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 human behavior as well as their practical and theoretical implications.

**PSY 12 Abnormal Psychology**

An introduction to the major adult psychological and psychiatric disorders. The symptoms and signs of psychosis, affective disorders and anxiety disorders will be discussed. The way these symptoms and signs constellate into various syndromes (E.G. schizophrenia, major depression), as defined in the DSM-IV, will be considered. Finally, for each of these syndromes, an introduction to the etiology (causes) and an overview of biopsychosocial management approaches will be presented.

*Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or 9 or junior or senior standing or consent.*

**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 or consent.*

**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 25 Physiological Psychology**

This course will serve as an introduction to the role of the brain in behavior. The course will begin by providing a basic understanding of the way the nervous system works. With this knowledge in hand, the physiological basis of behaviors such as hunger, thirst, sex, aggression, sleep, learning and memory will be explored. Special attention will be paid to recent advances in research in the growing area of biological contributions to mental disorders. This course is not meant for biology, biopsychology majors or for pre-medical students. Those students should take Psychology 103.

*Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or 9.*

**PSY 27 Perception**

This course will provide an introduction to the processes that transform physical energies (e.g., light, sound, vibration) into psychological experiences (e.g., seeing objects, hearing noises, feeling textures). These processes are crucial for the basic survival of virtually all animal species and they are also prerequisite to the functioning of “higher” psychological processes such as thinking, socializing, playing games, and appreciating art and music. This semester’s version of the course will focus on visual perception, tactile perception (touch), their relationship to one another and to an observer’s movements and actions (reaching, locomoting, catching balls). Special issues such as the development of perceptual abilities in infants, perceptual systems in animals, pathologies of perception, and perception’s role in art and sports will also be incorporated. Class sessions will generally follow a lecture format. However, questions and discussions are encouraged, and demonstrations and guided observations will frequently be utilized. Course work will include reading textbook, web-based, and primary source materials; taking 2-3 exams; and preparing 2-3 brief reports on class activities.

*Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or 9 or Junior or Senior Standing. For psychology majors, Psychology 27 can fulfill the department’s requirement that majors take a “20’s” level course. For all students, Psychology 27 can count as a “natural science” course for the basic distribution requirements. Psychology 27 can also serve as a psychology elective for Biopsychology majors and as a prerequisite to Psychology 41 (the advanced laboratory course in perception and cognition).*

**PSY 28 Cognitive Psychology**

This survey class examining human information processing systems will take a hands-on approach to exploring questions of how humans process information. In particular, through a combination of lecture and projects, the class will explore how stimulus information is transformed, stored, retrieved, and used. The course explores theoretical models of cognition, considering them in the context of both empirical research and everyday experience. Topics include object recognition, attention, memory, reasoning, wayfinding, language processes, decision making, and problem solving.

*Prerequisites: 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 (register for A,B,C,D,E,F only)*
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 (register for A, B, C only)

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 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 40 Physiological Psychology Lab

This laboratory course is designed to introduce students to many of the research techniques employed in the behavioral neurosciences. Particular emphasis is placed on the examination of the anatomy and functional dynamics of the central nervous system with respect to behavior. Experiments investigating the physiological basis of feeding behavior, social behavior, drug abuse, learning and memory, affective behavior will be conducted. Techniques to be learned will include stereotaxic surgery, neurohistory, and neurochemical assays. The course will have one lecture meeting per week. Additional laboratory participation is required.

Prerequisites: Psychology 25 or 103.

PSY 41 Perception and Cognition Lab

This course will examine mental processing using experimental techniques. It will focus on how our minds work when we think, reason, remember, learn, solve problems, perceive objects and/or understand language. The course will provide an opportunity for students to learn and use state-of-the-art experimental techniques for studying each of these processes. This experimental work will test current theories of cognitive processing in humans, with particular emphasis on examination of theories and models derived from the fields of cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, artificial intelligence, and philosophy.

Prerequisites: Psychology 26, 27, 28, or 29, and Psy 32.

PSY 42 Emotion Laboratory

In this 1-credit laboratory course, students design, conduct, analyze, interpret, and present original experimental research on the nature of human emotion and its regulation. Students obtain hands-on experience using different methods of measuring emotional responses, including subjective ratings, expressive behavior, and autonomic physiology (e.g. heart rate, skin conductance, respiration). Course assignments typically include reading and thinking critically about classic and contemporary research in emotion; developing hypotheses; practical tasks related to carrying out research projects; writing manuscripts in APA format, and oral presentations.

PSY 53 Engineering Psychology

This class is an introduction to the principles of Engineering Psychology as they apply to the analysis of human-machine interfaces. Some topics discussed include: the relationships between perception and cognition, design of displays and controls, information theory, and human error. Practical examples are drawn in order to illustrate the application of course material from transportation, organizational behavior, and product design. There is a midterm, final exam, project presentation and final paper, all of which require the ability to apply class discussions and reading material to answer true/false, multiple choice, and identification/essay exam questions. This course is only offered during the Fall semester.

Prerequisites: Psychology 1 or 9.

PSY 58 Psychology of Sports

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the application of general psychological theories to sports, and to sensitize students to the special needs and issues of athletes. An equal emphasis will be placed upon theory, research, and applied sports psychology. The core of the curriculum investigates the nature of competition and how it both facilitates and undermines performance.

Prerequisites: Psychology 1.

PSY 64 Introduction to Linguistics

The contemporary science of linguistics is concerned with how humans encode their language in their brains, so that they can produce and understand an unlimited variety of utterances in context. This course will begin with a discussion of general properties of language: its cultural and political context and how it contrasts with other forms of communication. It then will turn to the problem of how children learn language and the possibility of a biological basis for the ability to learn language, often termed Universal Grammar. From this background, the course will work out some aspects of the structure of language: morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), phonology (sound structure), and semantics (meaning), making use of problem sets involving English and other languages of the world.

Cross-listed as Philosophy 15 & CD 143-07.
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, clinical psychology major, 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 91 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: 2 courses in Psychology and permission of instructor.

PSY 97 Research 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 or Clinical Psychology major and senior standing.

PSY 107 Advanced Statistics I

Introduction to probability theory and the logical basis of statistical inference. Binomial and normal models are examined. Elementary signal-detection theory and process-trees are developed. Analysis of variance models are introduced with consideration of their implication in research design.

Prerequisites: Psy 31 or Graduate Standing.

PSY 119 Family Dynamics and Therapy

This course examines theories and research relating to family dynamics and treatment. The perspective taken will be that of the family as a system, exploring the forces within the family that lead to, and inhibit, change and conflict. We will examine what makes some families get “stuck” and how various treatment approaches attempt to free them up, and how particular family styles are associated with particular difficulties (e.g., delinquency, anorexia, schizophrenia).

Prerequisites: Psychology 1 and 12.

PSY 126 Origins of Cognition

This seminar-style course will focus on the evolution and development of “uniquely” human cognitive behaviors, such as language, counting, tool-using, imitation, theory of mind, and deliberate deception. How did humans come to have these abilities? When and under what pressures did they evolve? What kinds of evidence can we use to infer these abilities on the part of individuals and species now extinct? In addition to considering their evolution, we will also examine the development of these behaviors during infancy and early childhood, as many of the same issues, progressions and intermediate behaviors come up in both evolution and development. Finally, we will consider whether other species may exhibit similar behaviors, as certain animal abilities are often used for reference points in theorizing about both human evolution and infant development. Course work will involve reading original source materials, and class sessions will include discussion, debate, videos, and student presentations centered on these materials.
The course is appropriate for students with some background in any (at least one) of the following: cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, physical anthropology, animal behavior, or philosophy of mind. This course may be used as a 100-level seminar for the Psychology major, it may serve as one of the required options for the Cognitive and Brain Science major, and it may be taken by graduate students for 200-level credit.

Prerequisites: One of: Psychology 11, 26,28,29, Anthropology 20, 30, Biology 130 or Child Development 001.

PSY 127 Behavioral Endocrinology

The topic for this course is the influence of hormones on behavior and the effect of behavior on hormones. We will consider in detail the interrelationships of hormones and sex, aggression, hunger, thirst, learning, and mood. This will be done both at the level of behavioral analysis and at the level of neuroendocrine mechanisms. The course will be about half lecture and half seminar in format and the last part of the seminar section will include presentations by the students on topics in Behavioral Endocrinology of their choice.

Prerequisites: Psychology 32, and Psychology 25 or Psychology 103.

PSY 128 Nutrition and Behavior

This advanced seminar examines the bidirectional effects of food consumption and behavior. Students will develop their knowledge base and critical analysis skills in this course. The seminar begins with the study of nutrition and psychological processes and then delves into more specific topics such as: dietary preferences, obesity, eating disorders, potential role of food in pain and pleasure, potential effects of food additives, and the effects of diet on cognition and sports performance. The format includes lectures, discussions, and student presentations. Readings are taken from textbooks, journal articles and popular press articles. The course is appropriate for juniors, seniors, and graduate students and is cross-listed as Nutrition 128.

Prerequisites: Psychology 31 or Bio 132 or CH 54; Co-listed with Nutrition 128.

PSY 129 Cognitive Neuroscience

Psychology 129 will be an in depth exploration of several topic areas concerned with the neuronal basis of human mental processes. These will include: perception, memory, language, attention and consciousness. The class format will combine lecture (background information on a topic) and seminar/discussions.

Pre-requisite: Psychology 32, any Psychology 20 level course or Psychology 9. Meets concurrently with Psych 229.

PSY 134 Interpersonal Conflict & Negotiation

This seminar will examine social psychological theories for conflict escalation and reduction of conflicts. Participants will focus on research findings concerning social conflict, negotiation and mediation. Topics include: methodology for studying conflicts, individual differences, negotiation styles, the effect of physical components and culture on adversaries, strategic choices, social dilemmas, negotiators’ power and effective third party intervention in interpersonal and inter-group settings. Case studies, various classroom demonstrations and exercises will be used.

Prerequisites: Psychology 13 or consent

PSY 135 Leadership and Group Dynamics

This seminar familiarizes students with models of leadership, leadership styles, and the influence of group processes on effective leadership. Group behaviors such as communication, use of power, performance, decision-making and conflicts are tested in light of changes in organizations and cross-cultural perspectives. Through class exercises, simulations, demonstrations and class presentations, students will have the chance to gain perspective on their own leadership skills and improve their interactions in groups.

Prerequisites: Psychology 13 or consent. Cross-listed with Tisch LMS-0195-01.

PSY 152 The Psychology of Bilingualism

In most of the world knowledge and use of more than one language in daily life is the norm. Even in the US where English is the dominant language, there is a growing awareness that knowledge of a second language is essential to our competitiveness in an increasingly interactive world and likely has certain cognitive benefits including improved executive functioning and protection against cognitive aging. This seminar explores bilingualism from the perspective of psychology. Among the topics discussed are: the bilingual brain, developmental bilingualism, second language acquisition, bilingual memory, social and cognitive implications of bilingualism, and the interaction of a bilingual's languages at the cognitive level.

Prerequisites: Psychology 32 and any other Psychology course or consent.

PSY 181-01 & 181-02 Supervised Seminar in Field Work

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. 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.

Cap for each class: 10 - 15 students.

Note: Students needing a senior internship must attend a meeting that will be held in April.

Prerequisites: Clinical Psychology major and senior standing.

PSY 191 Individual Research 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: 2 previous courses in Psychology and permission of instructor.
PSY 195-01 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; 0.5 course credit.

PSY 196-01 Music, Language, & the Brain

This advanced seminar will compare music and language, two characteristically human forms of communication that use complex sound sequences. How much overlap exists between the mental processes involved in these domains, and how does this overlap bear on theoretical and practical issues in cognitive science? Topics will include: rhythm, melody, and syntax. The class format will combine lecture (background information on a topic), discussion, and student presentations of existing research papers.

Prerequisites: Psychology 64, 9 or 80, and one other language course or consent.

PSY 196-02 Social Identity, Stigma and Coping

People who are targeted by stereotypes and prejudice experience the world in unique ways. This course investigates the psychological consequences of stereotypes for victims and examines how targets of prejudice actively cope with being members of devalued social groups. We will discuss short- and long-term outcomes for people who possess devalued social identities, including the development of strategies to protect well-being in the face of discrimination. In addition, we will discuss situational and interpersonal factors that facilitate versus undermine victims’ efforts to speak out about discrimination. This course will place an emphasis on empirical research and on teaching students how to interpret and critique research in social psychology.

Prerequisites: Psychology 13 and 32.

PSY 197 Supervised Readings in Special Topics

This course requires that the student make arrangements with a professor to supervise the semester's work.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

GRADUATE COURSES

PSY 229 Graduate Cognitive Neuroscience

This course will be an in depth exploration of several topic areas concerned with the neuronal basis of human mental processes. These will include: perception, memory, language, attention and consciousness. The class format will include lecture (background information on a topic) and seminar/discussions.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing. Meets concurrently with Psych 129. Graduate students must also meet on Tuesdays 6:00 PM – 7:15PM in the Psych Bldg 301.

PSY 232 Core Course in Cognition

This course will be an advanced survey of cognitive psychology, emphasizing both the breadth and depth of the area of study. Topics that will be discussed include attention, perception, memory, imagery, cognitive mapping, language, problem solving, decision-making, and reasoning. Emphasis will be placed on theories underlying these issues and experimental investigations of the theories.

Prerequisites: 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 291 Graduate Independent Research

PSY 295 Master’s Thesis

PSY 297 Ph.D. Dissertation

PSY 401 PT Master’s Continuation

PSY 402 FT Master’s Continuation

PSY 405 Graduate Teaching Assistant

PSY 406 Graduate Research Assistant

PSY 501 PT Doctoral Continuation

PSY 502 FT Doctoral Continuation