Psychological and Brain Sciences Courses (PSY)

PSY Courses

This is a list of courses with the subject code PSY. For more information, see Psychological and Brain Sciences (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the catalog.

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: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: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-.

PSY:3010 Health Psychology 3 s.h.
Psychological contributions to understanding etiology, prevention, treatment of physical illness; basic and clinical research that addresses reciprocal effects of behavior and physical health. 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- or PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3020 Mind and Behavior 3 s.h.
Theories of what it is to act and know, of what intelligence might be in animals, humans, machines; perspectives from philosophy, psychology. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-). Requirements: junior or senior standing.

PSY:3025 Science of Addiction 3 s.h.
Biological, psychological, social, cognitive, and cultural bases of addiction; models for defining addiction; evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions; historical perspectives on substance use and misuse. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3030 Social and Personality Development 3 s.h.
Emotional, social, and personality development from infancy to adolescence; major theories and empirical research; child temperament, parent-child relationship, and social context as contributors to individual differences. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2401 with a minimum grade of C-).
PSY:3035 Science of Emotion 3 s.h.  
Scientific study of emotion from psychological and neuroscientific perspectives; theories, measurements, and mechanisms (e.g., physiological, psychological, neural); perception, expression, and function of emotion. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3040 Psychology of Learning 3 s.h.  
Psychological science of acquired behavior; interests in experimental study of Pavlovian conditioning, operant conditioning, cognition in humans and nonhuman animals, relevance to behavioral adaptation. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3050 Applied Psychology: Addressing Real-World Problems 3 s.h.  
Bringing the basic applied research divide in psychology; contributions of cognitive, clinical, social, and developmental psychology to understand real-world problems (e.g., traffic safety, screen time). Prerequisites: PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2401 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3055 Interdisciplinary Science of Sound and Hearing 3 s.h.  
Introduction to physics of sound, biology/psychology of hearing, and audio technology; theories and experimental methods; music, speech, and environmental sounds. Same as CSD:3119, MUS:3055.

PSY:3060 Sensation and Perception 3 s.h.  
Principles of sensory processes in vision, audition, and other modalities; perception of objects and events.

PSY:3066 Aging Mind and Brain 3 s.h.  
Current theories and research on cognitive, affective, socioemotional, and decision-making changes that occur during aging; behavioral, cognitive, and cognitive neuroscience methodologies applied to study of aging in these domains; lifespan perspective with emphasis on decline and adaptation. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and (PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-).

PSY:3075 The Damaged Brain 3 s.h.  
Understanding relationships between brain structure and function with emphasis on how brain trauma and illnesses affect cognition and behavior; foundations of neuropsychology, structure of nervous system, functional specialization of brain, cognitive functions, and assessments of brain disorders. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3190 Psycholinguistic Aspects of Bilingualism 3-4 s.h.  
Interaction of two languages in a bilingual in terms of sound system, words, and grammar; different meanings of bilingualism, how bilingualism and multilingualism can change across lifespan. Taught in English. Requirements: linguistics or language acquisition course. Same as LING:3190.

PSY:3230 Psychopharmacology 3 s.h.  
How drugs act to influence behavior; general principles of drug action on the nervous system; licit and illicit drugs, use/abuse, historical perspective on drug use. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- or HHP:1300 with a minimum grade of C- or HHP:1350 with a minimum grade of C- or HHP:3500 with a minimum grade of C- or HHP:3550 with a minimum grade of C-). Same as HHP:3230.

PSY:3250 Neuroscience of Learning and Memory 3 s.h.  
Major topics in the neuroscience of learning and memory; focus on anatomical, cellular, molecular bases of various learning and memory processes. Prerequisites: (PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C- or BIOL:2753 with a minimum grade of C-) and PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3265 Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience of Executive Functions 3 s.h.  
Major topics in cognitive and clinical neuroscience of executive functions; focus on attention, working memory, cognitive control, and executive dysfunction in psychiatric and neurological disorders. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C- and PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3270 Neurobiology of Stress 3 s.h.  
Introduction to concept of stress and physiological systems involved; factors modulating stress vulnerability versus resilience; stress interactions with other systems with health relevance; emphasis on current research on brain mechanisms. Prerequisites: PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C- and PSY:2811 with a minimum grade of C-.

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- and PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3320 Psychopathology 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). Formerly titled Abnormal Psychology. Prerequisites: PSY:2811 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- 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- and PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C-.

PSY:3360 The Psychosis Spectrum 3 s.h.  
Severe mental illnesses including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression with psychotic features; neurobiological basis for hallucinations, delusions, and impaired cognition; current genetic, neuroscience, clinical, cultural, and evolutionary perspectives on causes, course, and treatment of severe mental illness. Prerequisites: PSY:2301 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2701 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-.
### Psychological and Brain Sciences Courses (PSY)

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<td>PSY:4035</td>
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<td>PSY:5050</td>
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<td>PSY:5070</td>
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**Course Descriptions**

- **PSY:3460 Language and Communication Development**: 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- and PSY:2401 with a minimum grade of C-.

- **PSY:3530 Personality**: 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:3560 Psychology of Gender**: 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- and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

- **PSY:3570 Social Cognition**: 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- and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

- **PSY:3575 Social Cognition in Autism**: 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- and (PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C- or PSY:2701 with a minimum grade of C-).

- **PSY:3580 Judgment and Decision Making**: 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- and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

- **PSY:3590 Stereotyping and Prejudice**: 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- and PSY:2501 with a minimum grade of C-.

- **PSY:3620 Human Memory**: 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- and PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-.

- **PSY:3670 Language Processes**: 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- and PSY:2601 with a minimum grade of C-) or CSD:1015 or LING:3001. Same as LING:3670.

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

- **PSY:3995 Advanced Research Practicum**: 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**: Student participation in career-related professional activities in community and University of Iowa agencies.

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

- **PSY:3998 Individual Readings and Projects**: Requirements: psychology major and undergraduate standing.

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

- **PSY:4020 Laboratory in Psychology**: 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-.

- **PSY:4025 Laboratory in Cognitive Neuroscience**: 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:4035 Laboratory in Computational Neuroscience**: How neuroscience and computer science benefit each other; classic findings in computational neuroscience; basics of neural networks and machine learning techniques; modification of computer programs of neural networks to model cognitive processes; application of machine learning algorithms to analysis of neural data; interpretation of findings in computational neuroscience. Prerequisites: PSY:2812. Requirements: linear algebra course. Recommendations: programming skills.

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


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

- **PSY:5050 Quantitative Methods in Psychology**: 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:5070 Programming for Psychologists**: 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.
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<td>PSY:5212</td>
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<td>Seminar: Neuropsychology and Neuroscience</td>
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PSY:7050 Special Topics in Psychology: Social Bases of Behavior 2 s.h.
Directed readings on social bases of behavior. Requirements: graduate standing in psychology.

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:7130 PhD Dissertation 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.

PSY:7270 Principles of Scholarly Integrity 1 s.h.
Training in responsible conduct of research; student/mentor responsibilities; authorship and reviewing; plagiarism/falsification/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.