

Psychology

NATURAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Faculty

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Andrew J. Niemiec
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Linda M. Smolak
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Jon L. Williams
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At Kenyon, psychology is taught as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The psychology curriculum provides an opportunity for majors and nonmajors to examine diverse theoretical views and findings in such areas as physiological psychology, cognition, human development, perception, personality, social behavior, and abnormal psychology. At all levels of study, the department gives students the opportunity to pursue research and to become involved in the work of local educational and mental-health

agencies that are affiliated with the Off-Campus Activities in Psychology Program (OAPP).

New Students

Look for the ♦ symbol, which designates those courses particularly appropriate for first-year students or second-year students new to the psychology curriculum.

PSYC 101 and PSYC 102, the introductory courses, are prerequisites for all other psychology courses. The first semester (PSYC 101) covers the basic processes underlying behavior, such as physiological, cognitive, and motivational factors. The second semester (PSYC 102) emphasizes behavior in various contexts, covering personality and the social, abnormal, and developmental aspects of behavior.

Requirements for the Major

The following information applies to students beginning with the Class of 2000. Students majoring in psychology must earn at least 5 units of credit in the psychology department. PSYC 101, PSYC 102, and PSYC 200 are required of majors, and majors are strongly advised to complete PSYC 200 by the end of their sophomore year. A grade of C- or better in PSYC 200 is required in order to declare a major in psychology.

Majors are required to have a balanced curriculum within the discipline that reflects coursework concerning the basic processes of behavior as well as behavior in context. To satisfy the basic process requirement, 1 unit of work must be completed by earning at least 1/2 unit of credit in any two of the following categories: (1) learning and motivation; (2) sensation and perception; (3) comparative; (4) physiological or neuropsychology; and (5) psychology of language or cognition. The

behavior-in-context requirement can be fulfilled by taking at least 1/2 unit of credit in any two of the following categories: (1) child development or adult development; (2) abnormal; (3) personality; (4) the psychology of women or race and ethnicity; and (5) social.

Further, students are expected to take one 1/2-unit course in research methods in the basic process area (i.e., research methods in biopsychology, research methods in physiological psychology, research methods in cognitive psychology, research methods in learning and motivation, or research methods in sensation and perception) as well as one 1/2-unit course involving research methods employing a contextual approach to behavior (i.e., research methods in developmental psychology, research methods in social psychology, research methods in personality, research methods for studying gender, or research methods in cross-cultural psychology).

The Senior Exercise for psychology majors consists of two portions. The first portion involves a standardized multiple-choice exam that evaluates the student's breadth of knowledge in psychology. The second portion requires that the student write a research proposal in some area of psychology.

Students who do excellent work are encouraged to apply to the department chair during the second semester of their junior year if they are interested in admission to the Honors Program. Participants complete a large-scale research project or literature review on an approved topic of their choice during their senior year. Each project is supervised by a single faculty member, but is also reviewed periodically by all members of the department prior to an oral examination by an outside examiner in the spring.

Year Courses

Individual Study

PSYC 493-494 (1 unit)
Staff

Students conduct independent research under the supervision of a member of the department. This course is restricted to juniors and seniors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair, along with demonstrated special interest.

Senior Honors

PSYC 497-498 (1 unit)
Staff

This is a program for senior candidates for honors in psychology, culminating in a senior honors thesis. The course will consist of either an experimental research investigation or independent study in some area of psychology. Students who wish to conduct an honors project must meet each of the following three criteria: (1) the student must have a GPA of 3.5 in psychology and an overall GPA of 3.3; (2) the student must have participated in a psychology-department-approved research experience (which might be research in a research methods course, independent study, or summer lab work); and (3) the student must have completed a minimum of 4 units in psychology and have taken the appropriate core courses for the proposal before the senior year. It is also recommended that the student have had exposure to calculus and other courses within the Natural Science Division.

First-Semester Courses

Introduction to Psychology: Basic Processes

◆ PSYC 101 (1/2 unit)
Staff

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. In this introductory course, which is a prerequisite for all of the other psychology courses, you will explore a variety of areas in which psycholo-

gists conduct research, and you will learn about the process of conducting research. For example, you will study the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, and learning and memory. The course is for first-year students and sophomores.

Statistical Analysis in Psychology

QR PSYC 200 (1/2 unit)
Smolak

In this course, which is required of all majors starting with the Class of 2000, students will learn to conduct a variety of statistical tests that are commonly used in psychological research. In addition, the skills of choosing the appropriate statistical tests for particular research designs, and writing and interpreting the results of statistical analyses, will be emphasized. The computer statistical package SPSS will be used. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 301 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course will consider research and theories regarding basic cognitive processes such as memory and perception, as well as higher level thinking processes such as decision-making, language processing, and social cognition. Emphasis will be on the study of laboratory research, with discussion of how the findings relate to real-world cognition. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Psychology of Learning and Motivation

PSYC 303 (1/2 unit)
Williams

This course is concerned with the basic theories and principles underlying the concepts of learning and motivation as they apply to animal and human behavior. A thorough review will be made of the theoretical issues, experimental methods, and findings relevant to the processes of learning and motivation. Finally, a major part of the course will be concerned with how the fields of

learning and motivation have been applied to societal problems (e.g., special education, drug addiction, behavioral therapy, biofeedback, and self-control). Prerequisite: PSYC 101. Enrollment limited.

Physiological Psychology

PSYC 305 (1/2 unit)
McFarlane

This course will investigate the relationships among the brain, the body, and behavior. Material covered will include neuroanatomy as well as the organization and function of the central and peripheral nervous systems as well as the endocrine system. The ways in which this knowledge can be used to understand sensory and motor phenomena will be explored as a prelude to attempts to relate knowledge of human and animal physiology to psychological processes such as motivation, thought, mood, learning, and emotion. Prerequisite: PSYC 101. Enrollment limited.

Sensation and Perception

PSYC 307 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec

This course focuses on the ways in which the brain gathers, processes, and interprets information from the external environment in order to construct an internal representation that the organism construes to be reality. The goal is to provide students with an understanding of the evolution, structure, and function of various sensory systems as well as an understanding of how the brain interprets incoming sensations and turns them into perceptions that allow organisms to act on their environment. Prerequisite: PSYC 101. Enrollment limited.

Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 321 (1/2 unit)
Levine

This course provides students with an introductory overview of the nature, causes, and treatment of adolescent and adult mental disorders, including anxiety disorders, emotional disorders, schizophrenia, and organic mental disorders. In the process, there will be

discussion of critical issues and controversies in this field, such as the definition of abnormality and the labeling of abnormal behavior. Students will also read detailed case histories. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Child Development

PSYC 323 (1/2 unit)
Smolak

This course focuses on normal human development from conception through adolescence. Biological and social influences on development are considered with an emphasis on their interaction. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 102. Enrollment limited.

Theories of Personality

PSYC 326 (1/2 unit)
Levine

This course introduces students to major approaches to understanding both consistencies in individual behavior and differences between individuals. This survey will focus on six paradigms: psychodynamic, phenomenological, dispositional, social learning, cognitive, and existential. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Clinical Psychology

PSYC 342 (1/2 unit)
Shprungin

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the profession of clinical psychology. The class will survey major approaches to the assessment and treatment of psychological distress and abnormal behavior, including psychodynamic, humanistic, cognitive, and behavioral approaches as well as group and family therapy. Guest lectures and clinical case presentations by psychotherapists in the community will be provided based on availability. Prerequisites: PSYC 101, PSYC 102, and either PSYC 321 or permission of instructor.

Psychology of Race and Ethnicity

PSYC 345 (1/2 unit)
Lyubansky

This course explores theoretical and experimental issues pertaining to race, culture, and ethnicity in the

field of psychology. Readings, films, individual and small-group exercises, and class discussions will be used to investigate cultural, racial, and ethnic influences on different psychological constructs, including identity formation, attitude development, intelligence, and family functioning. In addition to tests on the course content, several assignments require students to interpret and process personal experiences with these issues and integrate them with the material presented in class. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Sensation and Perception

QR PSYC 406 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec

This methods course teaches students the skills necessary for conducting research in sensation and perception. It will provide students with firsthand experience with a number of concepts and measurement techniques as well as an understanding of the ways in which sensory psychologists investigate how the brain gathers, processes, and interprets information from the external environment in order to construct an internal representation of reality. Students will learn to design experiments; collect, analyze, and present data using computer software packages; and write a scientific paper. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and previous or concurrent enrollment in either PSYC 307, PSYC 301, or PSYC 305 as well as permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Developmental Psychology

QR PSYC 421 (1/2 unit)
Krieg

This course explores the methods used in life-span developmental psychology research. Among the issues addressed are: ethics of research with children and elderly, developmental research designs, developing measures, and data analysis. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and either PSYC 322 or 323. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Personality

QR PSYC 422 (1/2 unit)
Levine

This course will examine a variety of methodologies used by psychologists who conduct research in the area of personality, individual differences, and abnormal psychology. The course includes lectures, discussions, and laboratory demonstrations and assignments designed to give students hands-on experience in designing research, collecting and analyzing data, and relating their work to larger theories. During the course, students will also learn such things as how to design research that is ethical, how to critically evaluate research, and how to write professional reports in the style developed by the American Psychological Association. Prerequisites include: PSYC 200 and PSYC 326 or PSYC 321 or PSYC 346. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Cross-Cultural Psychology

QR PSYC 424 (1/2 unit)
Lyubansky

This course explores methods for examining psychological constructs within and between cultures. In addition to learning through lectures and discussions, students will work with existing datasets. They will also undertake their own studies examining some aspect of culture, race, or ethnicity—designing the study, collecting and analyzing data, and writing up the results. Ethics, critical evaluation of research studies, and report-writing will also be emphasized. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and one of the following: PSYC 325, PSYC 345, or PSYC 326. Enrollment limited.

Individual Study

PSYC 493 (1/2 unit)
Staff

The student conducts independent research under the supervision of a member of the department. The course is restricted to juniors and seniors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair, along with demonstrated special interest.

Second-Semester Courses

Introduction to Psychology: Behavior in Context

◆ PSYC 102 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This is the second part of the introductory psychology course. While PSYC 101 dealt with basic processes of behavior, in PSYC 102 you will examine behavior in context. You will study developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and other issues. Prerequisite: PSYC 101.

Statistical Analysis in Psychology

QR PSYC 200 (1/2 unit)
Krieg

See first-semester course description.

Comparative Psychology

PSYC 302 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec

Comparative psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes of organisms, including humans. Until Darwin published his theory of evolution, it was commonly accepted that a huge gulf exists between human and nonhuman animals. In this course we will examine human and animal behavior and mental activity from an evolutionary perspective, that is, from a perspective in which humans are part of the continuum of life forms that inhabit the planet. We will consider the notion that, in contrast to the usual anthropocentric view of behavior and mental processes, many of the same evolutionary and ecological principles explain both human and animal behavior. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112. Enrollment limited.

Neuropsychology

PSYC 304 (1/2 unit)
McFarlane

This course will examine recent advances in our understanding of brain mechanisms involved in human higher mental processes. With a focus on cortical functions, the course will range from the study of brain development in infancy, across a variety of deficits attributable to brain

dysfunction, to a consideration of assessment and treatment. Prerequisite: PSYC 101. Enrollment limited.

Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 321 (1/2 unit)
Levine

See first-semester course description.

Child Development

PSYC 323 (1/2 unit)
Smolak

See first-semester course description.

Psychology of Women

PSYC 346 (1/2 unit)
Smolak

Psychological research about women is examined critically in this course. Topics such as gender differences, gender stereotypes, hormonal effects on women's behavior, eating disorders, and violence against women will be addressed with particular attention to the effects of sociocultural factors on the research in these areas. A variety of learning tools (e.g., conducting projects, engaging in discussion, taking exams) will be used by the class. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Psychopharmacology

PSYC 347 (1/2 unit)
McFarlane

In this course, the actions and effects of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs are discussed. The course has two halves. It begins with brief discussion of the history of psychopharmacology, followed by an in-depth examination of the biological basis of drug action in the brain. This is followed by a discussion of the principles of addiction and drug dependence, the mechanisms of drug tolerance, and the basis of drug classification. In the second half of the course, specific drugs are discussed. These include illicit drugs like cocaine, amphetamines, and heroin. Legal psychoactive drugs are also discussed. These include caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol. The course ends with a discussion of the action of drugs used in the treatment of mental disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Prerequisite: PSYC 101. Recommended but not required: PSYC 305 or NEUR 112.

Adolescence

PSYC 348 (1/2 unit)
Krieg

This course will provide students with an overview of important issues in adolescent psychology, from early adolescence to young adulthood. The major physical, cognitive, social, and emotional developments that occur during this transitional period will be covered. Influences on adolescent development such as family, peers, school, work, and culture will also be explored. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Biopsychology

QR PSYC 401 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec, Williams

This introductory course teaches students the skills necessary for conducting research in biopsychology and neuroscience. It will provide students with firsthand experience with a number of concepts and measurement techniques as well as an understanding of the ways in which biopsychologists investigate the brain and its relationship to behavior. Students will learn to design experiments; collect, analyze, and present data using computer software packages; and write a scientific paper. Prerequisites: previous or concurrent enrollment in either PSYC 101 or NEUR 112 as well as permission of the instructor.

Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology

QR PSYC 402 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course will examine the specific methodologies used by cognitive psychologists to study mental processes. The course will include lectures, discussions, and laboratory experiences designed to demonstrate and critique various data-collection procedures in subfields of cognition. Students will design their own experiments, collect and analyze data, and write professional reports describing their experiments. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and PSYC 301, or PSYC 306. Enrollment limited.

**Research Methods
in Physiological Psychology**

QR PSYC 405 (1/2 unit)
McFarlane

This is a laboratory-methods course that focuses on research methods used in physiological psychology and behavioral neuroscience. The emphasis of the course will be on designing, conducting, and presenting research, as well as on mastering specific laboratory techniques. The primary goal is to examine the relationships between brain chemistry and behavior. To this end, students will engage in the designing and implementation of projects that examine these relationships using animal subjects. The course will also focus on data analysis and experimental design. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and one of the following: PSYC 347, PSYC 305, or NEUR 112. Enrollment limited.

**Seminar in Animal Behavior:
Canine Evolution, Domestication,
and Behavior**

PSYC 441 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec

Readings, discussions, and student research presentations will be used to explore aspects of canine evolution, domestication, and behavior. The course will examine the unique set of circumstances surrounding canine evolution and domestication as well as the mutualistic relationship that developed between humans and dogs. Additional topics that may be addressed include artificial selection and the resulting differences in breed behaviors, as well as canine perceptual specialization, cognition, social organization, and communication. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112, and PSYC 302 or permission of the instructor. Enrollment is limited to fifteen students.

Psychology of Eating Disorders

PSYC 443 (1/2 unit)
Levine

This advanced seminar will explore the psychology of eating disorders through readings, discussion, lectures, student research and presentations, and visits by clinicians. We will

examine the full spectrum of problems linked to negative body image, the definition of self in terms of weight and shape, calorie-restrictive dieting and chaotic eating patterns. Issues to be investigated include comorbidity with other psychological disorders, gender differences, behavior genetics, and treatment and prevention. Enrollment is limited to fifteen students. Prerequisites: (1) Junior or senior psychology major; and (2) a grade of B or better in one or more of the following: PSYC 321, PSYC 323, PSYC 342, and PSYC 346.

Individual Study

PSYC 494 (1/2 unit)
Staff

Students conduct independent research under the supervision of a member of the department. This course is restricted to juniors and seniors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair, along with demonstrated special interest.