

## PSYCHOLOGY

### Psychology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Psychology

23 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2724

Web site: [www.mnsu.edu/psych/psych.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/psych/psych.html)

Chair: Barry J. Ries

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Psychology is the scientific study of the effects of individual, social, physiological, developmental and environmental factors on thoughts, feelings and behavior. Psychology courses seek to teach students about the methods of psychological inquiry and the findings of psychological research.

Students study psychology because they wish to prepare for a professional career as a psychologist, because they are planning a career in which the understanding of human behavior is important, or simply because they wish to develop a greater understanding of themselves and others. The practice of psychology at the professional level requires a graduate degree beyond the bachelor's degree.

**Psychology Honors Degree.** The purpose of the psychology departmental honors degree program is to provide top-level psychology students with an opportunity to obtain specialized research training that will make them better research scholars and more competitive applicants for graduate school in psychology and psychology-related programs. Regardless of participation in the university-level honors program. These top psychology students would obtain research experience modeled after graduate-level training, which is both similar to and recognized by other university.

**Admission to Major** is granted by the department. Department admissions requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 ("C").
- completion of PSYC 201 (Statistics) with a grade of "C" or better.

Contact the department for application procedures.

#### PSYCHOLOGY BA, BS

**Required General Education** (does not count toward 40 credits required for major):

PSYC 101 Psychology (4)

#### Requirements:

PSYC 201 Statistics for Psychology (4)  
PSYC 211 Research Methods and Design (4)  
PSYC 409 History and Systems (senior status required) (3)

Select at least one course from each core area:

#### Learning and Cognition

PSYC 413 Sensation and Perception (4)  
PSYC 414 Learning (4)  
PSYC 415 Human Memory (4)  
PSYC 416 Cognitive Psychology (4)

#### Personality/Social

PSYC 340 Social Psychology (4)  
PSYC 455 Abnormal Psychology (4)  
PSYC 456 Personality Theories (3)  
PSYC 458 Cultural Psychology (3)

#### Biological

PSYC 420 Drugs and Behaviors (4)  
PSYC 421 Biopsychology (4)  
PSYC 423 Neuroscience (4)

#### Developmental

PSYC 433 Child Psychology (4)  
PSYC 436 Adolescent Psychology (4)  
PSYC 466 Psychology of Aging (3)

Plus sufficient electives to complete 40 credits in Psychology.

**Required for Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree ONLY:** Language (8)

**Required Minor: Yes. Any.**

#### PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

**Required for Minor (General Education):**

PSYC 101 Psychology (4)  
Choose 17 credits of electives, including at least 8 credits at the 400 level.  
PSYC Elective  
PSYC Elective  
PSYC Elective  
PSYC 400 Level Elective  
PSYC 400 Level Elective  
PSYC 400 Level Elective

#### POLICIES/INFORMATION

**GPA Policy.** Any Psychology course in which a grade of less than "C" (or P) is earned will not be counted toward a major or a minor in psychology.

**P/N Grading Policy.** No more than 8 credits of the major or 4 credits of the minor may be taken for P/N credit. PSYC 291 is only available on a P/N basis. PSYC 497 and PSYC 499 are also normally taken for P/N credit.

**Teaching Psychology.** Students who intend to gain initial licensure to teach psychology in Minnesota schools need to meet the requirements of the social studies BS (teaching) program as described in the social studies section of this bulletin.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

##### **PSYC 101 (4) Psychology**

This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to the broad spectrum of theories and applications that make up the field of psychology.

Fall, Spring  
GE-5

##### **PSYC 103W (3) Psychology Today**

Introduces students to major issues in society that impact their lives, behaviors, and the way they think. Course requires student to critically address controversial and non-controversial issues through clear argumentations, intensive writings, research and presentations.

Spring  
GE-1C, GE-2

##### **PSYC 201 (4) Statistics for Psychology**

This course emphasizes understanding the conceptual basis of common statistical procedures and applying those procedures to the problems of organizing information and making inferences from data. Topics include: summarizing data, the logic of inference, estimation, analysis of variance, and correlation.

Pre: MATH 112  
Fall, Spring

##### **PSYC 202 (1) Careers in Psychology**

Exploration of various degrees and types of careers available in psychology, and what psychologists do.

Fall, Spring

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### **PSYC 206 (4) The Human Mind**

An overview of psychology from the cognitive perspective. What we know about the mental processes that underlie human activities and how we study them.  
Spring  
GE-5

### **PSYC 207 (4) Introduction to Behavior Analysis**

This is a unit/mastery and laboratory course designed to introduce the student to the science of behavior analysis: the study of how behavior is influenced by its interactions with environmental events. The subject matter will be illustrated by human and animal experiments.  
Fall

### **PSYC 211 (4) Research Methods and Design**

An introduction to the major components of internally valid investigations. Includes use of computers in psychological research.  
Pre: PSYC 201  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 230 (3) Child Care Psychology**

This course is designed to develop an understanding of major variables that impact the psychological development of children. Emphasis will be placed on what parents and other care givers can do to maximize the healthy psychological development of their children.  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 240 (3) Personal Adjustment**

Understanding oneself and increasing one's satisfaction in living.  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 291 (1-4) Tutoring Psychology**

Application of the principles of learning to the instruction of students. Permission required. Pre: PSYC 101  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 303 (3) Introduction to Clinical Psychology**

This course is designed for psychology majors who plan careers in professional psychology (clinical, school, etc.). The purpose of the course is to assist students in developing the skills necessary to compete for graduate school placement. It is advised that students complete this course during their sophomore or junior year.  
Pre: PSYC Major and 3.0 GPA  
Fall

### **PSYC 340 (4) Social Psychology**

An exploration of theories and research related to the ways that the social environment affects people's behavior.  
Pre: PSYC 101  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 405 (4) Motivation**

Major concepts of human motivation and emotion, presentation of learned cognitive and biological influences on sustained behavior.  
Pre: PSYC 201, PSYC 207 or PSYC 211, or consent  
Fall

### **PSYC 407 (4) Advanced Behavior Analysis**

The science and technology of Behavior Analysis. The application of the principles of operant and respondent conditioning to the understanding and modification of human behavior. The primary mode of instruction is unit/mastery based on the text. There will also be a lab component involving human and animal experiments.  
Pre: PSYC 207  
Variable

### **PSYC 409 (3) History and Systems**

Examination of the historical origins of the principal contemporary psychological theories.  
Pre: Two of PSYC 407, PSYC 413, or PSYC 421 Senior Status Recommended  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 413 (4) Sensation & Perception**

How the senses respond to environmental stimuli and how the information they provide is organized into meaningful patterns that make up our experience of the physical world. The effects of maturation and learning in altering those patterns as also considered.  
Pre: PSYC 101, PSYC 201, PSYC 207 or PSYC 211  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 414 (4) Learning**

This course provides a broad overview and analysis of the major theories of human and animal learning.  
Pre: PSYC 101  
Fall

### **PSYC 415 (4) Human Memory**

This course covers experimental and behavioral studies of human memory including long- and short-term memory, memory for text, pictures, spatial information, and autobiographical events. Emphasis on real-world situations, including education, in which memory and learning play a role.  
Pre: PSYC 201 & PSYC 211  
Fall

### **PSYC 416 (4) Cognitive Psychology**

An examination and evaluation of selected topics dealing with human information processing such as attention, memory, pattern recognition, consciousness, language, dyslexia, decision making, and problem-solving.  
Pre: PSYC 201 & PSYC 211  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 419 (4) Psychometric Theory**

An overview of development, use, and validation of psychological tests. Topics include reliability and validity, test construction, item analysis, ethics, test administration and scoring, and computerized testing.  
Pre: PSYC 201  
Fall

### **PSYC 420 (4) Drugs and Behavior**

Drug and alcohol use and abuse including history, biology, psychology, sociology, and clinical treatment and prevention of abuse.  
Pre: PSYC 421  
Spring

### **PSYC 421 (4) Biopsychology**

Biological basis of psychological processes and behavior. Basic topics such as neuroanatomy and neuron function are presented as well as more general ones such as sensation and movement, sleep, memory and learning, schizophrenia and depression.  
Pre: PSYC 201, and either PHYS 207 or PHYS 211  
Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 422 (4) Neuropsychology**

Detailed analysis of the relationship between human behavior and brain function. Basic topics will include cerebral asymmetry, memory, language, and attention as well as behavioral deficits such as learning disabilities, psychiatric disorders, and disconnection syndromes associated with neurological abnormalities.  
Pre: PSYC 421  
Variable

### **PSYC 423 (4) Neuroscience**

The goal of neuroscience is to understand the human mind. This goal is approached by revealing the brain processes involved in how we perceive, think, remember, and move. Brain development, communication, and plasticity at the neural level are all described.  
Pre: PSYC 421  
Spring

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### **PSYC 424 (4) Physiological Psychology Laboratory**

This course provides an in depth, hands on follow up to biopsychology. Through lectures, discussion and laboratory exercises this class will explore the workings of the brain and how the structure and function of the nervous system leads to behavior.

Pre: PSYC 421

Spring

### **PSYC 429 (3) Drug Dependence**

Examination of psychological theories relevant to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

Pre: PSYC 101

Fall

### **PSYC 433 (4) Child Psychology**

Physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and personality development from conception to preadolescence. Focus on interplay between maturation and experience.

Pre: PSYC 101

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 436 (4) Adolescent Psychology**

This class covers the development of the individual from the age of 11 to 19 years of age. Discussion will include aspects of both normal and abnormal development.

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 441 (3) Attitudes**

Examining cultural, social, and individual influences on attitude development and change through lectures and discussions of theories and findings, and through experiential activities.

Pre: PSYC 101

Variable

### **PSYC 442 (3) Group Psychology**

Exploring factors affecting leadership and effective group processes through lectures and discussion of theories and findings and through experiential activities.

Pre: PSYC 101

Variable

### **PSYC 443 (3) Advanced Social Psychology**

An in-depth examination of social psychological research in laboratory and field settings.

Pre: PSYC 201, PSYC 211, and PSYC 340

ALT

### **PSYC 451 (3) Methods of Enhancing Performance**

The role of psychological factors in performance and psychological methods of performance enhancement. Factors examined will include attention, motivation, decision making, mental rehearsal, arousal, and self management.

Pre: 8 PSYC credits

Variable

### **PSYC 453 (3) Human Factors**

The person-machine system; the strengths, operating limits, and tendencies of its human component.

Pre: PSYC 201 and PSYC 211 or PSYC 217

Variable

### **PSYC 455 (4) Abnormal Psychology**

This course is designed to increase the student's awareness and understanding of abnormal psychology. Students will become familiar with clinical descriptions, course of onset, and treatment regimens specific to various disorders.

Pre: 8 PSYC credits

Fall, Spring

CD-Related

### **PSYC 456 (3) Personality Theories**

Major theories of normal personality formation, organization, and structure.

Pre: 8 PSYC credits

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 458 (3) Cultural Psychology**

Cultural psychology is an interdisciplinary field that unites psychologists, anthropologists, linguists and philosophers to study how cultural meanings, practices and institutions influence and reflect individual human psychologies. Cultural influences on cognition, perception, emotion, motivation, moral reasoning, and well-being will be discussed with a view towards understanding divergent mentalities by drawing primarily from studies comparing Eastern and Western cultures, as well as some ethnic group companions within the United States. Students should come out of this course with an appreciation for the capacity for humans to create psychological diversity.

Spring

CD-Related

### **PSYC 460 (3) Psychology of Women**

Psychological study of women in historical and functional perspective. Role of hereditary, physiological, and socialization variables on women's thinking, feelings, and behavior.

Pre: PSYC 101

Spring

CD-Core

### **PSYC 461 (3) Marketing Psychology**

Analysis of product marketing and consumer purchasing strategies and their determinants.

Pre: 8 PSYC credits

Fall

### **PSYC 462 (3) Management Psychology**

Managerial behavior, problems, and effects in planning, problem-solving, decision-making, supervision, leadership, conflict, communication, appraisal, motivation, training, and information systems in organizational environments.

Pre: 8 PSYC credits

Variable

### **PSYC 463 (4) Survey of Industrial/Organizational Psychology**

An examination of the psychological aspects of human behavior in the work place. Topics include history of Industrial/Organizational psychology, job analysis, performance measurement, predictors of performance, making personnel decisions, training, satisfaction, social perception, motivation, communication, group process, leadership, and organizational culture.

Pre: PSYC 201, PSYC 207 or PSYC 211

Variable

### **PSYC 466 (3) Psychology of Aging**

Aging process and development during the adult years; psychology and psychological concerns of the aging individual; dealing with death.

Pre: PSYC 101

Spring

### **PSYC 476 (4) Applied Behavior Analysis**

Principles and procedures of behavior therapy in clinical areas. Emphasis is placed on procedures for developing more appropriate behaviors through positive and negative reinforcement, modeling, and cognitive procedures. Decreasing problematic behaviors through decelerating consequences and exposure techniques is also presented.

Pre: PSYC 207 or PSYC 211

Spring

### **PSYC 478 (4) Health Psychology**

The interface of behavioral and medical science is explored. Research on environmental and learning factors in the etiology and treatment of physical disease and rehabilitation is examined. Specific topics include pain management, medical compliance, behavior disorders in nursing homes and on chronic illnesses.

Pre: Three courses in PSYC

Spring

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### **PSYC 489 (1-5) Advanced Topics**

Application of psychology to topics of current interest. May be retaken for credit.

Variable

### **PSYC 490 (1-3) Workshop**

Topics to be announced. May be retaken for credit.

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 491 (1) In-Service: Issues in Behavior Therapy**

Current issues in Behavior Therapy are addressed. Students participate in off-campus didactic activities such as attendance at grand rounds at local hospitals, attendance at national, regional or local professional conferences, and augment learning with library research. Topics vary and students may repeat for credit.

Pre: Consent. Academic and experience in human services strongly recommended.

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 495 (2) Honors Seminar in Psychology**

The honors seminar is required for all psychology honors students and will provide a forum for discussing common concerns such as the process of writing an IRB proposal, writing in APA style, time management issues, and professional development.

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 497 (1-8) Field Experience**

A learning experience integrated with the student's course of study, to be developed with an advisor and the field experience coordinator. May be retaken for credit up to an 8 credit total for all enrollments. Available for P/N grading only.

Pre: 9 credits of PSYC

Fall, Spring

### **PSYC 499 (1-4) Individual Study**

Individualized learning under faculty supervision.

Fall, Spring