

## UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### New Course Numbering Effective Spring 2007

Some of the following are official University course descriptions and some are expanded descriptions intended to provide a more detailed understanding of the course content. The official course descriptions for all Psychology courses can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://www.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/>

PSYCH 100 (GS) Introductory Psychology (3 credits). Introduction to general psychology; principles of human behavior and their applications (OLD PSY 002).

PSYCH 200 Elementary Statistics in Psychology (4 credits). Frequency distributions and graphs; measures of central tendency and variability; normal probability curve; elementary sampling and reliability; correlations; simple regression equations. Prerequisites: PSYCH100, MATH 021. (OLD PSY 015).

PSYCH 212 (GS) Introduction to Developmental Psychology (3 credits). Developmental principles; physical growth; linguistic, intellectual, emotional, and social development from infancy to maturity. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. (OLD PSY 213).

PSYCH 221 (GS) Introduction to Social Psychology (3 credits). Research and theory on topics including interpersonal attraction, aggression, helping, attitudes, attribution, cooperation, competition, and groups, from a psychological perspective. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. (OLD PSY 217),

PSYCH 238 (GS) Introduction to Personality Psychology (3 credits). Past and recent conceptualizations of key issues and root ideas of personality psychology. Prerequisite PSYCH 100. (OLD PSY 238).

PSYCH 243 (GS) Introduction to Well-Being and Positive Psychology (3 credits). Applying psychological knowledge to develop and maintain effective personal adjustment and well-being and positive social relations. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. (OLD PSY 243).

PSYCH 270 Introduction to Abnormal Psychology (3 credits). Overview of assessment, causes, and treatments of psychological disorders. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. (OLD PSY 212).

PSYCH 301W Basic Research Methods in Psychology (4 credits). Introduction to methods of psychological research, with special attention to hypothesis formation and testing, threats to validity, and data presentation. Prerequisites: PSYCH 100; PSYCH 200 or STAT 200. (OLD PSY 201W).

PSYCH 302W Critical Thinking and Writing in Psychology (4 credits). This course aims to teach psychology majors to think critically and to write clearly using APA writing style. Prerequisite: Admission to major and a grade of C or higher required in ENGL 202A. (OLD PSYC 300W).

PSYCH 370 (US) Psychology of the Differently-Abled (3 credits). This course familiarizes students with the needs and abilities of people with varying physical challenges through academic and experiential exercises. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100 (OLD PSYC 310).

PSYCH 395 Internship (1-18 credits). A placement in an appropriate setting for clinical and/or research experience. In addition to field/project work, there are required seminar sessions and written assignments. Prerequisite: Prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor. (OLD PSYC 395).

PSYCH 410 Child Development (3 credits). Reviews development from conception through adolescence. Reviews fundamental psychological, cognitive, behavioral and neuropsychological development up to adolescence. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSYC 405)

PSYCH 412 Adolescence (3 credits). This course examines adolescence in its cultural context as well as in its position within the life cycle. Theories and research will be surveyed. A special emphasis will be made to help the student develop an understanding of the adolescent's behavior and experience during this often intense, exciting and crucial period. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. (OLD PSY 426, PSYC 406 and PSYCH 446).

PSYCH 420 Advanced Social Psychology (3 credits). This course examines psychological aspects of human social behavior. Students will be introduced to major themes and research methods in social psychology. Topics to be studied include attitudes, interpersonal attraction, aggression, and group dynamics. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSY 417, PSYC 402 and PSYCH 427).

PSYCH 422 Human Sexuality (3 credits). Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSYCH 402).

PSYCH 438 Personality Theory (3 credits). This course examines a broad spectrum of personality theories and models. Comparative analyses of individual and social implications will be made. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSY 438, PSYC 482 and PSYCH 480).

PSYCH 439 History and Systems of Psychology (3 credits). This course explores the development of psychological thought, including psychology's history as philosophy. The philosophical underpinnings that vex psychology will be addressed so that, in addition to understanding the historical background of the current "schools" of psychology, the student will appreciate that the differences between schools are complicated by differences in basic assumptions (e.g., mind/body, determined/free). The course also addresses issues surrounding the psychology of "science." Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSY 411, PSYC 412 and PSYCH 440).

PSYCH 441 Health Psychology (3 credits). This course is designed to introduce students to the application of psychological principles to health care. The course will familiarize students with the way psychological factors may promote wellness, foster illness, and affect treatment outcome. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSY 487, PSYC 301).

PSYCH 443 Treatment and Education in Developmental Disabilities (3 credits). This course covers etiology, classification, intervention (treatment and education), ethical and legal issues related to individuals with developmental disabilities. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSYC 444).

PSYCH 455 Development Throughout Adulthood (3 credits). Physical, cognitive, and personality development during adulthood. Prerequisite: PSYCH 212 (OLD PSYC 403).

PSYCH 456 Advanced Cognitive Psychology (3 credits). This course is an introduction to the field of experimental psychology, which emphasizes both conscious and unconscious processes involved in information processing, attention, perception, organization, memory, problem solving and decision making. At the end of the semester you should be familiar with major theories in cognitive psychology and the methods scientists use to develop theories, and be able to write a paper using APA style. Prerequisites: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSY 421, PSYC 425 and PSYCH 428).

PSYCH 461 Advanced Conditioning and Learning (3 credits). Principles of learning theory are reviewed in this class, emphasizing the evolutionary significance of learning, as well as respondent and operant conditioning. Principles influencing learning processes will be reviewed, including reinforcement, aversive control, shaping, discriminant operants, higher-order conditioning, and schedules of reinforcement. Psycholinguistic principles, including syntax and semantic properties will be covered in this course. Cognition, memory and problem solving will also be analyzed in the course. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSY 404, PSYC 427 and PSYCH 454).

PSYCH 462 Physiological Psychology (3 credits). An introduction to the physiological basis of behavior. This course will provide an overview of basic research in neuroscience, including neuroanatomy, neurological and psychological disorders, and the biology of sensation, perception, motivation, learning, memory, pleasure, and pain. Applications of basic research to everyday life will be stressed. Prerequisites: PSYCH 100, PSYCH 260 or 3 credits of biology or BI SC 004. (OLD PSY 456, PSYC 424 and PSYCH 466).

PSYCH 470 Abnormal Psychology (3 credits). A broad-spectrum analysis of abnormal behaviors, psychopathology, and approaches to the amelioration of such problems. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100; PSYCH 238, 243 or 270. (OLD PSY 412, PSYC 415 and PSYCH 486).

PSYCH 473 Behavior Modification (3 credits). This course is designed to teach fundamental and advanced principles of behavior and how they are utilized in solving some of the problems of human existence. The approach of behavior modification is that of the scientific method. Examples of some of the populations and problems studies

covered include addictions, classroom management, phobias, learning disabilities, self-control business, pain, mental illness, and marital counseling. With this knowledge, students should be more effective in the jobs as teachers, counselors, speech pathologists, social workers, psychologists, etc. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, 6 additional credits of PSYCH. (OLD PSYC 421).

PSYCH 476 Child Psychopathology (3 credits). This course covers the etiology, symptomatology, incidence, assessment, treatment, and prognosis of the major disorders of childhood and adolescence. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100; PSYCH 212, 238, 243 or 270. (OLD PSY 474 and PSYC 409).

PSYCH 479 (US) The Psychology of Gender (3 credits). Explores topics pertaining to women, including sex role stereotypes, gender differences, sex role socialization, and developmental stages. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100, PSYCH 220. (OLD PSY 471, PSYC 365 and PSYCH 472).

PSYC 490H Psychology Honor Thesis (3 credits). An opportunity to pursue an advanced research thesis or project to integrate studies within psychology. Prerequisites: HONOR 301H, senior standing, and permission of program.

PSYCH 492 Current Topics in Psychology (3 credits). Current topics addressing significant contemporary developments in psychology. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100. (OLD PSYC 492).

PSYCH 494 Research Project (1-12 credits). This is an opportunity for students with superior motivation and ability to pursue actual research in the field, working with a faculty member with expertise in the area. (OLD PSY 494 and PSYC 494).

PSYCH 496 Independent Studies (1-18 credits). This course is designed by the individual student in conjunction with a full-time member of the Psychology program, in order to meet special educational needs of the student. (OLD PSY 496 and PSYC 496).

PSYCH 497 Special Topics (1-9 credits). Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest. The topics vary and reflect current interests and research of the faculty. (OLD PSY 497 and PSYC 497).