

# Psychology

**Chair:** Professor S. Benack

**Faculty:** Professors D. Burns, K. DeBono, R. Nydegger, L. Stanhope, C. Weisse; Associate Professors G. Bizer, S. Romero; Assistant Professors C. Anderson-Hanley, C. Chabris, J. Hart; Lecturer G. Donaldson; Visiting Assistant Professor F. Fessel, T. Sutton

## **Requirements for the Major:**

1. Psychology 100, 200, and 300, and nine other courses, one of which can be selected from a list of cognate courses from related disciplines. This list of courses is available from the department secretary or on the department web site ([www.union.edu/academic\\_depts/psychology](http://www.union.edu/academic_depts/psychology)). Majors should normally complete Psychology 200 and 300 by the end of the junior year.
2. At least one laboratory course from each of the following two content areas:  
Physiological Psychology: Psychology 210, 211, or 312  
Cognitive Psychology: Psychology 220, 221, or 225
3. At least one course from two of the following three content areas:  
Social Psychology: Psychology 230  
Developmental Psychology: Psychology 240  
Clinical/Personality Psychology: Psychology 250 or 251
4. Two courses numbered 400 or higher. One of these courses must be a seminar (courses numbered 400-450). Only one course numbered 451-497 (independent study/research/internship) may count toward the major. Students conducting an independent study abroad (ISA) may count two courses numbered 451-497 toward the major.
5. *Senior Writing Requirement:* Students may fulfill the senior writing requirement in psychology in one of three ways: (1) by writing a thesis; (2) by completing a seminar (400-level) course designated WS in the senior year (this course must be in addition to any other seminar used to fulfill the basic WAC requirements); or (3) by completing a one- or two-term senior project.

**Requirements for the Interdepartmental Major:** Interdepartmental majors will normally take eight courses in psychology. The courses must include Psychology 100 (Introduction) and 200 (Statistics). Students wishing to do an interdepartmental senior thesis will also take Psychology 300 (Research methods). An interdepartmental major must indicate to his or her advisor in psychology what courses within the Psychology Department will constitute the psychology component of the interdepartmental major and must submit an application form. The set of courses should demonstrate a genuine connection to the chosen interdepartmental major and must be approved by the department chair. Normally, specification of these courses will occur by either late in the sophomore or early in the junior year.

**Requirements for Honors:** In addition to meeting College-wide requirements, honors in psychology requires: (1) a psychology grade point average of 3.40 or higher; (2) three grades of "A" or "A minus" in psychology "core" courses, which include 200, 210, 211, 220, 221, 225, 230, 240, 250, 251, 300, 312; (3) a two-term thesis with a grade of "A" or "A minus" and (4) an oral presentation of the student's work (usually at the Steinmetz Symposium). Interdepartmental majors who wish to earn honors will do an interdepartmental thesis. ID majors must also meet the same GPA requirements for psychology courses as full majors, although only two grades of "A" or "A minus" in psychology "core" courses will be required. Please note that Psychology 200 and 300 are prerequisites to registering for a thesis.

All proposals for honors theses must be submitted to the department chair no later than the end of the eighth week of the spring term of the junior year. The proposal should be one typewritten page describing the general area of the project, the student's preparation for the project (e.g., related course work), and the proposed faculty supervisor. The proposal will be evaluated by a departmental committee, and the student will be advised about the acceptability of the proposal. Further information is available from the department secretary.

**Requirements for the Minor:** A student who chooses to minor in psychology must take a total of six courses in psychology, including Psychology 100, Psychology 200, one laboratory course from the Physiological/Cognitive cluster, and one course from the Social/ Developmental/ Clinical cluster.

## **Course Selection Guidelines**

*General Education:* In the General Education Curriculum, all psychology courses count as if they are courses in the Division of the Social Sciences, except for Psychology 210, 211, 311, 312, 315, and 410, which can be counted toward the General Education science requirement. PSY 200 (Statistical Methods in Psychology) does not count toward the Quantitative Methods Requirement (QMR).

*Courses Suitable for Non-majors.* All psychology courses are suitable for nonmajors who have taken the prerequisite courses, with the exception of PSY 200 and PSY 300, the required methods courses for the major.

*For Neuroscience Majors and Minors only,* BIO 101 and 102 may be substituted for PSY 100 as the prerequisite for PSY 210. Upon completion of PSY 210, neuroscience students may take other Psychology courses without first completing PSY 100.

*Course Numbering:* Psychology 100 or permission of the instructor is a prerequisite for all other psychology courses unless otherwise noted. 200-level courses typically treat basic topics and are appropriate to take with only Psychology 100 as background. Most 300- and 400-level courses have 200-level courses as a prerequisite; these courses are appropriate for students in any class year, and for majors or nonmajors, as long as they have fulfilled the prerequisites.

*Seminars:* Some seminars (e.g., 410, 420, 430, 440, 450) may offer different topics in different terms. These may be taken more than once for credit, with the permission of the instructor.

## **Courses**

**PSY-100. A First Course in Psychology** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Hart, DeBono, Fessel, Chabris). The activities and experiences of the human being. Personality and its development, motives, learning and intelligence, and behavior in conflict.

**PSY-200. Statistical Methods in Psychology** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Burns, Romero, Stanhope). The descriptive and inferential statistical procedures used by researchers to explain and analyze their results. Mean, variance, correlation, hypothesis testing using t-test, ANOVA, and nonparametric tests.

**PSY- 210. Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience** (same as BIO-210) (Winter, Spring; Chabris, Romero). Basic concepts of brain functioning as they relate to psychological phenomena. Neuroanatomy, neurotransmission, and brain sites important in the mediation of consummatory behavior, emotions, pleasure, sleep, and memory. Weekly lab. Prerequisite PSY-100 or BIO-101 & BIO-102. Gen Ed Science.

**PSY-211. Sensation and Perception** (Fall; Sutton). The structural and functional aspects of the sensory system and sensory processes. Also theories and research in the field of perception and perceptual development. Weekly lab. Gen Ed Science.

**PSY- 220. Psychology of Memory and Thinking** (Fall, Spring; Burns, Sutton). How humans code, store, remember, and forget information. Related topics include attention, pattern recognition, concept learning, and reading. Weekly lab.

**PSY-225. The Psychology of Language** (Winter; Sutton). Psycholinguistics, including speech perception, child's acquisition of language, animal language, linguistic diversity, and recent research.

**PSY-230. Social Psychology** (Same as SOC-203) (Fall, Winter, Spring; DeBono, Fessel, Hart). Research methods, survey of research on attribution processes, person perception, stereotyping, attraction, persuasion and social influence, and effects of group membership on behavior.

**PSY-235. Industrial-Organizational Psychology** (Not offered in 2011-2012). A general overview of the research and theory relating psychology to work behavior and to applications in the industrial setting. Personnel psychology, human factors and engineering psychology, organization theory, organizational development, and organizational behavior will be examined. PSY-230 preferred but not required.

**PSY-240. Developmental Psychology** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Stanhope). Child behavior and the processes influencing child development. Methods of study and theories.

**PSY-242. Death and Dying** (Fall; Weisse). This course will examine the social and psychological processes that shape the dying and bereavement process. The historical and cultural factors that influence attitudes toward dying and the ethical issues that impact decisions about how we die will be discussed. In addition, this course will discuss end of life care, including hospice, palliative care and pain management; how our health care system treats the dying; mental health interventions; and suicide.

**PSY-245. Psychology of Sex Roles** (Spring; Donaldson). The psychological bases and effects of the masculine and feminine role norms in our culture. Topics include biological bases of sex differences, sexuality, romance, work and family roles, origins of sex-typed personality in family and cultural socialization.

**PSY-246. Educational Psychology** (Winter, Spring; Raso). Principles of psychology applied to teaching with emphasis on the cognitive abilities of students, classroom management procedures, and motivational techniques. Visits to a variety of local schools. (Note: This course or placement exam is required for admission to Union's MAT program.)

**PSY-250. Abnormal Psychology** (Fall, Winter; Anderson-Hanley, Nydegger). Models and theories of psychology, with description and analyses of forms of abnormality and its modification.

**PSY- 251. Personality** (Fall, Winter; Donaldson). Classical and contemporary theories of personality, with an emphasis on current issues and research in the field.

**PSY-255. Psychology of Addiction** (Fall; Dowling). A socio-psychological approach to understanding a variety of addictive behaviors. Includes coverage of substance abuse, e.g., alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and foods, as well as activities such as gambling, sex, work, relationships etc.

**PSY-295H. Psychology Honors Independent Project 1**

**PSY-296H. Psychology Honors Independent Project 2**

**PSY-300. Research Methods in Psychology** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Fessel, Bizer, Burns). The basic research methods used in psychology, introducing the student to research design, data collection procedures, and scientific writing. Emphasis will be on the experimental method. Weekly lab. Prerequisite: Psychology 200.

**PSY-311. Animal Behavior** (Same as BIO-325)

**PSY-312. Introduction to Neurobiology** (Same as BIO-362)

**PSY-315. Neural Circuits of Behavior** (Same as BIO-365)

**PSY-330. Attitudes and Social Behavior** (Not offered 2011-2012). Survey of research on attitude-behavior relations and on the psychology of persuasion. Issues of attitude structure, formation and measurement also discussed. Students propose original research ideas. Prerequisites: PSY- 230.

**PSY-331. Psychology of Emotion (Spring; Hart)**. Examination and evaluation of scientific theories and research about emotions, including the evolution and development of emotions, the physiological and neurological underpinnings of emotions, individual differences and psychopathology, and the role of emotions in close relationships and everyday life.

**PSY-336. Political Psychology** (Same as PSC-361)

**PSY-350. Psychotherapy** (Winter; Anderson-Hanley) Survey of the major contemporary systems of psychotherapy. Includes analytic, family systems, cognitive and behavioral approaches. Students will learn theories, techniques, and processes involved in the practice of psychotherapy. Prerequisite: PSY-250.

**PSY-351. Practicum in Human Relations I** (Spring; Anderson-Hanley). Explores interpersonal communication as it shapes and is shaped by human relationships. Psychological theories of interpersonal communication presented with a view to explicating the processes by which people come to describe, explain, or otherwise account for the world (including themselves) in which they live. Categories of "abnormal" behavior and approaches to psychotherapy revisited from the perspective of communications theory.

**PSY-352. Psychological Assessment and Testing** (Not offered 2011-2012). Learn about one of psychology's most important and unique practical contributions. Examine assessment tools that are key to the practice of clinical and counseling psychology (e.g., diagnostic and personality tests). Review issues related to test construction (e.g., reliability and validity). Practice construction and validation of a new test.

**PSY-405. Honors Topic Seminar** (Winter and Spring; Hart, Chabris). A one-credit course open to junior and senior qualified students. Limited enrollments; students will be recommended for the course by faculty. Each year's topic will be chosen by the supervising faculty member. Normally, students will meet weekly to discuss readings pertaining to the topic and upcoming speakers. About seven to nine speakers with expertise in the chosen area will be invited to discuss their positions with students. Relevant field trips may also be arranged.

**PSY-410. Seminar in Brain and Behavior** (Same as BIO-211) (Not offered 2011-2012). Advanced coverage of the mechanisms of action of psychotropic drugs and a discussion of the effects of certain transmitter systems on behavior. Prerequisite: PSY-210.

**PSY-411. Seminar in Clinical Neuropsychology** (Not offered in 2011-2012). Through this course you should gain a close-up view into the field of Clinical Neuropsychology, which aims to explore the relationship between brain function and behavior, especially the evaluation and treatment of brain damaged individuals. This will be accomplished through lecture, readings, discussions, field-work/service-learning, and other hands-on practice experiences. Prerequisite: PSY-210, PSY-250, or PSY-410.

**PSY-420. Seminar in Learning and Memory** (Not offered in 2011-2012). A selected topic in learning or cognitive psychology, such as language, reading, attention, memory, conditioning, and applications. Prerequisite: PSY-220 or PSY-221, or permission of instructor.

**PSY-430. Seminar in Social Psychology** (Not offered in 2011-2012). A selected area of social psychology. Specific topic will be announced in advance by the instructor. Prerequisite: PSY-230.

**PSY-431. Seminar in Psychology of Religion** (Fall, Winter; DeBono). The psychological origins of religious beliefs and the apparent behavioral consequences of holding such beliefs. Specific topics will include: religiosity as an evolutionary, psychological, and social phenomenon; the role of

religious beliefs in mental health, physical health, interpersonal relationships, and prejudice. Prerequisites: PSY-210, PSY-220, PSY-230, PSY-240 or PSY-251 or permission of the instructor.

**PSY-432. Love and Death** (Spring; Hart). This course is designed to examine and evaluate two lines of inquiry, principally initiated in the 1950's and 60's by John Bowlby and Ernest Becker, respectively, which have subsequently developed into two influential contemporary theories in experimental social and personality psychology: attachment theory and terror management theory (TMT). These theories, and the intellectual traditions that spawned them, address two of the most important aspects of life – love and death – and as will see, these two elements of the human experience have far-reaching psychological consequences and philosophical implications. The course will start with discussion of Bowlby's and Becker's classic books. Instructor will lead the initial discussions, but as class progresses, class members will assume increased responsibility for leading discussions as well as examining contemporary research inspired by attachment theory and TMT. Ultimately, each class member will develop his or her own questions, and tentative answers, relating to the course material, which will culminate in a significant theoretical or questions, and tentative answers, relating to the course material, which will culminate in a significant theoretical or empirical project and paper. Prerequisites: PSY 240 and PSY 300, or permission of instructor.

**PSY-440. Seminar in Human Development** (Winter ; Stanhope). A selected area of developmental psychology. Topic will be announced in advance by the instructor. Prerequisite: PSY-240.

**PSY-441. Seminar in Adolescence** (Winter, Spring; Benack). Development during adolescence and early adulthood, including changing relations to parents, love and sexuality, moral and cognitive growth, and the establishing of identity. The seminar will use the case study method, i.e., we will analyze a series of individual people's accounts of their adolescent experience. Prerequisite: Psychology 240 or 251.

**PSY-450. Seminar in Clinical Psychology.** (Not offered 2011-2012). A selected area of clinical psychology. Topic will be announced in advance by the instructor. Prerequisite: PSY-250.

**PSY-451. Practicum in Human Relations II** (Spring, Anderson-Hanley). Intensive practicum course designed to provide direct exposure to clinical populations, along with structured individual and group clinical supervision. Activities include placement at a psychologically-oriented internship site, along with seminar discussion of clinical cases and systems issues. Emphasis on the theoretical understanding of clinical assessment and intervention from a psychological perspective, integrating both nomothetic and ideographic approaches. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**PSY-487-489 Three-Term Thesis** (for neuroscience majors only).

**PSY-490, 491, 492. One-Term Independent Study/Research** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Staff)

**PSY-493-494. Two-Term Independent Study/Research** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Staff). First term grade is normally pass or fail. A comprehensive grade for both terms is assigned at the end of second term.

**PSY-495. One-Term Senior Project** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Staff).

**PSY-496-497. Two-Term Senior Project** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Staff).

**PSY-498-499. Psychology Senior Thesis** (Fall, Winter, Spring; Staff). Please read details for psychology honors in department's introductory statement. First term grade is pass or fail; a comprehensive grade for both terms is assigned at the end of the second term. Prerequisites: PSY-200 and PSY-300.