

# PSYCHOLOGY

## Department Overview

The mission of the psychology major is to provide students with a foundation of concepts, issues, discoveries, and methodologies for the scientific study of psychological processes. In part, this foundation is achieved by exploring a number of perspectives within the field including neuroscientific, perceptual, cognitive, developmental, social, and clinical phenomena. Faculty expect that Skidmore psychology majors will acquire basic knowledge about several areas and gain quantitative and research skills necessary to make informed judgments about psychological research. In addition, students will learn to evaluate, integrate, and think critically about theoretical and applied issues and to communicate their knowledge of psychology effectively through written and oral forms. Thus, students are encouraged to take writing-intensive courses as preparation for the major.

There is no formal program for a minor in psychology. Those interested in taking some psychology courses without actually completing a major are encouraged to select a set of courses relevant to their needs. Members of the department are happy to assist in this selection process.

**Statement Regarding CIP Code Change:** In March 2024, all Psychology major CIP codes (retroactive for all graduating years) were updated to CIP 42.2704 - Experimental Psychology. This action was taken because the College determined that the program had always aligned with the National Center for Education Statistics' (2010 CIP) definition – "A program that focuses on the scientific study of behavior under experimental conditions and the analysis of controlled behavioral responses. Includes instruction in learning theory, research design and experimental methods, psychological measurement, statistical design and methods, analysis of cognitive and behavioral variables, and the conduct of specialized and large-scale studies."

*Chair of the Department of Psychology:* Rebecca Johnson

*Associate Chair of the Department of Psychology:* Jessica Sullivan

Professors: Rebecca Johnson, Hassan López, Corinne Moss-Racusin, Mark Rye, Sheldon Solomon, Jessica Sullivan

Associate Professors: Denise L. Evert, *The Susan Kettering Williamson '59 Chair in Neuroscience*; Pablo Gómez, Daniel Peterson, Casey Schofield, Dominique Vuvan, Leigh Wilton, Erica Wojcik

Assistant Professors: Lucas LaFreniere, Harrison Schmitt

Senior Teaching Professor: Rachel Mann-Rosan

Teaching Professor: Stephanie Vaughan

Visiting Assistant Professor: Lisa Chalik, Hyeyoung Shin, Abigail Kleinsmith

Lecturers: Zoe Fowler, Doug Kowalewski, Dana Lau, Marie McCabe, Katie Parra, Christina Sanzari

Emeritus Professor: John Berman, Virginia Murphy-Berman, Joan Douglas, Mary Ann Foley, Hugh Foley, Holley Hodgins, Robert Oswald, Flip Phillips

Administrative Assistant: Nicole Buck

## Psychology B.A.

To complete a major, students must take a minimum of 10<sup>1</sup> courses in psychology. Only two courses may be taken at other institutions<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For students who entered Skidmore in Fall of 2020 and beyond are also required to take PS 365 Senior Coda: Rethinking Psychology as part of the core, bringing the total number of required courses in psychology to 11.

<sup>2</sup> PS 102 Colloquium in Psychological Science, PS 202 Statistics and Research Methods I, the Research Methods 2 Course, and PS 365 Senior Coda: Rethinking Psychology, must be taken at Skidmore and cannot be transferred in from another institution.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Core Courses</b>		
PS 101	Introduction to Psychological Science <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 102	Colloquium in Psychological Science <sup>2</sup>	1
PS 202	Statistics and Research Methods I	4
PS 365	Senior Coda: Rethinking Psychology	1
<i>Research Methods 2 Courses</i> <sup>3</sup>		
Select one of the following:		4
PS 303	Research Methods 2: Intermediate Statistics	
PS 304	Research Methods 2: Physiological Psychology	
PS 305	Research Methods 2: Cognitive Development	
PS 314	Research Methods 2: Psychology of Reading	
PS 320	Research Methods 2: Social Psychology	
PS 325	Research Methods 2: Perception	
PS 330	Research Methods 2: Memory	
<b>Breadth Elective Courses</b> <sup>4</sup>		
Select three breadth elective courses of the following, with at least one course from Group 1 and at least one course from Group 2:		9-12
Group 1: Perception/Cognition/Neuroscience courses (p. 2)		
Group 2: Social/Developmental/Clinical/Applied courses (p. 2)		
<i>Additional Elective Courses</i>		
PS 251	Special Seminar Series in Psychology	
PS 275	Exploratory Research Experience in Psychology	
Select three 300-level courses, at least two of which must come from the list of content-specific courses:		9-12
Content-Specific Courses (p. 2)		
<i>Additional 300-Level Electives (this experience may count toward the 300-level requirement only if taken for 3 or 4 credits)</i>		
PS 329	Clinical Psychology Field Experience <sup>2</sup>	
PS 371	Independent Study in Psychology	
PS 373	Research Independent Study in Psychology	
PS 375	Senior Research Project I	
PS 376	Senior Research Project II	
PS 378	Senior Seminar	
PS 399	Professional Internship in Psychology	
<i>Additional Elective Course</i>		
PS 351	Special Advanced Seminar Series in Psychology	
PS 352	Meeting of the Minds (Meeting of the Minds)	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>32-38</b>

<sup>1</sup> PS 101 Introduction to Psychological Science is not waived for AP or IB psychology credit.

<sup>2</sup> A maximum of 5 credits taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis may count toward the major, including PS 102 Colloquium in Psychological Science, PS 329 Clinical Psychology Field Experience, and PS 399 Professional Internship in Psychology. None of the required core courses or any 300-level psychology courses except PS 102 Colloquium in Psychological Science, PS 329 Clinical Psychology Field Experience, PS 371 Independent Study in Psychology, PS 373 Research Independent Study in Psychology, and PS 399 Professional Internship in Psychology fulfilling the major may be taken on an S/U basis. The grade-point average for the courses presented toward the major must meet the minimum of 2.000. Of these courses, only one course may have been completed with a grade of D.

<sup>3</sup> The Research Methods II course must be completed by the end of the junior year.

<sup>4</sup> As they consider the choice of electives, students should consult the Psychology Department Web site and their advisors for information about potential pathways of interest through the major (clinical, developmental, neuropsychology/cognitive neuroscience, social/personality).

### Group 1: Perception/Cognition/Neuroscience Breadth Elective Courses

Code	Title	Hours
PS 212	Themes in Contemporary Psychology	3-4
PS 213	Hormones and Behavior	4
PS 218	Cognition	4
PS 219	Health Psychology	3
PS 221	Clinical Psychopharmacology	3
PS 223	Evolutionary Psychology	4
PS 225	Perception	3
PS 226	Cognitive Biases	3
PS 231	Neuropsychology	4
PS 232	Introduction to Cognitive Science	3
PS 233	Cognitive Neuroscience	4
NS 101	Introduction to Neuroscience	4

### Group 2: Social/Developmental/Clinical/Applied Breadth Elective Courses

Code	Title	Hours
PS 204	Educational Psychology	3
PS 205	Social Psychology	4
PS 206	Developmental Psychology	4
PS 207	Introduction to Child Development	4
PS 208	Adolescent Development	4
PS 209	Adult Development	4
PS 210	Personality	4
PS 211	Applied Psychology	4
PS 212	Themes in Contemporary Psychology	3-4
PS 214	Psychological Disorders	4
PS 215	Social Identity & Interaction	4
PS 234	Developmental Disabilities and Autism	4
PS 252	Psychology at the Tang	4

### Content-Specific Elective Courses

Code	Title	Hours
PS 303	Research Methods 2: Intermediate Statistics <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 304	Research Methods 2: Physiological Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 305	Research Methods 2: Cognitive Development	4
PS 307	Advanced Personality	3
PS 310	Applied Behavior Analysis: Principles and Practice of Operant Conditioning	4
PS 311	Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy	4
PS 312	Adv Sem Major Issues	3,4
PS 313	Psychology of Gender	4
PS 314	Research Methods 2: Psychology of Reading <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 315	Clinical Psychology	4
PS 317	Psychological Testing	3
PS 318H	Advanced Statistics in Psychology	4
PS 320	Research Methods 2: Social Psychology <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 321	Motivation and Emotion	4
PS 322	Positive Psychology	4
PS 323	Psycholinguistics	4
PS 325	Research Methods 2: Perception <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 328	Seminar in Clinical Psychology: Anxiety and Its Disorders	3
PS 330	Research Methods 2: Memory <sup>1</sup>	4
PS 332	Cross-Cultural & Multicultural Psychology	4
PS 333	Sleep and Dreams	4
PS 334	Psychology of Religion	3
PS 335	Psychology of Race	4
PS 336	Music Cognition	4
PS 337	Cross-Cultural Development	4
PS 338	Language Development	4
PS 339	Psychology of Bodies and Self	4
PS 341	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience: Left Brain/Right Brain	3

<sup>1</sup> If taken to fulfill the Experimental Methods II requirement, a different course must be chosen to fulfill the 300-level requirement.

The grade-point average for the ten courses presented toward the major must meet the minimum requirement of 2.000. Of these courses, only one may have been completed with a grade of D.

In conjunction with the relevant department, the Psychology Department offers a major in neuroscience.

### Writing Requirement in the Major

Students fulfill the writing requirement in the Psychology major by completing a PS 202 Statistics and Research Methods I and one Research Methods 2 course.

Upon completion of the major, psychology students should be able to:

- Demonstrate competency in the various forms of writing within psychology ranging from lab-based empirical reports to more conceptual papers and reviews.
- Appreciate the differences between scientific writing and other forms of writing.

- Demonstrate an ability to write in an effective and persuasive manner. Effectiveness includes the ability to:
  - a. develop and present clear and logical arguments,
  - b. use correct grammar,
  - c. sufficiently elaborate and defend points, including backing up assertions with appropriate evidence,
  - d. appropriately evaluate the audience and point of view from which a paper should be written (including providing sufficient context and definitions of content-specific terminology)
  - e. justify conclusions, and
  - f. integrate information from multiple sources.
- Differentiate between types of source materials (e.g., original research, academic summaries, popular press) and the role that each can/should play in different types of writing assignments.
- Demonstrate competency in writing in the style of the American Psychological Association, which includes technical, grammatical, and stylistic conventions.

### Recommendations and Advice

Those students who discover relatively early in their program of study an interest in research, and those who have completed PS 303 Research Methods 2: Intermediate Statistics or an equivalent course, are at a particular advantage when applying for external fellowship opportunities. The summer between the junior and senior year of study is an ideal time to seek this kind of opportunity. Faculty encourage students to distinguish between the minimum requirements for a major in psychology and the preparation necessary for graduate study in psychology.

Those majors who plan to pursue graduate work in Ph.D. programs in psychology should seek significant research experience(s) beyond those experiences that are part of the minimum requirements for the major. Several opportunities for these kinds of extended research experiences are available to majors by way of advanced lab courses (e.g., PS 304 Research Methods 2: Physiological Psychology, PS 320 Research Methods 2: Social Psychology), advanced statistics (PS 318H Advanced Statistics in Psychology), directed studies (PS 371 Independent Study in Psychology), independent research experiences (PS 373 Research Independent Study in Psychology), summer collaborative research experiences, and thesis capstone projects (PS 375 Senior Research Project I/PS 376 Senior Research Project II).

### Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the international honor society in psychology, founded in 1929 for the purpose of encouraging scholarship and advancing the science of psychology. Eligibility requirements for our local Skidmore chapter include declaration of a major in psychology, completion of at least four psychology courses (or three psychology courses and NS 101 (<https://catalog.skidmore.edu/search/?P=NS%20101>) Introduction to Neuroscience), a GPA of 3.500 or higher in psychology, and a cumulative GPA of 3.300 or higher in all college courses.

## Honors

To be eligible for departmental honors in psychology, a student must

1. meet the requisite grade-point average, overall GPA of 3.0 and major GPA of 3.65

2. complete a research project in Senior Research Project I and II or a major paper in Senior Seminar or have substantial experience with psychological science beyond the classroom, and
3. be recommended for departmental honors by the department.

1.

## Course Listing

### NS 101 - Introduction to Neuroscience

Credits: 4

An interdisciplinary examination of the neurobiological bases of behavior and mental processing. Topics include the structure and functioning of the nervous system, brain-behavior relationships, and hormonal and genetic effects on behavior and mental processing. Laboratories develop students' understanding of functional neuroanatomy, neural transmission, and human psychophysiology.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Natural Sciences requirement; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

### NS 275 - Introduction to Neuroscience Research

Credits: 1

An introductory exploration of conducting research in neuroscience. The purpose of this learning experience is to provide students with an interactive research experience in the laboratory or field, in coordination with a faculty member. Students may be exposed to, and participate in, several aspects of the research process, including planning, designing, and implementing the research, as well as in data analysis and interpretation of the results. This experience will allow students at various stages of their careers to sample research questions/methodologies in particular subdisciplines of neuroscience, and will enhance the student's ability for more independent work.

**Prerequisites:** NS 101 and permission of instructor.

**Note(s):** This course can be repeated for credit up to 5 credits. Must be taken S/U.

### NS 277 - Integrative Seminar in Neuroscience Research

Credits: 1

A study of selected areas of neuroscience research and techniques. Both primary source articles and first-person accounts by faculty in the biology and psychology departments are used to introduce the theoretical and practical aspects of neuroscience research. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the multiple levels (e.g., molecular to behavioral) at which research topics in neuroscience can be addressed and also the ways in which research techniques define the types of questions that can be asked at a given level of analysis.

**Prerequisites:** This course should be taken upon completion of NS 101 and the completion of or current enrollment in at least one other core or elective course from the list of courses in the neuroscience major.

**Note(s):** Must be taken S/U.

### PS 101 - Introduction to Psychological Science

Credits: 4

An introduction to the science of psychology through a survey of theories, methods, and principles of behavior. Students will learn about empirical studies that are central to the various subdisciplines of psychology.

**PS 102 - Colloquium in Psychological Science**

Credits: 1

A study of selected areas of psychology research and techniques. This course is intended for students who plan to major in psychology, and we strongly encourage majors to complete this course by the end of their sophomore year. Students will read primary source articles and hear first-person accounts by faculty in the Psychology Department (and possibly outside speakers) as an introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of psychology research. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the various domains of scientific inquiry within the field of psychology, and also the ways in which research techniques define the types of questions that can be asked at a given level of analysis.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**Note(s):** Must be taken S/U.**PS 202 - Statistics and Research Methods I**

Credits: 4

An introduction to the research methodologies and statistical analyses used in psychological science. Emphasis will be on experimentation in psychology (designing and conducting experiments, analyzing data, and reporting results through scientific writing).

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101 and placement at the AQR level or completion of an FQR course or QR1.**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Writing intensive course for the major. Fulfills Applied QR requirement.**PS 204 - Educational Psychology**

Credits: 3

The application of psychological principles to problems of student learning, student achievement, teaching methods, and educational assessment.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 205 - Social Psychology**

Credits: 4

A survey of theory and research on the nature and causes of individual behavior (thoughts, feelings, actions) in social situations.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 206 - Developmental Psychology**

Credits: 4

An exploration of how knowledge and abilities change over the human lifespan, from infancy, childhood, and the teenage years, to early and late adulthood. Students will address the major theories that drive the field of developmental psychology, including those centered around understanding how and why we change over time, what information we are born with (and what is learned), and the roles of genes and the environment in shaping development. Students will apply their knowledge both inside and outside the classroom and will be expected to learn about development through observation, empirical journal articles, and their lived experience.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.**PS 207 - Introduction to Child Development**

Credits: 4

A survey of theory and research related to physical, psychological, and behavioral development from conception through childhood. Students will learn about the process of development as a continuous interaction between biology and experience. Topics include the development of cognition, gender, and self-understanding; socioemotional development; and the role of parenting. Through the service-learning component of the course, students will interact directly with children at one of the two campus preschools on a weekly basis.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 208 - Adolescent Development**

Credits: 4

An overview of the theories, research, and issues in the study of human development from early to late adolescence. Students will focus on the biological, cognitive, and social changes during adolescence, the psychosocial issues of adolescence (e.g., identity, achievement, intimacy), and the contexts in which adolescent development occurs (e.g., families, peer groups, schools). Students will explore these topics through a combination of lecture, empirical and theoretical readings, case studies of the lives of adolescents, and service-learning experience.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 209 - Adult Development**

Credits: 4

Psychological aspects of human growth and function from maturity to senescence, with consideration of research procedures and problems as well as recent findings and relevant theory. Through the service-learning component of the course, students will directly interact with mature adults at one of the several local centers on a weekly basis, furthering their knowledge of adult development and aging through their own experience.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 210 - Personality**

Credits: 4

Considers major theories of personality to gain an understanding of how genetic and environmental factors interact to influence human behavior.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 211 - Applied Psychology**

Credits: 4

An application of principles of psychology to issues in education, industry, environmental initiatives, health, consumer culture, and the law. Students will have an introductory "hands-on" experience in applied research. Goals of the course include familiarization with methods of applied work and psychology's contributions to the above-listed issues; ability to use social science methods to critically evaluate various types of social initiatives; an appreciation of what social science can (and cannot) contribute in applied settings; and a grasp of the ethical issues involved in such work.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 212 - Themes in Contemporary Psychology**

Credits: 3-4

Introductory exploration of selected themes in contemporary psychology with special attention to major trends of theoretical interest and research activity. Such themes might include decision-making, narratives in psychology, health psychology, environmental psychology.

**Note(s):** At the time of registration check specific course listings for the upcoming term as well as the necessary prerequisites for the courses offered. This course may be repeated for credit with focus on a different theme.**PS 213 - Hormones and Behavior**

Credits: 4

An introduction to the study of how the endocrine system coordinates psychological and behavioral components of reproduction, aggression, attachment, hunger, and cognition. Considers empirical research findings based on numerous species (humans, nonhuman primates, birds, rodents, etc.). To help illustrate hormone-behavior relationships, several in-class experiments are conducted using both animal and human subjects.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.

**PS 214 - Psychological Disorders**

Credits: 4

An introduction to the history and study of psychological disorders (e.g., substance use disorders, psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders) with an emphasis on understanding the development of disorders, diagnostic issues, and symptoms.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.

**PS 215 - Social Identity & Interaction**

Credits: 4

A study of how people interact with others from different social identity groups, how social identity shapes people's judgments of themselves, how social identity is signaled or concealed, and how these factors have consequences for prejudice, stereotypes, social stigma, support for social rights, and social equality. This course examines the psychological science behind how people's social identities and group affiliations influence how they perceive and treat others – and how they understand power and justice – in the United States.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and SSP 100.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

**PS 218 - Cognition**

Credits: 4

The scientific study of the ways in which people encode, integrate, transform, and use information derived from their firsthand experiences and more indirect ones. While studying theories, methodologies, and research findings that are the hallmarks of cognitive psychology, students expand their understanding of these cognitive processes. The processes discussed include attention, consciousness, imagination, remembering, forgetting (and its failure), knowledge representation, narrative processing, reasoning, and decision-making. Students learn about the brain's role by examining the neural mechanisms that underlie cognitive processes. Particular attention is given to writing as a way of discovering, integrating, and extending knowledge about the cognitive processes that are examined.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.

**PS 219 - Health Psychology**

Credits: 3

A study of the relationships between psychological factors and well-being using bio-psychosocial perspectives. This multidisciplinary approach integrates knowledge from physiology, psychobiology, personality, social psychology, and sociology to understand health, illness, and well-being. The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with the conceptual basis, research methods, and research findings in the field of health psychology.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.

**PS 221 - Clinical Psychopharmacology**

Credits: 3

An examination of the therapeutic effect of drugs used to treat mental disorders from a neuropharmacological perspective. Students will study fundamental aspects of synaptic function and psychopharmacology (pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics), as well as experimental methods used to develop and test novel pharmaceuticals. Students will also explore specific mental illnesses, associated neurochemical pathophysiology, and current drug treatment strategies. Students will become familiar with the primary syndromes used to diagnose each disorder, the neurochemical pathways implicated in psychopathology, and specific (receptor-mediated) mechanisms of drug activity.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.

**PS 223 - Evolutionary Psychology**

Credits: 4

A survey of theory and research on human behavior from an evolutionary perspective. Students will gain an understanding of evolutionary theory, from its Darwinian inception to the modern synthesis, and develop the ability to apply evolutionary thinking to provide ultimate explanations for human behavior. Students will learn about the lives of ancestral humans, including challenges of survival, mating, parenting, and group living, how our psychology evolved to facilitate successful navigation of these challenges, and how we can observe evolved psychology in the modern environment. The origin of literature, religion, and art will also be explored.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.

**PS 225 - Perception**

Credits: 3

The study of the way in which people use sensory input to identify and interpret information in the world. The course will examine contributions of sensory, neural, and cognitive factors to perceptual experience. Discussions will cover general perceptual principles, but will emphasize visual and auditory processes.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.

**PS 226 - Cognitive Biases**

Credits: 3

In this course students will learn to identify cognitive biases and logical fallacies as they apply to their own lived experiences. Critically, students will focus on how cognitive biases impact U.S. institutional systems (political policy, healthcare, and education) to understand its consequences on power dynamics, justice, and social identity in society. Throughout the course students will interact with a variety of primary resources to learn about numerous cognitive biases, reflect on diverse experiences, and become a more critical consumer of knowledge.

**Prerequisites:** SSP 100 and PS101 or NS101, or permission of the instructor.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

**PS 231 - Neuropsychology**

Credits: 4

An introduction to the relationship between the brain and mind through the assessment of human patients with brain damage. This focus will show how scientists are better able to understand components of the mind (i.e., processes related to attention, perception, cognition, personality, emotion, memory, language, consciousness) and behavior, and how this information can be used to refine theories of psychological and neural functioning. A case-study approach of humans with brain damage will be adopted in this course.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.

**PS 232 - Introduction to Cognitive Science**

Credits: 3

What are the critical components of "mind," "consciousness," "knowledge," and "thought"? Students will survey philosophical, psychological, neuroscientific, anthropological, and computational approaches to understanding this question—an interdisciplinary field of study known as cognitive science. Cognitive Science defines itself through the types of questions it asks and the methods used to answer them. One fundamental approach to developing our hypotheses and theories involves the development of models testable representations of these processes and ideas. These models are tested and refined against the array of low-level physiological processes, individual behaviors, and group and global systems that define our cognitive world. As we iterate this modeling-testing loop, we hope to come closer to understanding the foundations of thought and mind. Students will also survey the fields associated with cognitive science and discover how its methodologies interconnect them. Traditional computational and mental-representation models as well as a few alternative propositions involving dynamical systems will be examined through rigorous study. As a result, students will gain tools to broaden and inform their inquiry in any field that focuses on the mind and thought.

**Prerequisites:** QRT1.**PS 233 - Cognitive Neuroscience**

Credits: 4

A survey of the history, methods, and research in cognitive neuroscience, the study of the biological processes that underpin cognition. The course will examine topics such as the history and philosophy of cognitive neuroscience; methods, including electroencephalography; functional magnetic resonance imaging; and transcranial magnetic stimulation as well as research on perception, attention, memory, language, music, and consciousness. Recommended preparation for upper-level courses in psychology and neuroscience that engage with the links between mind and brain.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101.**PS 234 - Developmental Disabilities and Autism**

Credits: 4

A clinical overview of the most common developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. Students will gain an understanding of each disorder (its etiology, behavioral presentation, and appropriate interventions) while studying the role of historical perspectives and current research in the assessment and treatment of developmental disabilities. Students will develop skills in functional assessment and behavior support planning through the use of case studies and their own observations. Students will work together to develop and implement a weeklong awareness event on campus focused on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**PS 251 - Special Seminar Series in Psychology**

Credits: 1,2

A topical seminar, lab, or discussion group that may be offered as an extension to a particular course in psychology or as a free-standing experience (e.g., a film series with focus on contemporary psychological issues). Discussion may focus on additional topics as a follow-up from a previous learning experience or may provide exploration of a new topic not covered in a traditional departmental offering. The frequency with which the seminar meets will vary depending on the goal of the seminar. When offered as an extension to another course, the combined credits may not exceed 5 credits.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or permission of instructor.**PS 252 - Psychology at the Tang**

Credits: 4

An interdisciplinary investigation into the ways in which scientists and artists contend with power, privilege, and inequality within the contemporary United States. In this Bridge Experience course, students will consider the ways in which artistic and scientific approaches can work in harmony to illuminate shared underlying themes, as well as the ways in which there may be interesting tensions between these two forms. To do so, students will carefully analyze both compelling psychological research (from empirical articles) and art found at the Tang Teaching Museum, culminating in a student-curated exhibition. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101.**Note(s):** Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.**PS 261 - Educating Parents in the Digital Age**

Credits: 1

The creation and maintenance of a public multi-media web resource about child development. Students will determine the mission of the website, its format, and its content. Students will research the types of blogs and websites that parents read; have conversations with caregivers, parents, and educators to discover what people want to know about developmental psychology; and speak with developmental psychologists about what they would like parents and the public to know.

Students can (and are encouraged to!) take this course multiple times. Each semester, we will add content and brainstorm new ways to make our site better.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 206.**PS 275 - Exploratory Research Experience in Psychology**

Credits: 1

An introductory exploration of conducting research in psychology. Its purpose is to provide students with an interactive research experience in a particular laboratory or clinical setting. Students will experience various aspects of the research process, e.g., the planning and implementation of research, protocols for data collection, and testing of hypotheses. Exposure to research methodologies within a particular area of psychological inquiry should enhance the student's ability for more independent work.

**Prerequisites:** Permission of instructor.**Note(s):** The experience is open to non-majors. Must be taken S/U.**PS 276 - Exploratory Research Experience in Psychology**

Credits: 1

An introductory exploration of conducting research in psychology. Its purpose is to provide students with an interactive research experience in a particular laboratory or clinical setting. Students will experience various aspects of the research process, e.g., the planning and implementation of research, protocols for data collection, and testing of hypotheses. Exposure to research methodologies within a particular area of psychological inquiry should enhance the student's ability for more independent work.

**Prerequisites:** Permission of instructor.**Note(s):** The experience is open to non-majors. Must be taken S/U.

**PS 303 - Research Methods 2: Intermediate Statistics**

Credits: 4

A further exploration into the research methodologies and statistical analyses used in different areas of psychological science. Emphasis will be on additional methods used in psychological research (designing and conducting experiments, analyzing data, and reporting results through scientific writing).

**Prerequisites:** PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as writing intensive course for the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 304 - Research Methods 2: Physiological Psychology**

Credits: 4

A theoretical and empirical introduction to behavioral neuroscience. Emphasis will be on animal models used to understand various psychological processes, including anxiety, drug reward, and spatial cognition. Laboratory sessions are used to test the effect of various pharmacological compounds on animal behavior. Students are expected to interact with rodent subjects. Extensive scientific writing is a critical aspect of the course.

**Prerequisites:** NS 101 and PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and three hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as writing intensive course for the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 305 - Research Methods 2: Cognitive Development**

Credits: 4

A theoretical and empirical exploration of cognitive development. Emphasis will be on understanding the developmental origins of language, spatial representations, concepts, mathematics, biological understanding, and social reasoning. Emphasis will also be on connecting cutting-edge empirical scientific research on cognitive development to the larger philosophical debates from which this field emerged. Readings will come from the fields of philosophy, theoretical psychology, and empirical psychology. Laboratory sessions will be used to conduct and analyze original research on cognitive development, and to learn advanced statistical techniques.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as a writing intensive course in the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 307 - Advanced Personality**

Credits: 3

A detailed examination of factors that influence personality development. Attention is devoted toward understanding how different aspects of human personality can account for the development of various social institutions. The development and evaluation of hypotheses to understand personality processes, and strategies to induce change are also considered.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101, PS 210, and one Research Methods II course.

**PS 310 - Applied Behavior Analysis: Principles and Practice of Operant Conditioning**

Credits: 4

Why do we behave the way we do? How do we clinically address behaviors that are interfering with a person's functioning? Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the use of classical behavior modification techniques to modify problem behaviors. All behavior serves a purpose and through the understanding of the "function" of the behavior you can design more effective behavior modification techniques. In this course students will examine the theories, techniques, and science behind these practices and how they have been applied to a variety of different treatment modalities (clinical practice, schools, athletics, animal training).

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 102.

**PS 311 - Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy**

Credits: 4

An advanced study in cognitive-behavioral theory, research findings, and clinical application. Students will learn, discuss, and actually practice CBT techniques. Students will choose their own treatment manual to read, act out, and apply in mock sessions. Real therapist training materials and scientific papers on CBT will be read and discussed.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202. PS 214 is not required but is highly recommended. Students must be adequately prepared to read and discuss empirical journal articles.

**PS 312 - Adv Sem Major Issues**

Credits: 3,4

**PS 313 - Psychology of Gender**

Credits: 4

An examination of the ways in which gender shapes the lives of women and men. Using an interdisciplinary, scientific approach, students will explore psychological research and review empirical findings that test beliefs about gender in our society. Topics include: cultural and evolutionary accounts for gendered behavior; observed (and perceived) sex differences and similarities in abilities and personality; gender socialization in childhood; backlash against stereotype violators; the influence of gender roles and stereotypes on discrimination; work and parenthood; portrayals of men and women in the media; gender in romantic and sexual relationships; and sexual aggression and violence.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202.

**PS 314 - Research Methods 2: Psychology of Reading**

Credits: 4

The cognitive and neuroscientific underpinnings of the ability to read. Students will investigate experimental techniques such as masked priming, eye-tracking, and fMRI, sentence and discourse comprehension, neural bases of normal skilled reading and reading disorders, and models of visual word recognition and eye-movement control.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as a writing intensive course in the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 315 - Clinical Psychology**

Credits: 4

An introduction to the science and practice of clinical psychology. Topics include clinical training, diagnosis, psychotherapy, outcome research, and ethics. Students will learn basic clinical interviewing skills, learn to critically evaluate therapeutic practices, participate in a mock clinical interview, and develop a treatment plan based on best practices.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101, PS 202, and PS 214.

**PS 317 - Psychological Testing**

Credits: 3

An introduction to the history, theory, administration, and interpretation of psychological tests, including a focus on the field of psychometrics and its role in psychological testing. Students will review the role and relevance of tests evaluating constructs such as intelligence, achievement, psychiatric symptoms, and personality.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202.

**PS 318H - Advanced Statistics in Psychology**

Credits: 4

A study of advanced techniques and controversial issues in experimental design and analysis. The course will emphasize computer analysis of a range of experimental designs.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202 and one Research Methods II course.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture, two hours of lab per week.

**PS 320 - Research Methods 2: Social Psychology**

Credits: 4

A study of the processes underlying everyday social behavior and thought. Students will use scientific research methods to investigate social behavior such as group decision-making, prejudice and bias, unconscious thinking, motivation, and humor enjoyment.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as a writing intensive course in the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 321 - Motivation and Emotion**

Credits: 4

An examination of the principal constructs employed in theories of motivation and emotion. Students will review the current status of both biologically based and psychologically based theories, using primary sources. Additionally, students will plan and carry out a project that applies a theory of motivation or emotion in a field setting.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and one Research Methods II course.

**PS 322 - Positive Psychology**

Credits: 4

An examination of psychological well-being. What factors contribute to happiness? Why do some people thrive, even in the midst of life's most difficult circumstances? Students will read and discuss scientific articles related to happiness, forgiveness, self-compassion, mindfulness, gratitude, flow, creativity, and meaning. Students will design their own positive psychology research study and will have the opportunity to apply the course concepts to their own lives.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202.

**PS 323 - Psycholinguistics**

Credits: 4

An examination of the psychological mechanisms necessary to learn, comprehend, and produce both spoken and written language. The course addresses questions such as: How do people acquire the ability to comprehend language, speak, read, and write? What are the cognitive processes involved in everyday language usage? What is the brain's role in language and what can we learn about language from patients with brain injury? These questions and more are addressed while investigating the psychology of language from a scientific perspective, looking at what psychological research can tell us about human language acquisition, comprehension, and production.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101 and PS 202.

**PS 325 - Research Methods 2: Perception**

Credits: 4

The study of the way in which people use sensory input to identify and interpret information in the world. The course will examine contributions of sensory, neural, and cognitive factors to perceptual experience. Discussions will cover general perceptual principles, but will emphasize visual and auditory processes.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101; and PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as writing intensive course for the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 328 - Seminar in Clinical Psychology: Anxiety and Its Disorders**

Credits: 3

A study of the nature of anxiety and anxiety disorders, taught as a seminar modeled on graduate-level work. Students focus on the etiology, pathogenesis, symptoms, and treatment of anxiety disorders in adults with an emphasis on clinical applications and psychological/cognitive-behavioral approaches to conceptualizations and therapies.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202; PS 214 is recommended but not required.

**PS 329 - Clinical Psychology Field Experience**

Credits: 4

Professional experience working 10 hours per week at a local mental health/human service agency. Students will receive on-site supervision from a professional at the agency and one hour of group supervision each week from a Skidmore clinical psychology professor. Field placements are limited, and students will be selected through a competitive application process.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 214 and permission of instructor.

**Note(s):** Must be taken S/U.

**PS 330 - Research Methods 2: Memory**

Credits: 4

A study of the research methods employed to investigate cognitive processes recruited in memory creation and maintenance. Students will learn to design and implement experimental techniques to assess memory, covering topics such as attention, emotion and personal associations. Students carry out a research project and write papers conforming to APA guidelines.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202.

**Note(s):** Three hours of lecture and two hours of lab per week. Meets the Research Methods II requirement and counts as a writing intensive course in the major. Fulfills QR2 and Natural Sciences requirements; fulfills Scientific Inquiry requirement.

**PS 332 - Cross-Cultural & Multicultural Psychology**

Credits: 4

An introduction to the main topics of cross-cultural and multicultural psychology in such areas as sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, memory and cognition, self-identity, verbal and nonverbal communication, acculturation and social and moral development. Students will gain a greater awareness of their own cultural attitudes and beliefs and comprehend the experiences of others who are from cultures other than their own.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Cultural Diversity requirement; fulfills Global Cultural Perspectives requirement.



**PS 333 - Sleep and Dreams**

Credits: 4

An examination of the little-understood phenomena of sleeping and dreaming. We will consider theoretical explanations and empirical findings from neuroscience and psychology. Students also will investigate a particular aspect of sleeping and/or dreaming through designing and carrying out projects.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202.

**PS 334 - Psychology of Religion**

Credits: 3

An introduction to the scientific study of religious phenomena. Topics include religion across the lifespan, death anxiety, near-death experiences, religious conversions, cults, mystical religious experiences, prayer, forgiveness, and religious coping. Students will develop a proposal for a study of a topic of interest.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and PS 202.

**PS 335 - Psychology of Race**

Credits: 4

A scientific exploration of the study of race and diversity in the United States as they relate to individual and group attitudes, cognitions, and behaviors. Students will focus on social psychological perspectives on these topics, including how individual worldviews and motivations influence the way people see and define race and diversity; how different models of diversity influence intergroup relations and diversity goals separately for majority and minority group members; how multiracial populations and intersectional identities influence theories and models of race and diversity; and how the psychologically-based causes, correlates, and consequences of stereotypes, discrimination, and prejudice operate across domains (e. g., academia, the workplace, health). Students will also engage in learning activities designed to help students meaningfully connect course content to life outside the classroom (e.g., other coursework, current events).

**Prerequisites:** PS 202 and SSP 100.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Cultural Diversity requirement; fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

**PS 336 - Music Cognition**

Credits: 4

An exploration of the psychological and neuroscientific research in music cognition. Students will investigate music and language, musical emotion, neurocognitive processing of music, pitch and time, perception and production, music's psychological function, and evolutionary accounts of music-making.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202.

**Note(s):** Although not required, it is highly recommended that students take PS 233: Cognitive Neuroscience or PS 218: Cognition prior to taking this course.

**PS 337 - Cross-Cultural Development**

Credits: 4

An examination of child development from a cross-cultural perspective, with a special focus on understanding how cultural norms, psychological research, and power structures impact: clinical and medical practices, parenting/babyhood practices, notions of education/learning/work, and the development of cognitive, "moral," and social processes. In addition to gaining an understanding of the current state of empirical psychological research on cross-cultural development, students will gain the ability to apply insights about cross-cultural development from anthropology, sociology, and history to the study of psychology. More generally, students will question and critique the development of policies and norms related to children, and will ask questions like: Who gets to decide what "normal," "healthy," and "good" childhood environments look like? In what ways do powerful individuals and institutions police, restrict, and limit child development? What are the consequences for violating cultural norms during development, and can we seek justice for those who have been wronged? In this way, students apply what they have learned about cross-cultural development to critical questions of power and justice in contemporary America.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202 and SSP 100.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Cultural Diversity requirement; fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

**PS 338 - Language Development**

Credits: 4

Current theories surrounding how humans learn their first language. The primary focus is on typically developing children during the first few years of life. Topics span from how infants learn to recognize the sounds in their language to how they come to understand and produce sentences.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202. PS 206 is recommended but not required.

**PS 339 - Psychology of Bodies and Self**

Credits: 4

All humans have bodies – it's difficult to imagine human existence in the absence of a body. This class focuses on understanding how the properties of our bodies shape our identities. In other words: in what ways do our bodies make us who we are? This course will address the roles of skin, muscle, genitalia, DNA, fat, limbs, and brain in constructing our many identities. We will learn about philosophical, psychological, and theoretical perspectives on the relationship between bodies and identities. By focusing on bodies in transition (i.e. bodies that are intentionally or unintentionally changed), we will interrogate the question: when and how do the properties of our bodies impact our identities? We will also ask about the intersection of power, identities, and bodies in contemporary America: how do systems of power and oppression shape the ways that we view and psychologically study ourselves and our bodies? Given that there is systematic body-and identity-based oppression, what does justice look like from a practical, psychological, and scientific perspective?

**Prerequisites:** PS 202 and SSP 100.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Bridge Experience requirement.

**PS 341 - Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience: Left Brain/Right Brain**

Credits: 3

A discussion based study of hemispheric specialization for cognitive functioning (including perception, attention, memory, creativity, emotional processing, and language) from a cognitive neuroscience perspective. Drawing on experimental psychology, neuroscience, neuropsychology, brain imaging, and computer modeling, students will study the gap between biological processes of the central nervous system and the processes of the mind.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 or NS 101; PS 202; PS 231 is recommended.

**PS 351 - Special Advanced Seminar Series in Psychology**

Credits: 1,2

A topical seminar, lab, or discussion group that may be offered as an extension to a particular course in psychology or as a free-standing experience (e.g., a film series with focus on contemporary psychological issues). Discussion may focus on additional topics as a follow-up from a previous learning experience or may provide exploration of a new topic not covered in a traditional departmental offering. The frequency with which the seminar meets will vary depending on the goal of the seminar. When offered as an extension to another course, the combined credits may not exceed 5 credits.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202 or permission of instructor.

**PS 352 - Meeting of the Minds**

Credits: 1-2

An exploration of how sub-disciplines of psychology approach scientific problems from different perspectives and how careful analysis of topics at the intersection of multiple research areas can generate compelling new questions. This special topics course examines areas of overlap and/or disagreement across different psychological sub-disciplines/theoretical orientations/methodological perspectives and is co-taught by two professors. Faculty will model the ways in which scholars can work together (and even disagree!) productively, and how intellectual collaboration is often the engine of scientific discovery. The frequency with which the seminar meets (i.e., once a week for the full semester or twice a week for half the semester) will vary depending on the goals of the seminar.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202

**PS 365 - Senior Coda: Rethinking Psychology**

Credits: 1

Have you ever wanted to reexamine a psychological topic in light of all that you have learned across courses, disciplines, and life experiences since arriving at Skidmore? Have you ever considered how psychological knowledge might change if research studies were more inclusive of historically underrepresented groups? Have you ever thought about how we can improve on experimental methodology, theory generation, and ethics in psychological science? Have you ever wondered what it might be like to teach a college-level psychology course? This course will provide an opportunity to engage with all of these questions and will serve as a "coda" to your psychology major at Skidmore.

**Note(s):** Fulfills Senior Coda requirement.

**PS 371 - Independent Study in Psychology**

Credits: 1-4

A directed study in a specialized topic. Each student will work with an individual faculty member to develop a plan of study (i.e., establishing goals, selecting readings, and designing assignments).

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and permission of instructor.

**Note(s):** This one-semester experience may be repeated for credit. The number of credits assigned to an independent study is directly related to the number of hours per week, and follows the Skidmore College guidelines for credit: 3 credits: no fewer than nine hours per week; 4 credits: no fewer than 12 hours per week.

**PS 373 - Research Independent Study in Psychology**

Credits: 1-4

An intensive research experience in a particular laboratory or field setting, emphasizing further development of research skills within a particular area psychological inquiry. Each student will work with an individual faculty member on various aspects of the research process including the design and the implementation of a research project, data analyses and interpretation, and scientific writing.

**Prerequisites:** PS 101 and permission of instructor.

**Note(s):** This one-semester experience may be repeated for credit. The number of credits assigned to an independent study is directly related to the number of hours per week, and follows the Skidmore College guidelines for credit: 3 credits: no fewer than nine hours per week; 4 credits: no fewer than 12 hours per week.

**PS 375 - Senior Research Project I**

Credits: 4

Students will work with an individual faculty member to develop a major research project. This development will include the conceptualization of a topic, review of the scientific literature, the learning of any necessary research techniques, the execution of any preliminary research, and the submission of a written research proposal to the faculty supervisor. Each student will make an oral presentation of the proposal to other senior thesis students as well as the psychology faculty at the end of the semester. Students will also attend weekly one-hour seminar meetings to discuss with the faculty member coordinating the program as well as other student participants the design of their research project. Discussion topics will include preparation of materials for the Institutional Review Board, students' perspectives on their literature reviews, discussion of writing and revising, and preparation for thesis proposal defenses.

**Prerequisites:** PS 202 and one Research Methods II course; students must also receive permission of instructor.

**Note(s):** This course may not be taken concurrently with PS 378.

**PS 376 - Senior Research Project II**

Credits: 4

Students will work with an individual faculty member to complete a major research project developed in Senior Research Project I. A final project will be submitted in thesis form to the faculty supervisor as well as the faculty research coordinator for the program. This final project must be submitted at least two weeks before the end of the term. Students are also expected to present their research findings to the Psychology faculty and student participants in the program. In preparation for the completion of this thesis work, students will also attend weekly one-hour seminar meetings to discuss issues related to their research (e.g., problems in data collection, options for data analysis, etc.), to critique one another's thesis drafts, and to prepare for formal presentations at the end of the semester.

**Prerequisites:** PS 375 and permission of instructor.

**Note(s):** This course may not be taken concurrently with PS 378.

**PS 378 - Senior Seminar**

Credits: 4

Students work with course instructor to complete a major, written project. The project can be a synthesis of the literature in a particular topic area of psychology, or an original theoretical formulation. The final project should demonstrate a conceptual integration of the material, and should demonstrate both originality and independence of work. In addition to the written project, each student will make an oral presentation summarizing the project. The written version of the project will be submitted at least two weeks before the end of the fall semester.

**Prerequisites:** *permission of instructor and completion of one Research Methods II course.*

**Note(s):** May not be taken concurrently with PS 375.

**PS 399 - Professional Internship in Psychology**

Credits: 1-4

Professional experience at the advanced level for juniors and seniors.

This experience may include work-study projects in one of several professional settings, including mental hospitals, nursing homes, schools, developmental centers, advertising agencies, laboratories, and communication agencies.

**Prerequisites:** *five courses in psychology (specified by the faculty according to the nature of the internship). Requires faculty sponsorship and department approval.*

**Note(s):** The number of credits assigned to an internship directly relates to the number of hours per week, and follows the Skidmore College guidelines for minimal contact hours. Must be taken S/U.

**PS 3001 - 300 Level Elective**

Credits: 3