PSY 101 & 102 Introduction to Psychology
This course will survey current knowledge of human behavior. It will cover the entire spectrum of behavioral functions and examine the biological, cognitive and social processes that underlie these behaviors. Topics will include the brain and functioning of the nervous system, perception, thinking, learning and memory; conscious and unconscious motivations and emotion; language, intelligence, cognitive, social, and personality development; social perceptions, attitudes and social influence; psychological disorders and their treatment; and mental health. The goals of the course are to further an understanding of the major theories of a human behavior as well as their practical and theoretical implications.

PSY 09 Introduction to Cognitive & Brain Science
Survey of the cognitive, computational and neuronal basis of thought. Topics include the relationship of cognitive and brain systems underlying language, memory, perception, attention, consciousness and development.

PSY 11 Developmental Psychology
This course is a survey of cognitive, physical, and socio-emotional development during childhood from before birth through adolescence with a brief examination of issues of aging incorporated into the course. General principles of development and related empirical findings will be emphasized. Course includes: lectures, discussions as allowed by class size, and observations of children.

Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or 9 or junior or senior standing

PSY 12 Abnormal Psychology
An introduction to the entire range of psychopathology in adults and children, with an emphasis upon adults. Five major current perspectives regarding etiology, diagnosis and treatment will be presented through lectures, readings, films, and clinical case material. Clinical descriptions, developmental forerunners, sociocultural influences, empirical research findings, and current controversies regarding diagnosis and treatment will be considered.

Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or 9 or junior or senior standing

PSY 13 Social Psychology
Social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think, feel, and behave in social situations. It involves understanding how we influence, and are influenced by, other people and the social contexts around us. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods, and seminal findings of the field of social psychology. Equally important is the goal of allowing you to cultivate your skills for analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Lectures will be supplemented by classroom demonstrations, discussion, and various assignments.

Prerequisite: Psychology 1 or 9 or junior or senior standing.

PSY 17 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
This course examines how psychology impacts businesses, companies, and non-profit organizations. Topics will include motivation of employees, classical and contemporary approaches to management, what it means to be an effective manager, group dynamics and consumer psychology. Emphasis will be placed on preparing students for the “working world” through the foundations of psychology. As part of the final project, all students will select a current issue in the field of Industrial/Organizational Psychology, present an overview to the class and submit a research paper on the topic.

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing.

PSY 28 Cognitive Psychology
An introduction to human mental processes. Attention, perception, problem solving, pattern recognition, imagery, memory, language comprehension, and knowledge acquisition are examined as fundamental processes of cognition. This course serves as the gateway course to introduce our advanced laboratories and seminar courses in cognition. Lecture and frequent classroom demonstrations.

Prerequisite: Psychology 1 or 9 or junior or senior standing

PSY 29 Human Neuropsychology
(Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience)
This course aims to provide an introduction to the field of cognitive neuroscience. We will cover the cognitive functions of the normal human brain, as well as neurological disorders, focusing on those that have been most informative for understanding the biological basis of cognition, like amnesia, aphasia, and Parkinson's disease. The course starts with an introduction to basic neurobiology, cognitive psychology, and the history of cognitive neuroscience. Students will learn about research methods in the field, including neuropsychological studies of patients with focal brain damage, and neuroimaging techniques, such as ERP and fMRI. Areas of cognition covered may include the brain basis of vision, spatial processing, attention, memory, motor control, executive function, language, and problems with these cognitive abilities due to brain dysfunction. The course will take a scientific approach but is highly relevant to those with clinical interests in psychology, psychiatry, neurology, and biomedical engineering.

Prerequisite: Psychology 1 or 9

PSY 31 Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences
From the behavioral scientist's perspective, statistics are tools that can be used to detect systematic patterns in sets of data, and guide decision-making. In this course you will learn about statistics that allow a researcher to describe and summarize data and distinguish between chance and systematic effects in typical experimental contexts. To facilitate learning through hands-on experience, each student is required to enroll in one of four laboratory sections. Labs will involve application of the concepts and procedures discussed in class that week, and many will involve use of the SPSS statistical package.

Prerequisite: Psychology 1 or 9

PSY 32 Experimental Psychology
This is the basic laboratory course on psychological research methods which serves as the prerequisite for the advanced labs. Students will design, execute, and analyze individual and group experiments designed to familiarize them with the research methods used in psychological investigations. Paper assignments will provide experience with scientific writing in APA format. There are two lectures plus a 2.5-hour laboratory each week. Enrolling in PSY 32A, PSY 32B, or PSY 32C registers you for both the lecture and laboratory components of the course.

Prerequisite: Psychology 31 or Bio 132
PSY 36 Experimental Social Psychology

This course focuses on the process of designing, conducting, interpreting, and presenting empirical research in social psychology. Students will be exposed to several different methods used in social psychological research, with an emphasis on true experiments. The use of these methods will be illustrated through readings and discussions of classic and contemporary research in social psychology. Class projects will provide students with hands-on experience in implementing these techniques. In the main part of the course, students will form research teams with the task of conducting empirical research on a topic of their choice.

Prerequisites: Psychology 13, 31 and 32.

PSY 38 Research Methods in Clinical Psychology

This course will teach the methods of clinical research as well as provide the experience of analyzing data. We will cover topics such as experimental design, diagnostic reliability, epidemiologic methods, data analysis using SPSS, and the preparation of research reports.

Prerequisites: Psychology 31 and either 12 or 15.

PSY 46 Animal Learning Lab

An advanced laboratory course familiarizing the student with the methods and strategies used to study cognition in animals. Several experiments examining one or more important topics in animal cognition will be conducted over the semester. The course consists of weekly class discussions and analyses of the ongoing experiments and their relations to broader concepts. These discussions will result in several APA-style write-ups of the experiments as they progress over the semester. Besides regular class meetings, all students need to be prepared to spend time outside of class to conduct the experimental sessions.

Prerequisites: Psychology 26 and Psy 32 or consent

PSY 48 Research Methods in Psychopharmacology

This laboratory course provides direct, pre-clinical experience with experimental strategies and methods in psychopharmacology, using animal subjects. Students will investigate how drugs affect various behavior patterns and how behavioral processes can be elucidated using drugs as research tools. Topics may include experimental procedures demonstrating the effects of drugs on motor and sensory process, behavioral measures of memory, anxiety, depression and psychosis, and the self-administration of drugs by animals. Using the mastery teaching method, students will recreate classic experiments and ready themselves for independent research in psychopharmacology.

Prerequisite: Psychology 25 and 123 (may be concurrent), or equivalent

PSY 55 Human Sexual Behavior

Sex and sexuality are topics which are studied in many different ways. This course reflects that diversity by considering the biological, developmental, clinical and social aspects of sex and sexuality. Topics will include cross-cultural surveys of sexual behavior, sexual differentiation, sexual physiology, contraception, STDs, sexual dysfunction and therapy, sexual orientation, gender, and various legal issues that revolve around sexual topics.

PSY 56 Drugs and Behavior

Introductory examination of how drugs, toxins, food additives, and other chemicals alter human behavior. Topics may include historical and societal views of drug use, drugs for recreational purposes, alcohol, medicinal drugs, drugs in food and food as drugs, and environmental toxins; theories of why drugs are used and reasons for prescribing psychoactive drugs.

Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or junior or senior standing.

PSY 62 Cross Cultural Psychology

This class will explore how culture influences human thought, emotions, and behavior. To what extent are ways of thinking, feeling and communicating common to people around the world or unique to their cultural environments? Topics such as how culture influences notions of the self, emotion expression and experience, how people acculturate to new environments, how various ways of thinking differ across cultures, and what happens when different cultures collide, will be addressed in this course.

PSY 65 Phonological Theory

This course provides an introduction to phonological analysis-the study of the sound patterns of the world’s languages. Topics will include the structure of phonological representations (features, syllables, metrical structure), cross-linguistic universals, and how abstract phonological competence is related to articulatory and perceptual processes. Students will be introduced to current debates in phonological theory.

Prerequisites: Psychology 64

PSY 71 Clinical Methods

This course focuses on the clinical skills and approaches that are required for work with patients with a wide range of psychiatric disorders and psychological problems. Students will learn how to conduct structured clinical interviews, will gain familiarity with cognitive and personality tests, and will learn about the psychotherapeutic process, including individual, group and family work as well as ethical considerations. Hands on experience with testing instruments, videos, role play and case histories will be used as teaching aids throughout the course.

Prerequisites: Psychology 12, declaration of major in clinical psychology or junior or senior standing or consent.

NB. This course is a prerequisite for Psychology 181-182 (Supervised Seminar in Field Work in Psychology). If you intend to do a yearlong clinical psychology internship in your senior year, the course must be taken prior to it.

PSY 80 Psychology of Music

(Cross-listed as Music 59) Examination of a wide range of topics in the psychology of music. Music perception; music cognition; music aesthetics; music and emotions; the influence of music on human behavior; the nature and measurement of musical abilities; music education and child development.
PSY 92 Research in Psychology

Designed for students who wish to participate in an ongoing program of research. The student is expected to do background reading relevant to the research and to participate in as many phases of the research as possible.

Prerequisites: Two psychology courses and consent of supervising faculty member.

PSY 98 Readings in Psychology

Students choose a topic of mutual interest to themselves and a professor. The aim is to gain expertise on a selected, important psychological subject. A written document is usually expected. Students must get prior consent of the cooperating professor.

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor.

PSY 99 Internship in Psychology

Students may obtain psychology department credit for internships at various off campus settings such as laboratories, hospitals, clinics, and schools. Of course, to receive credit in this course the work at the internship must be primarily psychological. (Credit may be obtained through All College 99 if the internship is not primarily psychological but is otherwise academically sound.) Course work relevant to the internship should precede it. Each participant in Psychology 99 must be sponsored by a faculty member in the psychology department who will judge the appropriateness of the internship for psychology credit. A minimum of 12 hours per week for the internship, as well as some written work, is required. The course must be taken Pass/Fail but still may be used as an elective in fulfilling the psychology concentration.

Prerequisites: Permission of a Psychology Department faculty member. Grading is pass/fail.

PSY 103 Brain and Behavior

This course, like its companion course, Psychology 25, explores the physiological bases of behavior. It differs from Psychology 25 in assuming that the student has a good background in Biology and would like to go into the neuroanatomical, neurophysiological and neurochemical mechanisms of behavior in more depth. Psychology 103 also focuses on current research in the various areas of Biopsychology and future directions for research and its applications. General topic areas include: the nervous system, vision, neurological disorders, sexual behavior, hunger, thirst, sleep, aggression, reward mechanisms and addiction, learning and memory, and psychopathology.

Prerequisites: Biopsychology Major or Bio 13 and 14; Chemistry 1 is recommended; students cannot receive credit for this course if they have already taken Psychology 25

PSY 106 Seminar in Clinical Psychology

This course will focus on the various theories and techniques of psychotherapy through readings and case studies (including films of therapy sessions). The major goal is to make the student conversant with the major schools of therapy and counseling, the theoretical basis of their techniques, and the techniques themselves. Other aspects of clinical psychology such as psychological assessment, professional ethics, and pathways towards becoming a psychotherapist will also be considered. Students will be responsible for active participation in a seminar format.

Prerequisites: Psychology 12, 31 or 71 and consent

PSY 108 Advanced Statistics II

This course builds upon the material covered in Psychology 107 (Advanced Statistics I). The bulk of the course will focus on ANOVA and regression models appropriate for the analysis of a variety of experimental designs. In addition, we will overview a range of multivariate and non-parametric techniques.

Prerequisite: Psychology 107.

PSY 109 Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Cognitive and behavioral approaches to understanding and modifying behavior and thought patterns in adults, children, couples, and families, in both outpatient and institutional settings.

Prerequisite: Psychology 12

PSY 111 Socialization

A critical look at the ways in which children’s personalities and behaviors are shaped by and shape their relationships to parents, peers, family systems, and the larger cultural context. Specific topics may include theory and research on attachment relationships; developmental psychopathology; aggression and bullying; and the socialization of emotions and self-control.

Prerequisite: Psychology 31 and either Psy 11 or CD 001

PSY 123 Psychopharmacology

This course introduces the systematic study of the processes by which drugs alter behavior, primarily under experimental conditions. The main theme of the course will be to learn how drugs, in concert with environmental events, influence behavior via biochemical mechanisms. The objectives of this course are: (1) to provide background in experimental psychology and pharmacology necessary for an introduction to clinical and pre-clinical psychopharmacology, (2) to provide an overview of major areas of research in behavioral pharmacology in lectures, (sleep, appetite, sex, aggression, memory, sensation and hallucination, drug abuse, anxiety, depression and psychosis), (3) to analyze and critique selected classic and contemporary research articles in various areas of behavioral pharmacology. The course begins with introducing the neuropharmacological and behavioral foundations and then focuses on weekly topics, as listed above.

Prerequisites: Psychology 25 or 103

PSY 130 Advanced Engineering Psychology

This course is intended for students who have already had an introduction to engineering psychology and wish to learn more about selected topics in the area. The course is run in a seminar format, with students selecting topics of interest, doing library research and presenting in class those studies and issues they have found as their work progresses. In their presentation students will put together all they have found in a "state-of-the-art" summary for their particular topic.

Prerequisites: Psychology 53 or graduate standing
PSY 139 Social Cognition

Psychologists interested in social cognition examine the cognitive processes underlying human thought and the impact of those processes on human interaction. In other words, social cognition is a perspective that addresses not only what people think and do, but also how they go about thinking and doing. Social cognition might best be described as an approach within social psychology rather than a separate topic area. As such, it is applicable to a wide range of social psychological phenomena such as attribution, stereotyping, attitudes, persuasion, and the self. The major objective for this course is to give students a fairly broad overview of social cognition; including theory and research, the methodology, and the questions that it can address about social psychological phenomena.

Prerequisite: Psychology 32 and any 10- or 20- level course

PSY 140 Mathematical Psychology

The major theoretical journal in psychology is Psychological Review. Currently about 40 percent of the papers in Psychological Review utilize mathematics in order to understand underlying psychological processes. Examples would include neural network models of learning, mathematical models for learning, memory, perception, classification, and decision-making. This course is mainly a seminar, but there will be some lecture to establish the foundations. Students will be encouraged to explore mathematical psychology within the topic of their choice. The goal is to better understand journal articles in Psychological Review or in the Journal of Mathematical Psychology that are of interest to the student.

Prerequisite: Psychology 31 or consent

PSY 149 Psychology of Language

This course will examine the mental processes and representations involved in language production and comprehension. Drawing from a wide range of methodologies (including psycholinguistic experimentation, neuro-imaging, computational simulation, and evidence from brain damage) we will explore where language is processed in the brain, how concepts and words are organized in long-term memory, and how the mind balances the demands of storage vs. computation. We will also consider how language relates to other areas of cognition by examining the elements of language that are common across modalities (e.g. spelling and sign language), the evidence for an innate language capacity, and the arguments for and against the modularity of the language faculty.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or any 2 courses in Psychology

PSY 182A Supervised Field Work Seminar

This is a unique opportunity in which senior Psychology/Clinical Majors participate in a year-long internship in psychiatry or psychology clinics and/or mental health/human service facilities in the Boston area. Students spend 12–16 hours per week at their placement for two semesters. Some opportunities for clinical research are also offered that may be particularly helpful for students who are interested in PhD Clinical Psychology programs. Each week, students meet as a group with their professor. In these seminars, their clinical and clinical research experiences are discussed and analyzed; students present clinical work and case histories of individual clients and patients; all aspects of diagnosis and clinical management (ranging from psychotherapy to medication) are discussed. By the end of this seminar, students will gain important insights into clinical work and research in a range of mental health/human service settings. This is an ideal opportunity for students interested in medical school, clinical psychology graduate programs, clinical research and all other careers involving work within the field of mental health and related disciplines.

Prerequisite: Clinical Psychology Major and Senior only

PSY 182B Supervised Field Work Seminar

The continuation of Psych 181B—a supervisory and didactic group seminar for senior Psychology/Clinical students in field placements involving 12 – 16 hours per week of work in a mental health/human services agency. Presentation of cases and discussion of clinical vignettes will be the basis for most class work. Major goals include the improvement of the students’ current on-site work and the development of knowledge, practical and theoretical, regarding optimal treatments for a variety of problems. By the end of this seminar, students will increase skills in pathology assessment and gain insights into clinical work in a range of settings.

Prerequisite: Psychology 12, 31 or 71 and consent

PSY 192 Independent Research: Projects in Psychology

Advanced students have the opportunity to work out the design and execution of a research study. Students generally produce a written document describing their work; often this is a published article. Students must get prior consent of the supervising professor.

Prerequisites: Two Courses in Psychology and Permission of instructor

PSY 195 Senior Seminar: Cognitive & Brain Science

Year-long weekly research meeting of seniors in Cognitive and Brain Science major and others involved in a senior honors thesis. Provides a forum for discussion, presentation and planning of senior research projects, as well as exposing students to the range of faculty and graduate student research.

Prerequisite: senior standing

PSY 196-01 Emotion and Memory

Why do we remember highly emotional events better than neutral events? What are the neural mechanisms that are responsible for this effect? In this seminar-style course, we will approach these questions by examining several different lines of classic and contemporary research including (1) early studies of so-called “flashbulb memories”, (2) studies of the effect of epinephrine on memory in rodents and humans, (3) functional neuroimaging studies of emotional memories in healthy humans, and (4) studies of patients with posttraumatic stress disorder who have trouble forgetting about terrifying events.

Prerequisites: Psy 1.

PSY 196-02 Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders

This course examines the cognitive and behavioral profiles of the autism spectrum conditions. Special attention will be paid to the cognitive models citing theory of mind deficits, executive dysfunction, and weak central coherence, and their relation to brain function (cognitive neuroscience). We will look at autism in light of other neurodevelopmental disorders such as Fragile X, Williams, and Down syndromes, and examine whether cognitive sex differences can inform us about the condition.

Prerequisites: Psy 11 or CD 001 or permission of instructor.
PSY 198 Supervised Readings in Special Topics
This course requires that the student make arrangements with a professor to supervise the semester's work.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor.

PSY 199 Senior Honors Thesis
If you plan to do an honors thesis, you must sign up for Psychology 199 both Fall and Spring of your senior year. Discuss this with a faculty sponsor.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor.

GRADUATE COURSES

PSY 233 Core Course with Social Psychology
This course offers an advanced overview of theory and research in social psychology. Major representative topic areas will be covered, including person perception, social cognition, social influence, attitudes, intergroup relations, and the self. Emphasis will be placed on seminal, classic experiments in social psychology, as well as contemporary methodologies, findings, and theoretical perspectives. The course format will consist of seminar-style discussions, student presentations, and mini-lectures and demonstrations. This course fulfills one of the core course requirements in the graduate curriculum of the Psychology Department.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

PSY 240 Mathematical Psychology
The major theoretical journal in psychology is Psychological Review. Currently about 40 percent of the papers in Psychological Review utilize mathematics in order to understand underlying psychological processes. Examples would include neural network models of learning, mathematical models for learning, memory, perception, classification, and decision-making. This course is mainly a seminar, but there will be some lecture to establish the foundations. Students will be encouraged to explore mathematical psychology within the topic of their choice. The goal is to better understand journal articles in Psychological Review or in the Journal of Mathematical Psychology that are of interest to the student.

Prerequisites: Calculus or Graduate Standing

PSY 242 Seminar in Affective Neuroscience
Advanced seminar on the systems-level brain bases of emotion. Topics usually include basic theories of emotion, positive and negative affect, hemispheric asymmetries, emotional memory, emotion regulation, and selected topics in common forms of psychopathology such as depression.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

PSY 254 Graduate Seminar in Psychosis
A seminar course focusing on the symptoms of psychosis such as hallucinations, delusions and thought disorder and psychotic disorders (schizophrenia and bipolar disorder). Examination of psychotic phenomena and disorders from multiple theoretical perspectives: clinical diagnosis, etiology and pathogenesis, genetics, neurochemistry, cognitive psychology, and cognitive neuroscience, including neuroimaging.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

PSY 260 Teaching in Psychology
This course is devoted to learning how to effectively teach psychological material. Materials to be presented and discussed over the semester include: classroom philosophies, leading small group discussions, conducting and designing student laboratories, issues related to student interactions and evaluations, preparation and presentation of lectures, and developing and designing a course and syllabus.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

PSY 292 Graduate Research/ Special Topics
PSY 296 Master’s Thesis
PSY 298 Doctoral Dissertation
PSY 401 PT Master’s Continuation
PSY 402 FT Master’s Continuation
PSY 405 Graduate Teaching Assistant
PSY 406 Graduate Teaching Assistant
PSY 501 PT Doctoral Continuation
PSY 502 FT Doctoral Continuation