Psychology

Faculty

Carolyn Becker, Ph.D., Professor
Jane Childers, Ph.D., Professor; Chair
William Ellison, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
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Kimberley Phillips, Ph.D., Professor
Harry Wallace, Ph.D., Associate Professor
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Overview

The curriculum in psychology reflects both the diversity of its subdisciplines and the universality of their reliance on methodological sophistication. All students who major in psychology are required to take courses that represent the main topical areas within the psychological sciences, plus a year-long methods sequence (preferably in the sophomore year). Through a rigorous advising program, students are encouraged to choose electives to develop their particular interests. Students who intend graduate study are encouraged to choose research experiences, as well as seminars related to their interests.

Requirements

The Major

The requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology are as follows:

I. Departmental requirements: 38 hours in psychology, including:

   A. PSYC 1300
   B. PSYC 2401 and PSYC 2402
C. PSYC 2310 (alternatives: BIOL 1311, BIOL 1307)
D. One course in each of the following clusters:
   1. Developmental Psychology: 2320, 3321, 3322
   2. Social and Clinical Psychology: 2341, 3340, 3342
E. At least 18 credit hours must be at the upper-division level.
F. Electives sufficient to total 38 hours in psychology (other cluster courses, companion courses, and individual experiences). Students must complete at least 2 additional upper-division courses from cluster courses or companion courses as part of these elective hours.

II. University requirements: completion of all other required elements of the Pathways curriculum and at least 124 credit hours.

Majors are encouraged to take courses from other disciplines that can serve to broaden their understanding of specific areas within psychology (e.g., mathematics, biology, computer science, and anthropology/sociology).

The Minor

A minor in psychology may be obtained by successful completion of at least 18 credit hours. At least nine of these hours must be at the upper-division level.

Guidelines for Acceptance of Majors

Full acceptance in the major is granted if the following requirements are met at the time of application:

I. Completion of PSYC 1300 with a grade of C or better;
II. Completion of PSYC 2401 with a grade of C or better;
III. A grade point average of at least 2.0 on all university work.

Provisional acceptance in the major is granted if it is apparent that the applicant can meet the requirements for full acceptance by their senior year. Transfer students will be accepted provisionally pending completion at Trinity of at least one upper-division Psychology course with a grade of C or better.

Courses

Introduction, Methods, and Physiological Processes

PSYC-1300 Principles of Psychology

An introduction to the major domains of psychological knowledge, informed by biological, cognitive, environmental
and motivation perspectives. Emphasizes scientific theory and methods supplemented by applications to everyday experience.

PSYC-2401 Statistics and Methods I
Instruction in measurement processes, descriptive statistics, correlation and inferential reasoning and basic statistical procedures. Students become acquainted with major procedures and issues involved in the framing of psychological research. Instruction includes the use of computer-implemented statistical packages and the method and style of writing about psychological research. Prerequisite: PSYC 1300 or BIOL 1311

PSYC-2402 Statistics and Methods II
Instruction in additional techniques in inferential reasoning, including analysis of variance, and major nonparametric statistics. All topics are presented within the context of research design and methodology. Related statistical packages for computer-assisted analysis and further instruction in writing are included. Prerequisite: PSYC 2401 or consent of instructor.

PSYC-2310 Introduction to Neuroscience
A survey of basic neuroscience, starting with fundamentals of neuronal structures and ending with higher brain functions and their relations to mind and behavior. (Also listed as NEUR 2310.) Prerequisite: PSYC 1300

PSYC-2110 Neuroscience Laboratory
The neuroscience laboratory provides students with a hands-on approach to understanding the scientific method through neuroscientific technique and data analysis, including anatomical, electrophysiological and computer simulations. Students will engage in laboratory exercises as well as in solving problem sets. This course is appropriate for both non-science majors and science majors. Spring semester only. (Also listed as NEUR 2110.) Prerequisite or Corequisite: PSYC/NEUR-2310.

Cluster 1: Developmental Psychology

PSYC-2320 Lifespan Development
Overview of contemporary theoretical and empirical approaches to lifespan development. Biological, social, and psychological dimensions of behavior will be examined from conception and infancy through late life.

PSYC-2350 Language Development
Examination of children's language acquisition. Topics include theories of acquisition, comparison of human language with animal communication, infant speech perception, word learning and syntactic development. (Offered every other year.) Prerequisites: PSYC 1300 or consent of instructor

PSYC-3321 Cognitive Development
Examination of contemporary theoretical and empirical approaches to cognitive development from birth to adolescence. Major areas of cognition (e.g. perception, categorization, memory, language) are studied from a
PSYC-3322 Social Development
Investigation of social development from infancy through adolescence. The course focuses on topics including infant attachment, gender development, the understanding of race/ethnicity, the development of morality, and the influence of peers, parents and the media on social development. Prerequisite: PSYC 1300.

Cluster 2: Social and Clinical Psychology

PSYC-2341 Social Psychology
Examination of how individuals think, feel, and behave in different social contexts. Explores the basic and applied research on topics such as aggression, attitudes, attribution, prejudice, relationships, self-perception, and social influence. Prerequisite: PSYC 1300.

PSYC-3340 Psychopathology
Examination of current theory and research findings concerning major psychological disorders. Causes, treatment, and phenomenology of psychopathology are explored, with emphasis on relevant social, intrapsychic, and physiological factors. Includes a critique of approaches to differentiating pathological and adaptive behavior. Prerequisite: PSYC 1300.

PSYC-3342 Personality and Individual Differences
Examination of the following perspectives on personality process: psychoanalytic, trait, genetic, behavioral, cognitive, and humanistic. Major research methods and issues of each perspective are stressed. Prerequisites: PSYC 1300 and 2401.

Cluster 3: Cognition, Perception, and Learning

PSYC-2330 Fundamentals of Cognition
An introduction to the principles of cognitive psychology. Topics include the development of the cognitive paradigm, attention, higher order processes in perception, language, memory, problem-solving and human-computer interaction. Application to other domains in Psychology and disciplines will be discussed. Prerequisite: PSYC 1300

PSYC-3311 Sensation and Perception
Study of sensory and perceptual systems. Emphasis is on the relationship of neurophysiological and cognitive principles. Major focus is on vision (visual neurophysiology, spatial vision, form, color, depth and motion) with some discussion of psychophysical methods, audition, speech perception and the chemical senses. Demonstrations and conducting experiments are part of the course. Prerequisite: PSYC 1300
PSYC-3312 Principles of Learning
Major principles of learning, derived from empirical research with a variety of organisms. Historically important and contemporary theories of learning are introduced. Topics also include application to child rearing, education, and psychotherapy and implications for issues concerning freedom and responsibility. Prerequisites: PSYC 1300 and at least one additional course in Psychology

PSYC-3431 Memory and Cognition
Examination of the fundamental principles of memory and thought, the experimental evidence to support these principles, and the theoretical perspectives used to understand them. (Offered every other year.) Prerequisite: PYSC 2402 or consent of instructor.

Companion Courses

PSYC-2360 Special Topics in Psychology
In depth study of theory and research on a topic that spans subdisciplines within psychology or relates psychology to cross-disciplinary interests. (Offered occasionally) Prerequisites: PSYC 1300.

PSYC-3310 Neuroethics
In this course students review and discuss ethical theories and principles, and then discuss ethical dilemmas arising from several currently devoted topics relevant to the brain, cognition, and behavior. Relevant bioethical and philosophical principles will be applied to each issue allowing students to acquired and develop skills in ethical analysis. In addition, relevant neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurotechnologies will be discussed. (Also listed as NEUR 3310.) (Offered every other year.) Prerequisite: PSYC 1300 and PSYC/NEUR 2310 or Permission of Instructor

PSYC-3451 Clinical Psychology
Exploration of the field of clinical psychology, with a focus on theories and practices of intervention. The major approaches to intervention, including psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, and systems, are examined. These approaches are critically evaluated with attention to relevant research issues. Prerequisites: PSYC 1300, 3340.

PSYC-3355 Behavioral Medicine
Examination of the basic psychological processes that influence health and illness. Specific behaviors, illnesses, and physical conditions such as smoking, obesity, cancer, HIV, and hypertension are explored with a focus on theoretical models and psychological interventions. Prerequisites: PSYC 1300

PSYC-3360 Special Topics in Psychology
In depth study of theory and research within a particular domain of psychology. May be repeated on different topics. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
PSYC-3368 Supervised Research
Independent research using empirical methods. Nine hours per week will be distributed across research activities, colloquia attendance and student presentations. May be repeated twice with consent of instructor. (Offered every semester.) Prerequisites: Consent of instructor, PSYC 2-61, and PSYC 2401.

PSYC-4390 Senior Seminar in Psychology
In-depth study of theory and research on a topic that spans subdisciplines within psychology or relates psychology to cross-disciplinary interests. Prerequisite: Senior status with a major in psychology or consent of instructor.

Individual Experience

PSYC-2-61 Lab Experience in Psychology
This course is designed to give students the background experiences needed to conduct research in Psychology. Students will engage in research-related activities such as reading empirical papers, data collection, data coding, and learning research protocols. This course will be offered on a Pass/Fail basis. (Offered every semester.) Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and PSYC 1300

PSYC-3357 Directed Field Practicum
Field work conducted as part of the academic curriculum. May be repeated once for credit on a different topic. Pass/Fail basis only (Does not count toward the major). Prerequisites: PSYC 3340 and consent of instructor

PSYC-3-61 Advanced Research in Psychology
This course is designed to allow students to develop advanced research skills (e.g., data analysis, manuscript preparation), as well as provide students with the opportunity to complete ongoing research projects. For each credit hour, three hours per week will be distributed across research experiences. (Offered every semester.) Prerequisites: PSYC 3368, and consent of instructor.

PSYC-4395 Thesis I
Independent research and scholarly investigation conducted with faculty supervision and culminating (with PSYC 4396) in the preparation of a written thesis. Prerequisites: PSYC 2401, 2402, and consent of instructor.

PSYC-4396 Thesis II
Completion of research initiated in PSYC 4395 and the presentation of the written thesis according to departmental guidelines. Prerequisites: PSYC 4395; consent of instructor.