PSYCHOLOGY — (PSY)

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Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and cognitive processes, with application to many human and animal concerns. Students with a liberal arts education should develop an understanding of themselves and others that allows them to function effectively in diverse situations, interpersonally and intellectually. The Psychology Department offers a strong curriculum aimed at providing students with a comprehensive conceptual base from a variety of perspectives. Emphasis is placed on critical reading and thinking, and understanding the historical and theoretical framework of psychology and the methodology used in research. Students majoring in psychology are afforded an opportunity to be involved in research as well as to participate in local educational and mental health agencies. Many psychology majors continue their education in graduate school, and the department actively participates in their preparation for this goal. Should a student choose not to attend graduate school, the study of psychology successfully prepares graduates for a variety of career options. The department sponsors three student organizations: Psi Chi, which is the international Psychology honor society; Psi Alpha Omega, which is open to all students who have an interest in the discipline; and the Psychology Bowl team, which is a four-student group that competes during the Kentucky Psychological Association Conference each spring.

The Psychology Department has identified specific learning outcomes for our students. After completing the requirements for a psychology major, students should be able to:

- relate figures, events, and theoretical approaches from the history of psychology to prevailing research and practice in contemporary psychology;
- gain practical understanding of basic statistical procedures using calculations and gain an introductory knowledge of computer software programs;
- master the design and implementation of a student-led research project;
- engage in critical thinking about psychology as a science and the ethical issues that arise in psychological research;
- demonstrate information and technological literacy as applied to scientific literature and use of APA format; and
- demonstrate effective writing skills and oral communication skills.
Successful completion of these learning outcomes will be assessed by various assignments in the required components of our psychology curriculum.

**Major**

(B.A. degree) Thirty-three hours required. Thirty-three semester hours in Psychology, including PSY111, 211, 311, and 411. Required electives (choose six hours from each group):

- Group II: PSY242, 260, 340, 343, and 355.

Choose nine additional hours from any Psychology course work.

**Minor**

Eighteen semester hours required, including PSY111.

Note: Students seeking certification in teaching should consult with the department chair. Also, students can only count two developmental courses (PSY240, 242, 340) toward the PSY major or minor.

111. General Psychology. (3 hours) Introduction to psychology as a science, using the scientific approach to study many areas of behavior such as motivation, emotion, perception, thinking, learning, abnormal, personality, and social. This course satisfies an Area of Inquiry requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

211. Statistics for the Social Sciences. (3 hours) Study of both descriptive and inferential statistics with emphasis on their use in psychological research. Prerequisite: PSY111.

240. Lifespan Development. (3 hours) Study of human developmental processes from prenatal stages through later adulthood with an examination of the biological, psychological, social, and contextual factors influencing behavior across the lifespan. Registration for this class requires the permission of the instructor.
242. **Adolescence and Adulthood.** (3 hours) This course is designed as an overview of adolescent and adult development. Readings and class activities cover issues from adolescence through adulthood, examining research in physical, cognitive, personality, and social development. A particular emphasis of this course is an integration of biological, psychological, social, and cultural contributions to human development. This course satisfies an Area of Inquiry requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences. Spring

260. **Social Psychology.** (3 hours) The study of how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Topics to be covered include the self, conformity, obedience, gender, attitudes, prejudice, liking and love, aggression, helping, and group behavior. This course satisfies an Area of Inquiry requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences. Fall and Spring

311. **Experimental Psychology.** (3 hours) Design and interpretation of psychological experiments; advanced study in selected areas of experimental psychology. Prerequisite: PSY211 and junior standing. Fall

313. **Psychology of Motivation.** (3 hours) The study of biological, behavioral, and cognitive dimensions of what motivates people in their thoughts and actions. Prerequisite: PSY111. Fall and Spring

315. **Health Psychology.** (3 hours) The study of the biological, psychological, and social dimensions involved in health and illness, with emphasis on immune functions, stress, drugs, alcohol, cardiovascular disease, diet, and sexually-transmitted disease. Prerequisite: PSY111. Spring

323. **Sensation and Perception.** (3 hours) The study of sensory systems and the higher-order cognitive processes involved with interpreting sensory information. Prerequisite: PSY111. Odd Springs

328. **Learning.** (3 hours) This course is an introductory level survey of the major classic and contemporary psychological theories and research in learning. Learning will be examined from biological, psychological, and sociocultural perspectives. Prerequisite: PSY111. Even Falls and Odd Springs

333. **Cognitive Psychology.** (3 hours) The study of attention, memory, thinking, concept formation, language, intelligence, and emotions. Prerequisite: PSY111. Odd Falls
337. Psychology of Women. (3 hours) This course will provide an overview of classical and contemporary psychological research pertaining to women. It will explore biological and cultural similarities and differences within topics such as behavior, language, emotion, motivation, mental health, and development. The course will include a special focus on women of different ethnic backgrounds. Prerequisite: PSY111.

Odd Falls and Odd Springs

340. Child Development. (3 hours) This course provides an overview of growth and development from conception through middle childhood, including ten total hours of observation (i.e., one hour per week) in an early childhood center or participation in a service learning placement in a community organization or agency serving young children. Special emphasis is placed on the cultural contexts of child development. Prerequisite: PSY111. Fall

343. Personality. (3 hours) This course is an introductory level survey of the major classic and contemporary psychological theories and research in personality. We will cover major theories, including psychoanalysis, humanistic, cognitive, social learning, and biological perspectives. Various traits and their importance in predicting health, achievement, and adjustment will also be covered. Prerequisite: PSY111. Spring

350. Relationships. (3 hours) The application of psychological methods and principles to intimate relationships. Topics to be covered include attraction, dating, friendship, love, passion, commitment, marriage, jealousy, conflict, and divorce. Prerequisites: Senior standing and PSY111 or 260. Spring

355. Abnormal Psychology. (3 hours) The study of classification, assessment, and causes of psychological disorders, reviewing contemporary issues in the study and treatment of psychopathology. Prerequisite: PSY111. Fall

360. Undergraduate Research. (3 hours) Implementation of psychological research processes using topics chosen by individuals or small groups of students in consultation with the professor of the course. Tutorial teaching will replace classroom teaching for most of the semester. Research methods will involve computer and/or paper and pencil techniques. Prerequisites: PSY311 and consent of instructor. As needed

363. Positive Psychology. (3 hours) The focus of this course is the science of positive subjective experiences, positive traits, and positive institutions. This course will present psychological perspectives and research findings on topics such as happiness, life satisfaction, and optimism, as well as character strengths and virtues. The course will also encourage self-
exploration of students’ own strengths and virtues and investigate empirically-based strategies for enhancing one’s life. Prerequisite: PSY111.

365. Industrial/Organizational Psychology. (3 hours) The application of psychological methods and principles to organizational settings. Topics to be covered include motivation, psychological testing, job satisfaction, training, leadership, employee selection, stress, and performance appraisal. Prerequisite: PSY111.

367. Dying, Grieving, and Coping. (3 hours) This course examines the concept of death and our psychological responses to death. This subject is explored across cultures and through history from many viewpoints. The class also has many outside speakers to address multiple views on death and dying. Prerequisite: PSY111.

373. Multicultural Psychology. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to the critical and comparative study of cultural effects on human psychology. Readings and class activities will cover multicultural perspectives on issues such as cognitions, development, intelligence, emotions, and social interaction. This course satisfies an Area of Inquiry requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

375. Tutorial Topics. (3 hours) The study of a special topic in Psychology using a one-on-one tutorial method of instruction adapted from humanities courses at Oxford University. Please check with department for a list of current offerings. Prerequisites: one course in Psychology and permission of the instructor.

380. Psychology and the Law. (3 hours) Application of psychological methods and principles to the legal system. Topics to be covered include eyewitness testimony, confessions, the insanity defense, polygraphs, jury selection, profiling, serial killers, and victims. Prerequisite: PSY111 or 260.

411. Senior Capstone in Psychology. (3 hours) This course is designed to guide senior Psychology majors as they examine enduring issues in psychology from the earliest beginnings in the history of psychology to contemporary research and application. Class readings, assignments, and discussions will synthesize material from previous psychology course work and facilitate the development of each student’s conceptual framework to guide his/her career or graduate school decision-making. The class will culminate in the application of theoretical principles and empirical research findings to a senior paper where students will examine and take a position on a debatable issue within the field of psychology. The paper will be assessed by at least two psychology faculty (e.g., the
professor of the course and a second departmental faculty member). Prerequisites: Senior standing, major in department, PSY311. Spring

413. Clinical Assessment. (3 hours) Study of the appraisal and assessment techniques used in clinical settings. Topics covered include effective interviewing strategies, test theory, test development, and administration of tests involving intelligence, achievement, adaptive functions, neuropsychology, clinical symptoms, personality, and vocation/interest. Emphasis will be placed on ethical standards in interviewing and testing. Prerequisite: PSY111.

Odd Springs

415. Counseling Skills. (3 hours) The study of current approaches used in counseling and psychotherapy. Topics covered include basic counseling and psychotherapy skills, various theoretical models of psychological intervention, and a review of the most current, empirically-supported treatment approaches. Emphasis will be placed on ethical standards as they apply to psychotherapy. Prerequisite: PSY355.

Spring

417. Developmental Disorders of Childhood. (3 hours) This course is an examination of the most recent research in disorders of childhood. This class is designed as a seminar examining diagnostic categories and critical issues of child psychopathology and identifying evidence-based interventions. Readings and class materials cover diagnostic categories, causal theories of childhood disorders, and a survey of the intervention literature. Prerequisite: PSY242, 240, or 340.

Odd Springs

419. School Psychology. (3 hours) This course is designed to introduce students to the field of school psychology, from its influential place in the history of psychology to contemporary “best practices.” Readings and assignments will direct the student to examine the roles school psychologists play in the school system as a whole, including: individual assessment and intervention with young children; individual, class-wide and system-wide consultation for learning and behavioral issues; and program development in the areas of crisis prevention and intervention.

Even Springs

425. Brain and Behavior. (3 hours) The study of the interaction of the brain and behavior from physiological, genetic, and evolutionary perspectives. The course will include current research and examine the disease/disorder continuum, as well as effects of psychotropic substances on behavior. Prerequisites: PSY111 and BIO100 or BIO111.

Odd Springs

433. Animal Cognition. (3 hours) This course will cover a range of issues involving animal consciousness, animal intelligence, and evolution of mind. We will look at what is known about intelligence in other animals,
how intelligence is revealed in social and problem-solving behavior, and the ways in which animal cognitive abilities are adaptive.

Even Springs and as needed

440. Independent Study. (1-3 hours) Emphasis on independent research. Prerequisite: Consent of professor. As needed

460. Field Work in Applied Psychology. (3 hours) This course is designed to provide advanced psychology students with the opportunity to work in applied field placements in the community. The course also provides a foundation for professional and career development for entry-level positions in human service fields, as well as preparation for graduate school. Students will be given the opportunity to learn in diverse ways (e.g., exposure to special topics, issues relevant to the placement, different supervisory styles, etc.) through practical experience and guidance from the instructor and site supervisor. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Fall

470. Special Topics in Psychology. (1-3 hours) The study of special areas of psychology deemed of value to Psychology majors and minors. As needed