PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC)

PSYC 100 — Introduction To Psychology Course count: 1
An introduction to the principles of psychology as emerging from the areas of physiological, sensation and perception, developmental, learning, cognition and memory, social, personality, and abnormal. Required for the psychology major.

Enrollment limited to 1st and 2nd year students only
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PSYC 200 — Statistics Course count: 1
An introduction to descriptive and inferential statistical methods in analysis and interpretation of psychological data. Required for the psychology major.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1.25
Common Area: Mathematical Science
Typically Offered: Fall

PSYC 201 — Research Methods Course count: 1
A thorough survey of methods and techniques employed in psychological research is covered. Topics include observational research, surveys, case studies, experimental designs, and ethical issues in research. Emphasis is on critical evaluation of research. Students develop the skills to design an experiment, statistically analyze and interpret the results, and to present the findings in a written and oral report. Required for the psychology major. One and one-half units.

Prerequisite: PSYC 200 or ECON 249. This class is for PSYC majors only.
GPA units: 1.5
Typically Offered: Spring

PSYC 214 — Life-Span Development Course count: 1
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
TEP students can use EDUC 167 as the prerequisite course.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 220 — Perception & Social Neuroscience Course count: 1
The two major contemporary theories of perception are discussed for each of the sensory/perceptual systems (e.g., vision, audition, and haptics). For both theoretical approaches, a critical examination is made of the relation of sensory processes, perceptual abilities, and action systems with the goal of explaining how we are able to perceive the world.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
Students without prerequisite should consult instructor. Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Natural Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 221 — Physiology and Behavior Course count: 1
The structure and function of the nervous system is studied to provide an appreciation of the biological basis of behavior. The first half of the course emphasizes neuroanatomy, basic cell physiology, effects of drugs on behavior, and the autonomic nervous system. Later topics include physiological influences on sleep-wake and circadian rhythms, reproductive behavior, eating and drinking, learning and memory, emotions, and mental illness.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
Students without prerequisite should consult instructor.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Natural Science
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

PSYC 223 — Learning Course count: 1
An intensive evaluation of how behavior is acquired and maintained. Focuses on Pavlovian and operant conditioning in animals and human subjects. Special topics include the application of these principles to psychotherapy, drug addiction, self-control, and biological influences and constraints on learning.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Natural Science
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 225 — Developmental Psychology Course count: 1
A survey of theory and research pertaining to both cognitive and social development from birth to adolescence. Special topics include prenatal development, early experience, perception, learning, memory, language, emotions, achievement, moral development, gender role development, parenting, schools, and peer relationships.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
TEP students can use EDUC 167 as the prerequisite course. Enrollment is limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 226 — Personality and the Life Story Course count: 1
Covers several major conceptions of personality such as the psychoanalytic, humanistic, cognitive, trait, and behavioral approaches. The theories of such psychologists as Freud, Maslow, Kelly, Allport, and Skinner are presented to attain a broad understanding of human personality.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 227 — Social Psychology Course count: 1
An overview of the methods and research findings of social psychology. Emphasis is on the experimental analysis of topics such as person perception, interpersonal attraction, prosocial behavior, aggression, social exchange, and group behavior.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring
PSYC 228 — Psychology of Adolescence Course count: 1
A survey of research and theories related to physical, social and cognitive development during adolescence with a particular emphasis on identity and school, family, and peer contexts. Topics include puberty and brain development, social transitions and culture, peer pressure, motivation and achievement, identity formation, extracurricular involvement, autonomy and moral development, sexuality, problem behaviors, eating disorders, and emerging adulthood. One unit.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on Psychology AP exam. TEP students can use EDUC 167 as the prerequisite course.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 229 — Psychopathology Course count: 1
Examines mental illness throughout the life span, with discussions of the developmental, biological, behavioral, psychosocial, cultural, and other theories that attempt to explain emotional and behavioral problems. One goal for the course is to develop an understanding of how information about mental illness and mental health is obtained, and the problems associated with the evaluation and interpretation of this information.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology. Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 232 — Developmental Science & Educ Course count: 1
Prerequisite: One previous EDUC or PSYC Course
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 235 — Cognitive Neuroscience Course count: 1
This course is a topical introduction to the field of cognitive neuroscience, in which we look specifically at the neural substrates of cognitive function: from how we remember and see, to how we control our own actions and thoughts and have conscious awareness. We will cover the experimental toolkit of cognitive neuroscience (ranging from reaction time tests to functional MRI), and the results of recent research into perception, attention, learning and memory, and their neurological underpinnings. Throughout the course, special attention is given to dysfunctions of cognitive functioning resulting from brain damage or psychopathologies.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Natural Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 236 — Cognition & Memory Course count: 1
Examines current perspectives on how a physical system can have intelligence and know its world. Historical, cognitive science (computer metaphor) and connectionist perspectives will be surveyed. Of interest is how we can model cognitive 'machinery' and how this machinery produces such phenomena as attention, pattern recognition, and information storage. One unit.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology. TEP students can use EDUC 167 as the prerequisite course.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Natural Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 237 — Psychology of Language Course count: 1
An overview of the psychology and neuropsychological bases of language. Language is defined through the evaluation of human and animal communication. Topics such as Chomsky's linguistic principles, speech perception, speech production, language acquisition, reading and bilingualism are included. These basic concepts of language are then applied to an understanding of different forms that language can take: spoken, written, and sign, and language disorders (e.g., aphasia, dyslexia).
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 238 — Judgment and Decision Making Course count: 1
This course will provide an overview of the psychological research on human choice and decision making. It will investigate sources of bias and error in decision making and consider whether the actual choices that people make in their own lives align with theories that prescribe how decisions should ideally be made. Topics will include risk and uncertainty, emotion and intuitive judgment, self-control, moral decisions, and social influences on decision making. When possible, the course will consider how existing research findings can be applied to reduce biases and improve the quality of decision making.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology. Enrollment is limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 244 — Health Psychology Course count: 1
This course provides an introduction to major theories, methodologies, and concepts in health psychology. Students will consider what health means; appraise strengths and weaknesses of biomedical and Ayurvedic health care approaches; identify how health behaviors and stress contribute to the onset of chronic illnesses (e.g., diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease); appreciate how sociopolitical and historical contexts shape the etiology and treatment of HIV/AIDS and cancer in the U.S.; and improve the ability to locate, read, and synthesize original research.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on Psychology AP examination.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually
PSYC 252 — Food Nutrition & Health  Course count: 1
The primary goal of this course is to help students consider the importance of diet for our overall health and well-being. Questions addressed in this course include the following. What are the basic macronutrients found in food? What are the differences between reductionistic and wholistic approaches to studying food and nutrition? How does the food industry manufacture processed foods to create desire? How do various environmental factors (e.g., social setting, container size and shape) influence food consumption? This course will emphasize the health and environmental benefits of eating less meat and dairy while increasing consumption of non-processed plant-based foods. This is not a course on eating disorders. Students applying to graduate programs (e.g., Nursing) that require applicants to complete a course in nutrition should know this course does not satisfy that requirement. Format will be lecture and some discussion.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a 4 or 5 on the AP exam. Enrollment limited to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students only.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 253 — Evolution of Behavior  Course count: 1
Explores the origins and nature of human nature. Focuses on the evolutionary origins of human nature as revealed through the available fossil record and through analysis of other primate species, particularly chimpanzees. Topics include sex differences, language development, the origins of psychiatric disorders, and the evolutionary basis for human social behavior and human intelligence.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on Psychology AP examination.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Natural Science
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 305 — History & Theory  Course count: 1
An examination in historical perspective of what are considered to be the major systems (e.g., psychoanalysis, behaviorism, existential psychology) of psychology. The course begins by using a number of philosophical questions regarding the status of psychology as a scientific discipline, moves on to a comprehensive treatment of the systems themselves, and finally, returns to initial questions to determine the extent to which they have been answered.
Prerequisite: PSYC 100 or a score of 4 or 5 on AP exam in Psychology.
GPA units: 1

PSYC 314 — Science, Medicine & the Holocaust  Course count: 1
What can be learned of biomedical ethics from a study of the Holocaust? How did a healing profession justify its murderous actions? Were physicians and scientists pawns of a totalitarian regime, or were they active contributors to the racial Nazi ideology? Is the study of genetics susceptible to the same political forces that corrupted the field of eugenics? How did the Holocaust come to shape our current code of ethics in human experimentation? This seminar will seek answers to these and many related questions from a voluminous literature that is populated by contributions from historians, biomedical ethicists, philosophers, theologians, journalists, and artists. Far from a value-free discipline, ideological forces will be shown to be at the core of scientific inquiry. This lesson is of particular importance to aspiring scientists and health practitioners.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 315 — Biology of Mental Disorders  Course count: 1
A brief consideration of the historical and philosophical basis of biological psychiatry is followed by a thorough overview of the major neurotransmitter systems and behavioral genetics necessary for an understanding of the biological aspects of major psychological disorders, including anxiety disorders, psychosomatic disorders, affective disorders (unipolar and bipolar depression), schizophrenia, and Alzheimer¿s disease. For each of these disorders, the current state of knowledge concerning modes of treatment is reviewed, with an emphasis on the relative efficacy of pharmacotherapeutic agents, including minor tranquilizers, antidepressants, and antipsychotics.
Prerequisite: Psyc 221
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 316 — Drug Abuse: Brain and Behavior  Course count: 1
Drug addiction is the central theme of this course. Understanding drug action begins with a consideration of how drugs affect the brain. A basic working knowledge of brain chemistry is established with emphasis on information concerning the various major neurotransmitter systems that are affected by drugs of abuse. Considered next are the different addictive drugs, including alcohol, cannabis, heroin, cocaine and amphetamines, and the hallucinogens, and specific issues pertaining to the drug addict. The impact of drugs and ad-diction on society is the subject of the last part of the course. Issues with regard to prevention and treatment are considered. The ultimate goal of this course is to provide sound biological and psychological information from which a rational drug policy can be formed. Fulfills the Advanced Course Requirement or the Elective Course Requirement.
Prerequisite: PSYC 221 or by permission.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 321 — Neuroanatomy & Behavior  Course count: 1
Open to third- and fourth-year students interested in a comprehensive study of brain and spinal cord anatomy and function. Structure is studied to provide a foundation for understanding clinical applications of nervous system injury and disease. Begins with study of gross anatomy of the sheep brain. Topics include motor and sensory systems, limbic system, cranial nerves, cerebral cortex, and blood supply to the brain.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years
PSYC 326 — Cognition Across Cultures Course count: 1
This course examines empirical and theoretical approaches to understanding human thinking across languages and cultures.

Prerequisite: Students must have completed at least one of the following courses before enrolling in PSYC 326: PSYC 225 or PSYC 232 or PSYC 236 or PSYC 237 or EDUC 221.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Cross-Cultural Studies
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 328 — Adolescent Health Course count: 1
An advanced seminar in the field of adolescent development that focuses on the epidemiology and etiology of health-related behaviors during adolescence. This course emphasizes a public health perspective and covers topics such as reproductive health, substance use, nutrition and exercise, sleep, violence, mental health, injuries, and disease. Further, students will explore health disparities, health education, and domestic and global perspectives on adolescent health.

Prerequisite: PSYC 225 or PSYC 228.
GPA units: 1
Common Area: Social Science
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 332 — Processes in Psychotherapy Course count: 1
What are the common mechanisms by which psychotherapy works? To answer this question, this seminar will examine the theoretical foundations of contemporary psychotherapies, such as psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, and acceptance-based treatments. Through readings, videos, and lectures by experts in the field, we will consider how change occurs within and across the types of therapy and the best practices for studying symptom change over time. Additionally, by integrating research methodology into the course structure, we will examine how randomized controlled trials test the efficacy of psychological therapies.

Prerequisite: PSYC 201 and PSYC 229.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 334 — Eating and Its Disorders Course count: 1
An advanced seminar in the field of clinical psychology that closely examines contemporary research in the eating disorder field. Students explore topics such as the following: problems in the assessment, diagnosis, and classification of eating disorders; risk factors for developing disordered eating; comorbidities between eating pathology and other psychiatric conditions; the roles of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and culture in the etiology and maintenance of disordered eating; prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

Prerequisite: PSYC 229
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 337 — Substance Use, Misuse and Abuse Course count: 1
An advanced seminar in the field of clinical psychology that closely examines the substance (ab)use field, with a particular emphasis on alcohol. Students explore topics such as the following: definitions of harmful/hazardous drinking, familial transmission of alcohol use problems; alcohol, sex, and sports on college campuses; legal debates in the substance use field; philosophies regarding, and clinical approaches to, substance abuse recovery.

Prerequisite: PSYC 229
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 338 — Consciousness & Control Course count: 1
This course focuses on the neurobiological mechanisms underlying cognitive control and consciousness and its disturbances following brain injury or psychiatric illness. We define cognitive control as the ability to flexibly adapt behavior to current demands, by promoting task-relevant information and behaviors over temporally-extended periods and in the face of interference or competition. Consciousness we define as a subjective awareness of the world and free will. These abilities seem central to most higher cognitive functions, and contribute to the unique character of human behavior. Our goals are to define the neural mechanisms that underlie cognitive control and consciousness, to understand how these mechanisms govern behavior, and to use this knowledge to improve our understanding of the relationship between brain and behavior in psychiatric disorders and neurological damage.

Prerequisite: PSYC 100, 200 201
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 342 — Seminar: Gender-Role Development Course count: 1
Provides an examination of the role that gender plays in psychological development. Topics include depression and self-esteem, aggression, emotion control and emotion expression, and social interaction.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 345 — Seminar: Face Perception Course count: 1
Investigates the vast amount of information available from faces, such as age, gender, emotions, traits, and aesthetics. Discussion focuses on how we encode and remember faces and how we use information from faces in social interactions.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years
PSYC 351 — Rational Choice/Irrational Mind
Course count: 1
Examines the psychology of choice and decision making with a focus on broad questions about the extent to which human behavior can be considered rational. Examples of questions that will be addressed include: What is the source of people’s sense of happiness and subjective well-being? How do people understand risk and uncertainty? How do emotions influence decision making? Do people have stable, well-defined preferences that can be accurately known? To what extent do considerations such as fairness, social norms, and the need for control influence people’s decisions? The course will also explore the social context of decision making in relation to topics such as altruism and cooperation.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 353 — Seminar: Language Thought and Culture
Course count: 1
Do language and culture affect how people perceive their physical and social world? This seminar will examine a variety of topics relevant to this question. Specific topics will include cross-linguistic differences in areas ranging from color categorization to person perception; the universal and culture-specific effects of status on interpersonal communication; gender differences in communication style; cultural differences in the understanding of the self and their effect on basic psychological processes; and expert-novice differences in perception, categorization, and communication.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 354 — Psychology of Stigma
Course count: 1
This is a seminar course that provides students with the opportunity to more deeply understand the phenomenological experience of stigmatization and to critically evaluate the empirical psychological literature examining the causes and consequences of stigmatization.

Prerequisite: PSYC 227 or permission of the instructor.
GPA units: 1

PSYC 355 — Seminar: Resilience and Development
Course count: 1
Covers risk and resiliency from early childhood through adulthood and focuses on defining resilience; sources of risk and protection within families, schools, and communities; and prevention programs. Special topics will include strengths-based models of resiliency, child maltreatment and health, problem-solving and creativity, resiliency across cultures, mentoring, and school- and community-based prevention and intervention. Fulfills the Advanced Course Requirement or the Elective Course Requirement.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 359 — Stress & Neuroplasticity
Course count: 1
This advanced seminar explores the short- and long-term effects of psychosocial stress on the nervous system, and the role of stressful experience in adaptation and survival. Questions will include: How does activation of physiological stress responses affect the structure and function of the brain? In what ways might these effects be adaptive or deleterious? How do these effects relate to risk of neurological and psychiatric disorders? Through reading and discussion of scholarly literature in neuroscience, students will encounter current approaches to understanding the brain as a mediator of stress response and explore mechanisms of stress-induced neuroplasticity.

Prerequisite: PSYC 221 or BIOL 267 or by permission.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 362 — Cognitive Neuropsychiatry
Course count: 1
Prerequisite: PSYC 100, or PSYC 221, or PSYC 235.
GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Alternate Years

PSYC 366 — Mind, Body, Health & Medicine
Course count: 1
Examines a range of topics related to mind-body interactions, health care, and life style. Topics include mind-body relationships, placebo, stress and stress-reduction therapy, and a critical analysis of complementary and alternative medicine. This course should be of particular interest to premedical students considering a career in health care.

GPA units: 1
Typically Offered: Annually

PSYC 470 — Directed Readings
Course count: 1
A reading program conducted under the supervision of a faculty member, generally focusing on an area of psychology not covered in-depth in course offerings. Fulfills the Elective Course Requirement.

GPA units: 1

PSYC 480 — Research Projects
Course count: 1
Students may undertake an independent research project under the direction of a particular faculty member. Fulfills the Elective Course Requirement.

GPA units: 1