PSYCHOLOGY
(Div II, with some exceptions as noted in course descriptions)

Chair: Professor Steven Fein


On leave Fall/Spring: Assistant Professor J. Cone. Assistant Professor L. Smalarz.
On leave Fall only: Professor Betty Zimmerberg.
On leave Spring only: Professor K. Savitsky. Associate Professor C. Stroud.

MAJOR
For the degree in Psychology, students must complete a minimum of nine courses as outlined below:

PSYC 101 Introductory Psychology
PSYC 201 Experimentation and Statistics

Three 200-level courses from the list below:
COGS/PHIL/PSYC 222 Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science
NSCI 201/BIOL 212/PSYC 212 Neuroscience
PSYC 221 Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 232 Developmental Psychology
PSYC 242 Social Psychology
PSYC 252 Psychological Disorders
PSYC 272 Psychology of Education

Either PSYC 221 or 222, but not both, can count towards the three required 200-level courses.

Three 300-level courses from at least two of the areas listed below:
Area 1: Behavioral Neuroscience (courses with middle digit 1)
Area 2: Cognitive Psychology (courses with middle digit 2)
Area 3: Developmental Psychology (courses with middle digit 3)
Area 4: Social Psychology (courses with middle digit 4)
Area 5: Clinical Psychology (courses with middle digit 5)
Area 6: Other/Interdisciplinary Psychology (courses with middle digit 6)
Area 7: Educational Psychology (courses with middle digit 7)

At least one of these courses must be from among those carrying the format designation Empirical Lab Course.
PSYC 401 Perspectives on Psychological Issues

Students who place out of Psychology 101 are still required to take nine courses to complete the major.
The department recommends that students take Psychology 201 in their sophomore year. The department requires that 201 be completed by the end of the junior year.

COURSE NUMBERING RATIONALE
As is the case in all departments, the first digit of a Psychology course number indicates the relative level of the course. Where appropriate, the second digit corresponds to the Areas listed above.
THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Students who are candidates for honors need to take only two 300-level courses from two different areas, but they must enroll in Psychology 493-W31-494 and write a thesis based on original empirical work. Presentation of a thesis, however, should not be interpreted as a guarantee of a degree with honors. Guidelines for pursuing the degree with honors are available from the department.

STUDY ABROAD

With some advance planning, studying abroad (especially for one semester) can easily be worked into the psychology major. To facilitate this, we recommend that students:

- Meet with the Study Abroad advisor as soon as they decide that they are interested in studying abroad.
- Take PSYC 201 (Experimentation and Statistics) in the sophomore year.

Think ahead to the 300-level courses they are interested in taking so that they can fulfill the 200-level prerequisites before they go away or, if possible, while they are away. In our experience, study abroad programs in the following places are most likely to offer psychology courses: England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Scandinavia. Students should procure the descriptions of the psychology courses they are considering taking and bring them to their meeting with the advisor.

There are some costs to studying away, particularly for the year. This limits students’ opportunity to choose the particular 300-level courses they would like to take and they must sometimes settle for those that are open, those which happen to be offered, or those for which they have the prerequisites, once they return in their senior year. Many students who are keen on psychology begin doing research with professors during their junior year, and for some this leads to an honors thesis in the senior year, summer research, etc. If you are going away for the entire year and do not make such connections with a professor ahead of time (i.e., before you go), you may lose out on some of these opportunities to deepen your involvement in the major on campus. On the other hand, studying abroad can be an invaluable learning experience, so you need to think carefully, in consultation with your advisor and/or the Study Abroad advisor, about the costs and benefits of it. Very occasionally, a student who just begins taking psychology courses late in the sophomore year and wishes to go abroad for the year finds that they are not able to do both, or is restricted in the choice of study-abroad programs.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes, in some cases, if appropriate course information is available in advance (e.g., syllabi and/or course descriptions), though students should be sure to contact the department.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, complete syllabus, including readings/assignments, and exams or other written work. In addition, the course content cannot overlap substantially with material already taken at Williams.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

No.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Yes. Students are required to take at least one empirical project course (which includes a lab component and data collection). This must be completed at Williams.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes. The empirical project course must be completed here (see answer to previous question above). Other major requirements that must be completed here are the Senior Seminar (PSYC 401) and our Statistics and Experimentation course (PSYC 201). On very rare occasions students have been given credit for PSYC 201 taken elsewhere, but this is extremely unlikely. Most institutions break the material up into two different courses, or don’t include all of the components that we feel are an important foundation for the major.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

Yes. Students should be sure that have taken PSYC 201 PRIOR to their senior year at the latest. It is best to take it during sophomore year whenever possible.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:
There have been instances.

**PSYC 101 (F) Introductory Psychology**

An introduction to the major subfields of psychology: behavioral neuroscience, cognitive, developmental, social, and psychological disorders and treatment. The course aims to acquaint students with the major methods, theoretical points of view, and findings of each subfield. Important concepts are exemplified by a study of selected topics and issues within each of these areas.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two lab reports, unit quizzes, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 160

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** NSCI Required Courses; TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Amie A. Hane, Clarence J. Gillig

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Noah J. Sandstrom, Clarence J. Gillig

**PSYC 127 (F) The Psychology of Success (WI)**

This course will examine the psychology of success from a scientific perspective. After considering what success means, we will examine two broad influences on success: personality (e.g., intelligence, grit, and mental illness) and environment (e.g., schooling, parenting, and practice). Other topics will include how discrimination affects success, cross-cultural differences in how children are cared for, and the self-help industry.

**Class Format:** tutorial

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on written work and discussion of that work. A five page paper will be due every other week

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** highest priority will be given to incoming first-years followed by rising sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributions:** (D2) (WI)

*Not offered current academic year*

**PSYC 161 (F) Nonviolence and Positive Psychology**

In this course we will explore the theory and practice of nonviolence in the context of research in Positive Psychology. Nonviolence means choosing not to threaten or injure others, and its practice requires cultivating personal qualities that enable such a choice. Positive Psychology refers to the scientific study of those qualities that enable people to live happy and fulfilling lives. We will begin by studying the history and moral theories of nonviolence. We will then evaluate the claims of those theories regarding the positive effects of nonviolence by discussing research on psychological benefits to the practitioner, attitude change in the adversary, and effects on the larger community. Topics will include self-control, empathy, forgiveness, tolerance, aggression, resisting violent assault, civil disobedience, and courage. Along the way we will introduce basic concepts in research design and interpretation of data to help us evaluate the research with a critical eye. This course is a part of a joint program between Williams’ Center for Learning in Action and the Berkshire County Jail, in Pittsfield, MA. The class will be composed equally of nine Williams students and nine inmates. An important goal of the course is to encourage students from different backgrounds to think together about issues of common human concern. Classes will be held at the jail, with transportation provided by the college. * Please note the atypical class hours, Tuesday, 4:45-8:30
Fall 2018
SEM Section: 01    T 4:45 pm - 8:30 pm    Kris N. Kirby

PSYC 201 (F)  Experimentation and Statistics  (QFR)
An introduction to the basic principles of research in psychology. We focus on how to design and execute experiments, analyze and interpret results, and write research reports. Students conduct a series of research studies in different areas of psychology that illustrate basic designs and methods of analysis.
Class Format: lecture/lab
Requirements/Evaluation: papers, exams, and problem sets
Extra Info: two sections; must register for the lab and lecture with the same instructor
Extra Info 2: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: PSYC 101; not open to first-year students except with permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 22
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors
Distributions: (D2) (QFR)
Attributes: COGS Related Courses; PHLH Statistics Courses;

Fall 2018
LEC Section: A1    TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am    Kenneth K. Savitsky
LAB Section: A2    W 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Kenneth K. Savitsky
LEC Section: B1    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm    Catherine B. Stroud
LAB Section: B2    T 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Catherine B. Stroud

Spring 2019
LEC Section: A1    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Safa R. Zaki
LAB Section: A2    W 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Safa R. Zaki
LEC Section: B1    MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Kris N. Kirby
LAB Section: B2    W 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Kris N. Kirby

PSYC 212 (F)  Neuroscience
Crosslistings: PSYC212 / BIOL212 / NSCI201
Secondary Crosslisting
A study of the relationship between brain, mind, and behavior. Topics include a survey of the structure and function of the nervous system, basic neurophysiology, development, learning and memory, sensory and motor systems, consciousness and clinical disorders such as schizophrenia,
autism, Parkinson's disease, and addiction. The laboratory focuses on current topics in neuroscience.

**Class Format:** lecture, three hours a week; laboratory, every other week

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on a lab practical, lab reports, two hour exams and a final exam

**Extra Info:** not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 101 or BIOL 101; open to first-year students only with permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 72

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomores and Biology and Psychology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 72

**Department Notes:** does not satisfy the distribution requirement in the Biology major

**Distributions:** (D3)

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 3 requirement if registration is under PSYC

**Attributes:** COGS Interdepartmental Electives; NSCI Required Courses; PSYC 200-level Courses

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**Fall 2018**

LEC Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am    Heather Williams, Matthew M. Clasen

LAB Section: 02    M 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Martha J. Marvin

LAB Section: 03    T 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Martha J. Marvin

LAB Section: 04    W 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm    Martha J. Marvin

**PSYC 221 (F) Cognitive Psychology**

This course will survey the experimental study of the structures and processes that make up normal human cognition. Topics include perception, attention, learning, memory, categorization, language, judgment, decision making, reasoning, and problem solving.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two midterms and a final exam (Fall); two midterms, a final exam, short essays and weekly quizzes (Spring)

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 101 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 50

**Enrollment Preferences:** Psychology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 50

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** COGS Interdepartmental Electives; PSYC 200-level Courses

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**Fall 2018**

LEC Section: 01    TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am    Kris N. Kirby

**Spring 2019**

LEC Section: 01    MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am    Nate Kornell

**PSYC 222 (F) Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science**

**Crosslistings:** PHIL222 / COGS222 / PSYC222

**Secondary Crosslisting**

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** midterm and final exams, and self-paced weekly exercises
Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any introduction to PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-year and sophomore students

Expected Class Size: 25

Department Notes: meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics; PHIL Contemp Metaphysics & Epistemology Courses; PSYC 200-level Courses

Not offered current academic year

PSYC 232 (F) Developmental Psychology
An introduction to the study of human growth and development from conception through emerging adulthood. Topics for discussion include prenatal and infant development, perceptual and motor development, language acquisition, cognitive development, and social and emotional development. These topics form the basis for a discussion of the major theories of human development, including those about early experience, neural plasticity, dynamic systems, information processing, social learning, attachment, and family systems.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and active class participation, 3 exams (2 midterms and final), and regular writing assignments

Prerequisites: PSYC 101

Enrollment Limit: 50

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores and junior Psychology majors

Expected Class Size: 50

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: PSYC 200-level Courses; TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm    Amie A. Hane

PSYC 242 (F) Social Psychology
A survey of theory and research in social psychology. Topics include the self, social perception, conformity, attitudes and attitude change, prejudice, aggression, altruism, attraction and love, intergroup conflict, and cultural psychology. Applications in the areas of advertising, law, business, and health will also be discussed.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: two in-class exams, one paper and a final exam

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 50

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: PSYC 200-level Courses; TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm    Amanda N. Bergold, Steven Fein

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm    Amanda N. Bergold

PSYC 252 (F) Psychological Disorders
A study of the phenomenology, etiology, and treatment of the major forms of psychological disorders: the schizophrenias, dissociative disorders, affective disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, eating disorders, addictions, alcoholism, and others. The course emphasizes an integrative approach which incorporates and analyzes theories and research from psychological, biological, interpersonal, and sociocultural perspectives.

**Class Format:** lecture

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two in class exams and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 101; open to first-year students

**Enrollment Limit:** 50

**Enrollment Preferences:** Psychology majors, then sophomores, then by seniority

**Expected Class Size:** 50

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSYC 200-level Courses

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**PSYC 258 (S) Language and Literacy Development**

**Crosslistings:** PSYC258 / JAPN258

**Secondary Crosslisting**

Language is uniquely a human function and fundamental to one's participation in society. Children learn to talk in the first three years of life at an impressive speed. However, in order to successfully participate in academic and social life, it is critical for one to develop literacy skills. Learning to read is a multifaceted process that involves various cognitive resources. This course is an introduction to language development and literacy acquisition in first language and in a cross-linguistic environment including Japanese, Chinese and English. Linguistic concepts such as phonology, syntax and morphology will be introduced as we discuss the acquisition processes. Questions to be addressed include: How does a child develop oral language from birth? How does a child learn the meaning of words? How is learning to talk and read similar or different across various languages? How is learning to read different from learning to speak? How “natural” is it to learn to read?

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active participation in the class discussion, weekly reaction paper, quiz, final paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** Japanese, Chinese, Asian Studies, and Psychology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Department Notes:** Psychology majors, this course counts as a 200-level elective in psychology but does not count as one of the three 200-level courses for the major; for Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese majors, this course counts as a comparative requirement course

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under JAPN; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under PSYC

**Attributes:** Linguistics

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**PSYC 272 (S) Psychology of Education**

This course introduces students to a broad range of theories and research on education. What can developmental research tell us about how children learn? What models of teaching work best, and for what purposes? How do we measure the success of various education practices? What is the best
way to describe the psychological processes by which children gain information and expertise? What accounts for individual differences in learning, and how do teachers (and schools) address these individual needs? How do social and economic factors shape teaching practices and the educational experiences of individual students? The course will draw from a wide range of literature (research, theory, and first hand accounts) to consider key questions in the psychology of education. Upon completion of the course, students should be familiar with central issues in pre-college education and know how educational research and the practice of teaching affect one another.

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two exams and a final project

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 101

**Enrollment Limit:** 50

**Enrollment Preferences:** Psychology majors and those who plan to become teachers

**Expected Class Size:** 50

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSYC 200-level Courses; TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses

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**PSYC 314 (S) Drug Addiction and Obesity: Tales of a Disordered Brain**

Crosslistings: NSCI314 / PSYC314

**Primary Crosslisting**

Drug addiction and obesity are two of the biggest health problems facing our world today. Although obesity and drug addiction are two qualitatively different disorders, recent literature suggests that they share similar neural substrates. The first third of this class will discuss the behavioral and neural underpinnings of drug addiction, the second third of this class will discuss the behavioral and neural underpinnings of obesity, and the last third of the class will discuss their interaction in many different facets. In so doing, students will learn about the animal models used to study drug addiction and obesity (i.e., intravenous self-administration, intracranial self-stimulation, conditioned place preference, conditioned taste avoidance, and locomotor sensitization) and the neurobiological techniques used to understand their underlying mechanisms (i.e., DREADDs, optogenetics, and immunohistochemistry). Utilizing these tools, students will design and conduct an empirical laboratory experiment to study these dysregulated behaviors.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** presentations and participation in discussions; written assignments; weekly lab meetings will be held and empirical projects presented in a final poster session

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 212 (same as BIOL 212 or NSCI 201)

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** Psychology majors and Neuroscience concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** NSCI Group B Electives; PSYC Area 1 - Behavioral Neuroscience; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

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**PSYC 315 (F) Hormones and Behavior**

Crosslistings: NSCI315 / PSYC315

**Spring 2019**

**LEC Section:** 01   TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm   Susan L. Engel

**LAB Section:** 02   R 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm   Matthew M. Clasen
Primary Crosslisting

In all animals, hormones are essential for the coordination of basic functions such as development and reproduction. This course studies the dynamic relationship between hormones and behavior. We will review the mechanisms by which hormones act in the nervous system. We will also investigate the complex interactions between hormones and behavior. Specific topics to be examined include: sexual differentiation; reproductive and parental behaviors; stress; aggression; and learning and memory. Students will critically review data from both human and animal studies. All students will design and conduct an empirical research project as part of a small research team.

Class Format: empirical lab course

Requirements/Evaluation: presentations and participation in discussions, short papers, midterm, written and oral presentation of the research project

Prerequisites: PSYC 212 (same as BIOL 212 or NSCI 201)

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and Neuroscience concentrators

Expected Class Size: 16

Distributions: (D3)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 3 requirement if registration is under PSYC

Attributes: NSCI Group B Electives; PSYC Area 1 - Behavioral Neuroscience; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

Fall 2018

LEC Section: 01  MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Noah J. Sandstrom
LAB Section: 02  T 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  Noah J. Sandstrom

PSYC 317 (S) Nature via Nurture: Topics in Developmental Psychobiology

Crosslistings: PSYC317 / NSCI317

Primary Crosslisting

Do your genes determine who you are? This course examines the relative contributions of nature (genetics) and nurture (the environment) that lead to individual differences in behavior. Modern neuroscience techniques have discovered new relationships between genes and behavior. Conversely, recent studies on the effects of social factors suggest critical environmental influences on the expression of these genetic determinants. This tutorial will explore the theoretical and empirical issues in animal models of behavioral epigenetics. Topics include child neglect, antisocial behavior, addiction, anxiety, risk-taking, empathy, and depression. Each tutorial pair will design and conduct an empirical laboratory project that will explore their own experimental question about the interaction of genes and environment in determining behavioral phenotypes.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: each week, students will either present an oral argument based on a 5-page position paper or respond to their partners' paper; Weekly lab meetings will be held and empirical projects presented in a final poster session

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis, not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: PSYC 212 (same as BIOL 212 or NSCI 201)

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Neuroscience concentrators and Psychology majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D3)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 3 requirement if registration is under PSYC

Attributes: NSCI Group B Electives; PHLH Biomedical Determinants of Health; PHLH Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health; PSYC Area 1 - Behavioral Neuroscience; PSYC Empirical Lab Course; SCST Related Courses

Spring 2019

TUT Section: T1  TBA  Betty Zimmerberg
LAB Section: T2  R 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  Betty Zimmerberg
PSYC 318 (S)  Image, Imaging, and Imagining: The Brain and Visual Arts

Crosslistings: NSCI318 / INTR223 / PSYC318

Primary Crosslisting

This course will study the intersections of neuroscience and art. The brain interprets the visual world and generates cognitive and emotional responses to what the eyes see. It is also responsible for creating mental images and then directing the artist's motor output. We will first examine the neural mechanisms of how we perceive what we see. We will investigate how visual artists have used or challenged perceptual cues in their work. Understanding how the brain perceives faces will be used to analyze portraiture. We will consider the influence of neurological and psychological disorders on artistic work. We will examine neuroimaging studies questioning whether the brains of visual artists are specialized differently from non-artists. Finally, we will explore how contemporary artists are using brain images in their artwork, and how "outsider" artists have portrayed brain syndromes and mental states. Students will conduct an empirical laboratory project that will explore their own experimental question in response to the course material. The class will include field trips to local museums.

Class Format: seminar and empirical lab course

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on a midterm, participation in class discussions, and a poster presentation of the empirical project

Extra Info: satisfies one semester of Division III requirement

Extra Info 2: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: PSYC 101, an ARTH or ARTS course, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Studio Art majors; Psychology majors and Neuroscience concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D3)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 3 requirement if registration is under PSYC or INTR

Attributes: FMST Related Courses; NSCI Group B Electives; PSYC Area 1 - Behavioral Neuroscience; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

Not offered current academic year

PSYC 319 (S)  Neuroethics  (WI)

Crosslistings: PSYC319 / NSCI319

Primary Crosslisting

Neuroscience studies the brain and mind, and thereby some of the most profound aspects of human existence. In the last decade, advances in our understanding of brain function and in our ability to manipulate brain function have raised significant ethical challenges. This tutorial will explore a variety of important neuroethical questions. Potential topics will include pharmacological manipulation of "abnormal" personality; the use of "cosmetic pharmacology" to enhance cognition; the use of brain imaging to detect deception or to understand the ability, personality or vulnerability of an individual; the relationship between brain activity and consciousness; manipulation of memories; the neuroscience of morality and decision making. In addition to exploring these and other ethical issues, we will explore the basic science underlying them.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on five 5-page position papers and five short response papers as well as participation in discussions

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: PSYC 212 (same as BIOL 212 or NSCI 201); or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and Neuroscience concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under PSYC; meets Division 3 requirement if registration is under NSCI

Attributes: NSCI Group B Electives; PSYC Area 1 - Behavioral Neuroscience;
PSYC 322 (F) Concepts: Mind, Brain, and Culture

Every time we see something as a kind of thing, every time that we decide that an object is a cup rather than a glass, when we recognize a picture of a familiar face as a picture of ourselves, or even when we understand speech, we are employing categories. Most categorization decisions are automatic and unconscious, and therefore have the illusion of simplicity. The complexity of these decisions, however, becomes apparent when we attempt to build machines to do what humans perform so effortlessly. What are the systems in place that allow us this extraordinary ability to segment the world? Are they universal? How does conceptual knowledge differ across cultural groups? How do concepts affect our perception? How do the categories of experts differ from the categories of novices? Do children have the same kind of conceptual knowledge as adults? How are categories represented in the brain? In this course, we explore various empirical findings from cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and anthropology that address these questions.

Class Format: empirical lab course
Requirements/Evaluation: short papers, class presentation, and research paper
Prerequisites: PSYC 221 or 222 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and Cognitive Science concentrators
Expected Class Size: 16
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives; PSYC Area 2 - Cognitive Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

PSYC 324 (S) Great Debates in Cognition

The field of cognition is filled with controversies about how the mind really works. For example, is there sufficient evidence for a system in vision that can become aware of things without actually "seeing" them? Is it necessary to assume that babies come into the world armed with innate linguistic knowledge? Are humans inherently rational? Can we make inference about the mind using neuroimaging? These debates, and others that we will consider, help fuel scientific discovery in cognition in interesting ways. In this class, we will consider some of these contemporary debates, weigh evidence on both sides, and discuss the implications for what we know about the mind.

Class Format: tutorial; students will meet in pairs with the instructor for an hour each week
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on weekly papers and oral arguments
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: PSYC 221 or 222 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and Cognitive Science concentrators
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives; PSYC Area 2 - Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 326 (F) Choice and Decision Making

One aspect of "being human" is that we often make choices that we know are bad for us. In this course we survey theoretical and experimental approaches to understanding our strengths and weaknesses as decision makers. Topics include normative decision theories, biases in probability judgments, "fast and frugal" heuristics, impulsiveness and self-control, addictions and bad habits, gambling, and moral decision making.

Class Format: empirical lab course
Requirements/Evaluation: problem sets, essay papers, class and lab participation, and a research report
Prerequisites: PSYC 221 or 222 or permission of instructor; permission is typically given to students who have successfully completed ECON 110
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: senior Psychology majors who need the course to fulfill the major

Expected Class Size: 16

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives; PHLH Decision-Making by Institutions + Individuals; PSYC Area 2 - Cognitive Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

Not offered current academic year

PSYC 327 (F) Cognition and Education
This class will focus on basic research into the cognitive processes underlying learning. How does the mind encode, store, and retrieve knowledge? How do learners (and teachers) manage their own learning? How do educational practices depart from what research recommends? The readings will be scientific articles. Students will do original research.

Class Format: empirical lab

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, daily quizzes, research papers

Prerequisites: PSYC 201 and PSYC 221 or 222, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives; PSYC Area 2 - Cognitive Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course; TEAC Teaching Sequence

PSYC 335 (S) Early Experience and the Developing Infant (WI)
The period from conception to age three is marked by impressive rapidity in development and the plasticity of the developing brain affords both fetus and infant an exquisite sensitivity to context. This course delves into the literature that highlights the dynamic interactions between the developing fetus/infant and the environment. The course readings span a range of disciplines and cover a diversity of hot topics in the study of prenatal and infant development, including empirical research drawn from the developmental, neuroscience, psychopathology, and pediatric literatures.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, regular thought papers and class presentations, and a written report and accompanying presentation of an independent project

Prerequisites: PSYC 201, PSYC 212, and PSYC 232 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and Neuroscience concentrators

Expected Class Size: 16

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

Attributes: PHLH Biomedical Determinants of Health; PHLH Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health; PSYC Area 3 - Developmental Psychology;

Spring 2019

SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Amie A. Hane

LAB Section: 02 W 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Nate Kornell

PSYC 338 (S) Inquiry, Invention and Ideas
Children tinker, explore and create, but some more than others, and under some conditions more than others. What leads children to investigate, invent and build their own ideas? We will examine the development of curiosity, invention, and the ability to have or construct an idea. We will also
look at what accounts for individual differences between children, including the role of intelligence, creativity, social cues, and opportunity. We will look at how these processes unfold at home and in school, and discuss the educational implications of the research we read, and the research we conduct.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: three 3-5 page essays, two child observations and a 7-10 page final paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: PSYC 101, and PSYC 232 or PSYC 272, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: preference given to Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 16
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSYC Area 3 - Developmental Psychology; TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses
Not offered current academic year

PSYC 341 (S) Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination (WI)
Crosslistings: PSYC341 / WGSS339
Primary Crosslisting
This course will examine social psychological theories and research that are relevant to the understanding of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. We will take a variety of social psychological perspectives, emphasizing sociocultural, cognitive, personality, or motivational explanations. We will examine the impact that stereotypes and prejudice have on people's perceptions of and behaviors toward particular groups or group members and will explore a variety of factors that tend to exacerbate or weaken this impact. We also will consider some of the sources of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination and some of the processes through which they are maintained, strengthened, or revised. In addition, we will examine some of the effects that stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination can have on members of stereotyped groups, as well as some implications of the social psychological research findings for issues such as education and business and government policies. A major component of this course will be the examination of classic and ongoing empirical research.

Class Format: empirical lab course
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly brief papers, oral reports, two longer papers
Prerequisites: PSYC 201 and 242
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: senior, then junior Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 16
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; ASAM Related Courses; PSYC Area 4 - Social Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course; TEAC Related Courses;

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01  W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm  Steven Fein
LAB Section: 02  M 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  Steven Fein

PSYC 342 (F) Social Judgment
This course focuses on how people make judgments and decisions in their social lives and why they are sometimes biased and irrational in their choices. We will place a strong emphasis on exploring how ideas from the judgment and decision-making literature can aid in our understanding of social psychological phenomena, including planning for the future, understanding other people, and resolving interpersonal conflicts. We will also place an emphasis on people's judgments and decisions as they pertain to their happiness and well-being, exploring how concepts in the judgment and decision-making literature can help us to understand why certain types of outcomes are more satisfying than others and why people sometimes choose in ways that fail to maximize their well-being. As we explore these questions, we will survey a variety of methods and perspectives, ranging from classic social psychological experiments to techniques imported from behavioral economics and cognitive psychology.
Class Format: empirical lab course

Requirements/Evaluation: a series of short papers; two essay exams; written and oral reports of research

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: PSYC 242 and PSYC 201, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: PSYC Area 4 - Social Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

Not offered current academic year

PSYC 346 (F) Environmental Psychology

Crosslistings: ENVI346 / PSYC346

Primary Crosslisting

This is a course in social psychology as it pertains to the natural environment. We will consider how the environment influences aspects of human psychology (e.g., the psychological implications of humans’ disconnect with nature), as well as how human psychology influences the environment (e.g., why some people engage in environmentally destructive behaviors despite holding proenvironmental attitudes). At the core of this course is an attempt to examine various ways in which research and theory in social psychology can contribute insights to understanding (and encouraging) environmentally responsible behavior and sustainable practices, both here at Williams and globally. Because human choice and behavior play such an important role in environmental problems, a consideration of human psychology may therefore be an important part of the solution.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: a series of papers, two essay exams, written and oral reports of research

Prerequisites: PSYC 242 recommended, PSYC 201, or a comparable course in statistics and research methodology, is also recommended.

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and Environmental Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 16

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Space and Place Electives; ENVI Humanities, Arts + Social Science Electives; PSYC Area 4 - Social Psychology

Not offered current academic year

PSYC 349 (S) Psychology and Law

This course examines the legal system in light of psychological research findings, Supreme Court rulings, wrongful conviction cases and illustrative crimes. The law's informal theories of human behavior will be compared to what psychologists know on the basis of theories and research regarding such topics as Miranda, lie detection, police interrogation, false confessions, eyewitness identification, repressed and recovered memories, forensic evidence, and juries. The course will also explore the psychological mechanisms underlying legal decisions, and demonstrate how psychological findings can contribute to legal system reform.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: exams, a series of papers

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: PSYC 201 and PSYC 242 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Department Notes: either PSYC 347 or PSYC 349 may be taken for credit, but not both

Distributions: (D2)
PSYC 352 (F) Clinical and Community Psychology
This course provides an overview of theory, methods, and professional issues in the fields of clinical and community psychology (and related fields). In addition to academic work (primary source readings and class discussions), students are encouraged to apply their experiences in academic psychology to field settings, and to use their fieldwork experience to critically evaluate theory and research. The course includes a supervised field-work placement arranged by the instructor in a local mental health or social service agency. Students must complete a brief survey about their interests and schedule in order to place them in an agency. Students should email the instructor to obtain the survey as well as receive permission to register for this course.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: field work (six hours per week), two 5-page position papers, and a 12- to 15-page final paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: PSYC 252
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: senior, then junior, Psychology majors; you MUST have permission of instructor to register for this course
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses; PHLH Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health; PSYC Area 5 - Clinical Psychology

PSYC 354 (F) Beyond Symptoms: Cognitive and Perceptual Changes in Mental Disorder
When we think of mental disorders, the first things that come to mind are often the symptoms that define them, like hallucinations, delusions, mood disturbances, or anxiety. Interestingly, in addition to these cardinal symptoms, many disorders are accompanied by other mental changes that are simpler and therefore more scientifically approachable, like problems in perception or in working memory. This course will delve into how our minds and brains perceive and understand the world in a very basic sense, and then explore how perceptual and cognitive processes are altered in mental disorders like schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety disorders, and whether and why such alterations are important. Readings will explore seminal and current findings in the field, as well as theoretical papers.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: two short position papers, occasional one-page response, and a written/oral report of research
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: PSYC 201 and PSYC 252
Enrollment Limit: 18
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 18
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSYC Area 5 - Clinical Psychology

PSYC 355 (S) Psychotherapy: Theory and Research
Psychotherapy is a young, barely 100-year old psychological endeavor which attempts to promote change and healing through social interaction. How can it be that talking with a psychotherapist can help people change -- emotionally, cognitively, and/or behaviorally -- and how exactly does it help people achieve relief from psychological disorders and problems? In this course, we will study some of the key approaches to psychotherapy by examining the theories and scientific research that surround them, and considering theory and research in juxtaposition. This will be accomplished by a close reading and critical analysis of primary source theoretical papers, the "raw data" (videotapes and transcripts) of therapy sessions, case studies, and contemporary empirical research on the outcomes and change processes of psychotherapy. Students will learn how to evaluate the efficacy claims of both standard and new therapies and how to evaluate claims about the mechanisms by which those therapies work. Current controversies in psychotherapy and psychotherapy research will be addressed and debated as well. All students will design and conduct an empirical research project based on the course material.

**Class Format:** empirical lab course

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and active class participation, weekly 2-3 page reading response papers, APA style research report and poster/oral presentation of the research project

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 201 and PSYC 252

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** Psychology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSYC Area 5 - Clinical Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

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**PSYC 357 (S) Depression**

This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of depression. Topics will include assessment, models of etiology and course, effective approaches to prevention and intervention, and depression in specific populations. Readings will expose students to seminal works in the field as well as current methods and research findings. All students will design and conduct an empirical research project based on the readings and concepts discussed. Throughout the course, students will evaluate current research based on theory, methodological rigor, and potential impact on prevention and intervention efforts.

**Class Format:** empirical lab course

**Requirements/Evaluation:** class participation, in-class short written responses, weekly response papers, midterm exam, an original empirical research project, a written report of the research project, and an oral presentation of the research project

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 201 and PSYC 252

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** Psychology majors

**Expected Class Size:** 16

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** PSYC Area 5 - Clinical Psychology; PSYC Empirical Lab Course

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**PSYC 359 (S) Anxiety: Responses to Danger, Both Real and Imagined**

This is an advanced course on anxiety that takes an in depth look at the theory and research on the normative psychological processes that influence responses to danger, both real and imagined. Specifically, it examines the empirical research on psychological responses to traumatic experiences, such as combat, rape, and natural disasters. Responses to perceived or imagined threats are also discussed as the underpinnings of such anxiety
disorders as Panic Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Social Phobia, Specific Phobia and OCD. Discussions focus on commonalities and differences in empirically supported treatments for anxiety disorders as well as controversies in the field.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, frequent response papers, midterm examination and final term paper
Prerequisites: PSYC 252
Enrollment Limit: 18
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology Majors; preference given to those with outstanding major requirements
Expected Class Size: 18
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSYC Area 5 - Clinical Psychology

Spring 2019
SEM Section: 01    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm    Nicole T. Harrington

PSYC 361 (S) Psychology of Nonviolence
Nonviolence refers to choice behavior in interpersonal interactions in which physical injury to others is rejected as an option. In this course we will study moral and psychological theories of nonviolence, and evaluate the empirical support for their central claims of psychological benefits to the practitioner, attitude change in the adversary, and positive exemplary effects on social interaction. Topics include empathy, tolerance, forgiveness, aggression, courage, resisting violent assault, and civil resistance.

Class Format: discussion/seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation, discussion leadership, one 5-page essay, and a final paper of approximately 10 page
Prerequisites: any 200-level course in PSYC or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 16
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PSYC Area 6 - Other/Interdisciplinary Psychology

Not offered current academic year

PSYC 372 (F) Advanced Seminar in Teaching and Learning
This advanced seminar will give students an opportunity to connect theory to practice. Each student will have a teaching placement in a local school, and participate in both peer and individual supervision. In addition, we will read a range of texts that examine different approaches to teaching, as well as theory and research on the process of education. What is the best way to teach? How do various theories of child development and teaching translate into everyday practices with students? Students will be encouraged to reflect on and modify their own teaching practices as a result of what we read as well as their supervision. Questions we will discuss include: What is the relationship between educational goals and curriculum development? What is the relation between substance (knowledge, skills, content) and the interpersonal dynamic inherent in a classroom setting? How do we assess teaching practices and the students’ learning? What does it take to be an educated person?

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: this course involves a field placement, weekly readings, as well as seminar discussion, supervision, and a graded journal
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis ; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: PSYC 232 or PSYC 272 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: Psychology majors and those who plan to become teachers
Expected Class Size: 16
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses; PSYC Area 7 - Educational Psychology; TEAC Teaching Sequence Courses
PSYC 397 (F) Independent Study: Psychology
Open to upperclass students with permission of the instructor and department. Students interested in doing an independent study should make prior arrangements with the appropriate professor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available at the Registrar's Office and should submit it to the department chair for approval prior to the beginning of the drop/add period.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D2)

PSYC 398 (S) Independent Study: Psychology
Open to upperclass students with permission of the instructor and department. Students interested in doing an independent study should make prior arrangements with the appropriate professor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available at the Registrar's Office and should submit it to the department chair for approval prior to the beginning of the drop/add period.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D2)

PSYC 401 (F) Perspectives on Psychological Issues
This course--the psychology department's senior seminar--considers several important contemporary topics from diverse psychological perspectives. These topics will be introduced via popular books or films, and we will analyze them more deeply with original research articles from across multiple perspectives and subdisciplines of psychology. The course will primarily be discussion based, and the students will lead these discussions.
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: participation in class discussions, choosing relevant research articles, and three position papers
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: open to seniors Psychology majors only
Expected Class Size: 15
Department Notes: required of all senior Psychology majors
Distributions: (D2)
PSYC 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Psychology
Independent study and research for two semesters and a winter study period under the guidance of one or more members of the department. After exploring the literature of a relatively specialized field of psychology, the student will design and execute an original empirical research project, the results of which will be reported in a thesis. Detailed guidelines for pursuing a thesis are available from the department and on our website.

Class Format: independent study

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Extra Info 2: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494); Senior Psychology Majors meeting requirements for Honors

Prerequisites: permission of the thesis advisor

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2018
HON Section: 01 TBA Steven Fein

PSYC 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Psychology
Independent study and research for two semesters and a winter study period under the guidance of one or more members of the department. After exploring the literature of a relatively specialized field of psychology, the student will design and execute an original empirical research project, the results of which will be reported in a thesis. Detailed guidelines for pursuing a thesis are available from the department and on our website.

Class Format: independent study

Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)

Extra Info 2: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: permission of the thesis advisor

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2019
HON Section: 01 TBA Steven Fein