

PSYCHOLOGY

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Psychology combines perspectives from both the social sciences and the natural sciences to gain an understanding of the processes underlying human behavior, by examining influences ranging from the neurological to the sociocultural. Students become interested in psychology for a wide variety of reasons: for personal development, to obtain job-related skills, to prepare for careers in psychology, as a valuable elective for other professional careers, or as one of many areas of study leading to a broad liberal arts education.

The psychology curriculum at Wooster has over the years prepared its majors for diverse professional and job experiences. Approximately two thirds of its graduates between 1966 and 2001 entered professional programs at either the M.A. or Ph.D. level in psychology or related areas (*e.g.*, education, law, social work, medicine). Other students enter the job market in a variety of settings immediately after graduation (*e.g.*, technology, sales, finance, real estate, social services).

The psychology **major** stresses an empirical approach to the broad range of psychological issues and problems. As such, the curriculum is intended to expose students to both scientific and applied aspects of the discipline. Majors are expected to be familiar with both theory and research in selected areas, and research experience and methodology, including experimental design and quantitative analyses (statistics), are essential to the curriculum. As in all majors at Wooster, each student is required to complete a one-semester Junior Independent Study project and the Independent Study Research Thesis during the senior year.

As part of its facilities, the Department of Psychology maintains a statistical/computer facility and well-equipped perception, cognition, animal, developmental, and social/personality laboratories. Students also have access to children for observation at the College's nursery school.

A **minor** in Psychology consists of the first five course requirements and one course from requirements 6 or 7, as listed below for a major.

Majors and minors are not permitted to take any courses within the department for S/NC credit. **A student must earn a grade of C- or higher for a course to count toward the major or minor, or to count as a prerequisite.**

A major in Psychology requires the following courses:

1. 100 or 110
2. One 200-level course (in addition to 299)
3. 299
4. 321 or 322 or 335
5. 325 or 327 or 330
6. 371
7. 372
- 8 - 9. Two additional 300-level courses (writing, methods, or electives)
10. 401
- 11 -12. 451-452

The Psychology Department recommends that majors take a two-semester sequence of a laboratory course in either Biology or Chemistry and at least one course in Mathematical Sciences.

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

100. INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY An introduction to psychological theory, research, and methods. Coverage includes basic neurological processes, principles of learning and cognition, individual differences in personality, intelligence, and mental health, and social influences on behavior. Some sections will be

organized around a specific topic, such as drugs, the law, work, or the brain; others will have a more general focus. Check the course schedule for details on specific sections. Students may only take the course once for course credit. No prerequisite. Annually. Fall and Spring. [#]

110. CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT A study of the processes that contribute to the development of the individual as a person. The emphasis is typically on the child from conception to early adolescence. This course is intended primarily for students seeking licensure in Education. Psychology majors and minors are strongly encouraged to enroll in Psychology 100. Annually. Fall and Spring. [#]

NOTE: A field placement is required of all students. Students have the opportunity to observe physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and aesthetic development in children and reflect on the role of family on development. The field placement satisfies licensure requirements for education students.

COURSES REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE

211. MATURITY AND OLD AGE A course exploring the individual's needs and developmental tasks to be accomplished by persons as they progress from young adulthood to retirement and beyond. The impact of biological, sociological, and psychological factors on the aging process will be examined in an attempt to separate myth from reality about aging. The emphasis will be on persons in the middle age and older years. Prerequisite: Psychology 100 or 110. Annually. Fall. [#]

212. ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY Origin, development, and classification of exceptional individuals including mentally retarded, mentally gifted, and those who exhibit atypical behavior patterns. Prerequisite: Psychology 100 or 110. Annually. Spring. [#]

215. PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN: THEORY AND RESEARCH (See Women's Studies) A survey course dealing with sex roles and developmental differences between women and men, the psychological implications of events unique to women, and a feminist critique of the treatment of women in classic and current psychological literature. Prerequisite: Psychology 100 or 110. Annually. Fall. [#]

230. HUMAN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY An exploration of human neuropathological conditions, and animal models of these conditions, as they pertain to brain function and behavior. The course emphasizes the various methodologies used to assess the function of brain regions and behavior through a case study approach. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110. Annually. Spring. [#]

240. TOPICS IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY A course in which traditional concepts, methods, and theories in psychology are applied to a practical issue. Topics selected yearly and announced in advance by the faculty member responsible for the course. Prerequisite: Psychology 100 or 110. Spring. Not offered 2004-2005. [#]

245. HUMAN SEXUALITY A survey course examining the evolutionary, biological, developmental, social, and historical-cultural aspects of human sexuality. Additional topics include: sexually transmitted disease, sex in the context of human relationships, and issues of sexual orientation. Prerequisite: Psychology 100 or 110. Annually. Fall. [#]

STATISTICS

299. INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS AND EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN Introduction to basic principles of descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and experimental design. Annually. Fall and Spring. [Q]

WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES

321. LEARNING AND MOTIVATION A basic course emphasizing associative learning, motivation, and more complex determinants of animal and human behavior. Scientific writing is emphasized in this course. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110, and 299. Every third semester. Spring 2004-2005. [W]

322. MEMORY AND COGNITION Analysis of complex human behavior, including learning, memory, perception, and cognition. Scientific writing is emphasized in this course. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110, and 299. Every third semester. Spring. Not offered 2004-2005. [W]

325. PERSONALITY: THEORY AND DEVELOPMENT A basic course emphasizing theories of human development and personality and research generated from the theories. Scientific writing is emphasized in this course. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110, and 299. Every third semester. Fall 2004-2005. [W]

327. DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY: THEORY AND RESEARCH A survey of methods, research topics, and theory in developmental psychology. Scientific writing is emphasized in this course. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110, and 299. Every third semester. Fall 2004-2005. [W, #]

NOTE: A field placement is required of all students. Students have the opportunity to observe physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and aesthetic development in children and reflect on the role of family on development. The field placement satisfies licensure requirements for education students.

330. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: THEORY AND RESEARCH A survey of theory and research on human social cognition and behavior. Scientific writing is emphasized in this course. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110, and 299. Every third semester. Spring 2004-2005. [W]

335. SENSATION AND PERCEPTION A basic introduction to sensations, sensory processes, and their organization into perceptions. Both psychophysical and physiological perspectives are emphasized. Scientific writing is emphasized in this course. Prerequisites: Psychology 100 or 110, and 299. Every third semester. Fall 2004-2005. [W]

METHODS COURSES

371. EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH METHODS A course emphasizing the methods psychologists employ in the areas of sensation and perception, learning and motivation, and memory and cognition. The course emphasizes active engagement in all stages of research, including experimental design and methodology, data collection and analysis, and scientific writing. Prerequisite: Psychology 321, 322, or 335. Annually. Fall and Spring.

372. SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS A course emphasizing the methods psychologists employ in the areas of personality, social psychology, and developmental psychology. The course emphasizes active engagement in all stages of research, including experimental design and methodology, data collection and analysis, and scientific writing. Prerequisite: Psychology 325, 327, or 330. Annually. Fall and Spring.

ADVANCED ELECTIVE COURSES

323. NEUROSCIENCE: MIND AND BEHAVIOR An introduction to the anatomical and physiological basis of animal and human behavior. Content areas include basic neuronal physiology and brain anatomy, neural/endocrine interactions, methods in neuroscience, control of movement, sexual development and behavior, sleep, learning and memory, and physiological correlates of psychopathology. There will be a 3-hour laboratory in addition to class. The laboratory and classroom components are closely integrated in courses with a laboratory and must therefore be taken concurrently. Prerequisite: Psychology 299 or permission of the instructor. One and one-fourth course credits. Annually. Fall.

331. CLINICAL METHODS Primarily for majors, the course includes an introduction to current methods of psychotherapy, counseling, behavioral modification, and other selected topics concerning treatment and evaluation. Prerequisite: Psychology 299. Alternate years. Spring 2004-2005.

332. PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING An introduction to basic principles of psychological testing (reliability, validity, and normative data) and types of psychological tests. Assignments are intended to familiarize the students with administration, interpretation, and evaluation of psychological tests. Prerequisite: Psychology 299. Alternate years. Not offered 2004-2005.

340. ADVANCED TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY A seminar for junior and senior majors that explores current theory and research in selected topics in psychology. Topics selected yearly and announced in advance by the faculty member responsible for the seminar. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing with advanced background in psychology. Fall 2004-2005.

395. HISTORY AND SYSTEMS OF BEHAVIOR STUDIES A study of changing views of psychology from Aristotle to the present, with emphasis on the influences of ideas and methodologies on the evolution of systems and theories of psychological thought over the past hundred years. The course offers integrative perspective to the several courses of the Psychology major. Prerequisite: Psychology major or students with advanced standing in Psychology; a 300-level methods course or current enrollment in a 300-level methods course. Annually. Fall.

399. SPECIAL PROBLEMS Special courses on selected topics offered for a single time only to groups of students. Prerequisite: As specified by the instructor.

400-LEVEL COURSES

400. TUTORIAL A tutorial course on special topics offered to an individual student under the supervision of a faculty member. Prerequisite: approval of chairperson. Annually. Fall and Spring.

401, 403. JUNIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY A one-semester research project, with instruction on research methods and statistical analysis. Requires thorough literature search on a psychological topic, design of an empirical research project, and preparation of materials related to the ethical considerations pertaining to research with humans or other animals. Students work individually with a faculty adviser. Prerequisites: Psychology major or students with advanced standing in Psychology; a 300-level methods course or current enrollment in a 300-level methods course. Annually. Fall and Spring.

407, 408. INTERNSHIP An academically-oriented, applied experience that provides off-campus placement in an approved clinic, agency, institution, or research center. Focuses on the practical application and implications of theory and research under supervision and within the limits of the student's competence. Number of credits allowed for the experience (1-2 units) will be determined in advance by the department. Advanced planning and permission of the chairperson are required. Credits cannot be substituted for major requirements. Prerequisite: Advanced standing. Annually. Fall and Spring.

451, 452. INDEPENDENT STUDY THESIS Two consecutive semesters of Independent Study involving a single project, conducted during the senior year. The Independent Study Thesis must be a data-gathering research project. Students are encouraged to base their projects on a study from the experimental, personality, developmental, social, or clinical literature. Prerequisites: Senior standing and Psychology 401. Annually. Fall and Spring.