treatment of developmental psychopathology. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3340 Behavior Modification 3 s.h.
Basic approaches to modification of clinically distressing behavior; learning theory principles underlying techniques, translation into procedures, experimental evaluation of effectiveness. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3350 Psychotherapies 3 s.h.
Current theories and research on frequently used psychotherapeutic approaches; focus on methodology in psychotherapy research, specific types of therapy, and empirically supported therapies. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3420 Cognitive Development of Children 3 s.h.
Developmental research, theory concerning children’s concepts, thinking, problem solving, memory, communication. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and PSY:2401 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3460 Language and Communication Development 3 s.h.
Vocal and social development from prelinguistic communication through early language; precursors of language development; social cognitive aspects of language development; comparative perspectives of communication development. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2401 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3530 Personality 3 s.h.
Classic theoretical models and contemporary empirical research in personality, including influence of heredity and environment, consistency and stability of behavior. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3540 Attitude Change 3 s.h.
Current theoretical approaches; laboratory and field methods of research; basic processes of change considered within broader framework of psychology. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3560 Psychology of Gender 3 s.h.
Origins of gender roles, gender socialization in childhood, gender differences across lifespan; research on gender differences in cognition, emotions, behavior, physical and mental disorders, communication. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3570 Social Cognition 3 s.h.
Research and theory on cognitive structures and processes that underlie judgment, decision, belief, and behavior in social situations; attribution, heuristics, schemas, person perception, stereotypes, attitudes. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3575 Social Cognition in Autism 3 s.h.
Introduction to social, cognitive, and neural mechanisms in autism spectrum disorder (ASD); topics include emotion processing, theory of mind, social attention, main theories of autism, and relevant research techniques (e.g., eye tracking); discussion of insights from neuroscience, as well as approaches to train/improve social cognition in ASD. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and (PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3580 Judgment and Decision Making 3 s.h.
Processes and biases that shape judgments and decisions of various types (e.g., about other people, the future, competitions, products, medical treatments, health risks, crime suspects). Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3590 Stereotyping and Prejudice 3 s.h.
Research and theory on prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination, and stigmatization; focus on nature, origins, and impact of prejudice and stereotypes. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3595 Psychology of Negotiation 3 s.h.
Distributive and integrative bargaining; cognitive, motivational, and emotional processes that inhibit or facilitate effectiveness in negotiating; team and multiparty negotiations; agency and ethics; complex disputes; and cross-cultural issues. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3620 Human Memory 3 s.h.
Contemporary psychological theory and research on short-term and long-term memory, acquisition processes, related topics in cognition. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-.
PSY:3670 Language Processes 3 s.h.
Psychological processes involved in using languages, including speech perception and production, the meaning of words, understanding and producing sentences, and basics of discourse and pragmatics; developmental and neural bases of language processes. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C- or CSD:1015 or LING:3001. Same as LING:3670.

PSY:3680 Introduction to Computational Cognitive Modeling 3 s.h.
Introduction to computational modeling as a methodology for studying cognition; role and use of computational models as a framework for thinking about cognition; emphasis on hands-on simulation exercises. Prerequisites: (PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (CS:1020 with a minimum grade of C- or CS:1110 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-) or (STAT:1020 and (CS:1020 with a minimum grade of C- or CS:1110 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3994 Research Practicum in Psychology arr.
Small-group participation in faculty research projects; literature review, study planning, data collection, analysis, interpretation, write-up.

PSY:3995 Advanced Research Practicum 1-3 s.h.
Individual participation in faculty research projects; significant reading and writing. Requirements: two semesters of PSY:3994 or HONR:3994.

PSY:3996 External Practicum in Psychology 1-3 s.h.
Student participation in career-related professional activities in community and University of Iowa agencies.

PSY:3997 Teaching/Advising Practicum in Psychology 1-3 s.h.
Participation in faculty teaching as undergraduate teaching assistant or the Psychology Peer Advisor Program.

PSY:3998 Individual Readings and Projects 1-3 s.h.
Requirements: psychology major and undergraduate standing.

PSY:3999 Independent Research in Neuroscience 2-3 s.h.
Independent scientific research related to the field of neuroscience. Same as BIOL:3999.

PSY:4020 Laboratory in Psychology 4 s.h.
Laboratory study of an aspect of behavior; topics in a particular area (e.g., learning and memory, perception, social behavior, operant behavior, physiological processes). Prerequisites: PSY:2701 and (PSY:2812 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:4025 Laboratory in Cognitive Neuroscience 4 s.h.
Practical, hands-on experience analyzing data from three of the most common methods of cognitive neuroscience—scalp electroencephalography (brain waves), functional magnetic resonance imaging (brain imaging), and transcranial magnetic stimulation (brain stimulation). Prerequisites: PSY:2975 and PSY:2812. Requirements: neuroscience major.

PSY:4090 Psychology Seminar 3 s.h.
Readings from original sources, presentations, papers, student participation. Prerequisites: PSY:2812 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2810 with a minimum grade of C-. Requirements: junior or senior standing.

PSY:4990 Honors Thesis Research 1-3 s.h.
Supervised original project; leads to written thesis, oral defense. Requirements: honors standing.

PSY:4995 Honors Research in Neuroscience arr.
Independent scientific research related to the field of neuroscience. Requirements: honors standing in neuroscience, UI g.p.a. of at least 3.33, and neuroscience g.p.a. of at least 3.33. Same as BIOL:4995.

PSY:5050 Quantitative Methods in Psychology 4 s.h.
Overview of statistical methods based on the general linear model, including ANOVA, ANCOVA, and multiple regression; how to conduct these analyses using SPSS. Requirements: first-year graduate standing in psychology.

PSY:5055 Mixed-Effects Modeling in Psychology 4 s.h.
Introduction to mixed-effects analysis of hierarchically structured and cross-classified psychological data using R. Prerequisites: PSY:5050.

PSY:5070 Programming for Psychologists 3 s.h.
Basics of programming; experiment design, stimulus delivery and response recording using Python; implementation of online testing using JavaScript; data analysis of behavioral data using Python; basic machine learning techniques and their applications to data analysis implemented using Python. Requirements: PSY:2812 or graduate standing.

PSY:5080 Foundations in Cognitive Neuroscience 4 s.h.
Key concepts and findings in human cognitive neuroscience.

PSY:5203 Fundamental Neurobiology I 3 s.h.
Neurobiology from molecular/cellular to systems levels, including cell biology of the neuron; membrane electrophysiology; synaptic transmission and plasticity, functional neuroanatomy, sensory, motor and autonomic systems; emotion, memory, sleep, language, attention and cognition, neuronal development; focus on systems and developmental neurobiology; first in a two-semester sequence. Same as BIOL:5653, NSCI:5653.

PSY:5204 Fundamental Neurobiology I Discussion 1 s.h.
Discussion of selected papers, including classics from neurobiology literature; coordinated with BIOL:5653 lecture material. Same as BIOL:5658, NSCI:5658.

PSY:5212 Foundations in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience 4 s.h.
Concepts, methods, and findings in behavioral and cognitive neurosciences. Prerequisites: BIOL:3253. Same as NSCI:5212.

PSY:5320 Descriptive Psychopathology 3 s.h.
Psychiatric syndromes, including description, etiology, experimental and clinical research; development, function of classification systems.

PSY:5330 Principles of Psychological Assessment 3 s.h.
Assessment theory and basic psychometric principles in test construction, evaluation, application; ethical, social, psychological, and psychometric issues and controversies in assessment.

PSY:5365 Seminar: Neuropsychology and Neuroscience arr.
Clinical neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience: cutting-edge research from scientific journals, case presentations in clinical neuropsychology, and current research. Same as NEUR:5365, NSCI:5365.

PSY:5410 Proseminar in Developmental Science 3 s.h.
Introduction to developmental process and developmental science; topics organized around mechanisms of development, with cross-disciplinary focus.

PSY:5610 Proseminar in Cognition and Perception 3 s.h.
Broad overview of study of cognition, including cognitive psychology, computer science and artificial intelligence, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy of mind.
PSY:5710 Introduction to Health and Behavioral Science 3 s.h.
Evolution of health psychology; survey of major physiological systems in which pathology is affected by behavioral processes; review of theoretical approaches, experimental paradigms from behavioral science as they may apply to assessment of health problems; prevention, intervention, psychological adaptation to physical disease.

PSY:6101 Cognitive Science of Language Proseminar I 3 s.h.
Survey of five major disciplines within language sciences: formal linguistic, communication disorders, psychological, neuroscience, and computational approaches. Requirements: graduate standing in communication sciences and disorders, linguistics, psychology, or neuroscience. Same as CSD:6101, LING:6101.

PSY:6102 Cognitive Science of Language Proseminar II 3 s.h.
Survey of five major disciplines within language sciences: formal linguistic, communication disorders, psychological, neuroscience, and computational approaches. Requirements: graduate standing in communication sciences and disorders, linguistics, psychology, or neuroscience. Same as CSD:6102, LING:6102.

PSY:6210 Behavioral Pharmacology 3 s.h.
Behavioral analysis of drug action; emphasis on physiological and biological mechanisms underlying behavioral processes in experimental animals, humans.

PSY:6230 Foundations of Learning, Memory, and Cognition 3 s.h.
Determinants of adaptive behavior in humans and animals; emphasis on behavioral analysis of learning, memory, and cognition; relevance of laboratory research to real life activities.

PSY:6265 Neuroscience Seminar 0-1 s.h.
Research presentations. Same as ACB:6265, BIOL:6265, MPB:6265, NSCI:6265.

PSY:6280 Structural and Functional MRI Methods and Application 3 s.h.
Introduction to basic principles of magnetic resonance imaging and its application to psychology; imaging of brain structure; focus on functional MRI. Requirements: graduate-level introductory statistics.

PSY:6340 Psychological Therapies 3 s.h.
Historical development and current status of empirically based therapies for psychological disorders, including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, childhood disorders; emphasis on critical evaluation of therapy techniques.

PSY:6370 Principles of Neuropsychology 3 s.h.
Principles of human neuropsychology, including foundations (history, methods, approaches), major functional systems (vision, memory, language, spatial processing), executive functions (emotional processing and personality), and applications (experimental, clinical). Recommendations: prior coursework in psychological assessment, psychopathology, and neuroanatomy.

PSY:6440 Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience 3 s.h.
Overview of current developmental cognitive neuroscience theory, research, and methods (PET, fMRI, optical imaging, EEG, ERPs); neural development, computational neuroscience, and methods.

PSY:6460 Translating Developmental Science to Applied Problems 3 s.h.
Relationship between basic and applied research in development; individual differences work and how applied work informs theory.

PSY:6480 Computational Approaches to Development 3 s.h.
Use of computational models to understand development; model development, specific approaches, model evaluation, and hands-on model work.

PSY:6580 Moral Psychology 3 s.h.
Research and theory on cognitive and affective processes that underpin moral judgment and moral behavior; neuroscience approaches to moral judgment; political differences in moral judgment; development, evolution, and clinical variation in morality.

PSY:6590 Judgment and Decision Making 3 s.h.
Theory and research on how people gather, perceive, and use information when making judgments and decisions; includes risky and uncertain contexts; social and nonsocial contexts.

PSY:7010 Professional Writing in Psychological and Brain Sciences 2 s.h.
Development of writing skills for research papers, fellowship applications, and grant proposals; workshop.

PSY:7070 Seminar: Behavioral Biomedical Interface 1 s.h.
Ongoing seminar; discussion of research at behavioral-biomedical interface. Requirements: acceptance to Behavioral Biomedical Interface Training Program.

PSY:7110 Research Projects arr.
PSY:7120 M.A. Thesis Research arr.
PSY:7150 Current Topics in Psychology 3 s.h.
PSY:7160 Problems in Psychology arr.
Individual study.

PSY:7170 Teaching Practicum arr.
Supervised practice in teaching.

PSY:7210 Seminar: Advanced Topics in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience 3 s.h.
Training in responsible conduct of research; student/mentor responsibilities; authorship and reviewing; plagiarism/falsehood/fabrication of data; intellectual property; conflict of interest; fiscal, institutional, societal; treatment of human and animal subjects; data handling. Requirements: enrollment in graduate psychology or biology program. Same as BIOL:7270.

PSY:7310 Seminar: Orientation to Clinical Research 0-1 s.h.
Issues in clinical research, including use of databases, advisor/advisee relationships, preparation of IRB proposals, paper presentation and publication, common early career problems, funding resources.

PSY:7330 Seminar: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy 1 s.h.
Core processes of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT); case conceptualization and targeted intervention across a range of psychiatric and physical diagnoses; emphasis on therapeutic stance and theoretical underpinnings of ACT; readings, discussion, video review, therapist-patient role play, and discussion of ongoing cases.
PSY:7331 Seminar: Advanced Acceptance and Commitment Therapy 1 s.h.
Core processes of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and implementation in clinical practice; theoretical underpinnings of ACT theory; ACT research; case conceptualization and targeted intervention across a range of psychiatric and physical diagnoses; reading, discussion, video review, therapist-patient role play, and discussion of ongoing cases. Prerequisites: PSY:7330.

PSY:7350 Introductory Practicum arr.
Orientation to Department of Psychology clinic, including instruction in interviewing, observation of clinic procedures, attendance at clinic rounds under supervision of clinical psychology faculty members.

PSY:7355 Assessment Practicum arr.
Supervised practice in psychological assessment techniques.

PSY:7360 Therapy Practicum arr.
Supervised practice and clinical experience in application and evaluation of psychological therapies.

PSY:7365 External Practicum arr.
Supervised practice and clinical experience in field setting; psychological assessment techniques and/or application, evaluation of psychological therapies.

PSY:7370 Supervision and Consultation Practicum arr.
Supervision and training of less advanced students; consultation to other programs and agencies.

PSY:7430 Seminar: Cognitive Development 0-3 s.h.
Theoretical, methodological issues focused on cognitive and perceptual development.

PSY:7604 Principles of Scholarly Integrity 0 s.h.
Training in responsible conduct of research and scholarly activities; student/mentor responsibilities; authorship; plagiarism/falsification/fabrication of data; intellectual property; conflict of interest; fiscal, institutional, societal; treatment of human and animal subjects; data handling. Requirements: postdoctoral standing in psychology or biology. Same as BIOL:7604.

PSY:7610 Seminar: Cognitive Psychology 2-3 s.h.

PSY:7620 Seminar: Human Perception and Performance 1 s.h.
Professional issues and current topics relevant to psychologists studying human perception and performance.