Department of Psychology

Professors: Leonard A. Doerfler, Paula Fitzpatrick (Chairperson); Associate Professors: Sarah Cavanagh, Maria Kalpidou, Regina Kuersten-Hogan, Maria Parmley, Fang Zhang; Assistant Professors: Leamarie Gordon, Karen Lionello-DeNolf, Amy Cirillo, Alison Stoner, Adam Volungis; Lecturers: Leslie Adams, Johanna Sagarin, Gary Senecal, Colleen Smith, Arlene Vadum, William Warnken.

MISSION STATEMENT
Psychology is a science concerned with mind and behavior. The psychology program introduces students to a variety of ways to understand cognition, emotion, and behavior. In addition, the program prepares students for various career paths within psychology (human service jobs, graduate study) or in other professions (business, education, public service). The curriculum requires students to sample from diverse courses that provide the foundation for understanding the major concepts and theoretical perspectives of psychology. Students also develop skills for understanding and conducting psychological research. The curriculum promotes personal growth and development and challenges students to critically evaluate complex social issues. Students can explore opportunities for independent research and work in supervised fieldwork placements. The department apprises students of the many fields with which psychology shares borders of concern and inquiry in the pursuit of knowledge.

Description of Our Program
The goal of our program is to introduce students to the breadth of the discipline and give them the opportunity to develop competence, both as scientists and practitioners. As a consequence, our curriculum requires students to sample from core courses like developmental psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, and abnormal psychology. Students are also required to complete courses to provide the foundation for conducting psychological research. In addition, students are given the opportunity to explore more specialized areas within the field like child psychopathology, interpersonal communication, stereotypes and prejudice, or psychology of women. Students are encouraged to explore opportunities for independent research with faculty members and work in supervised fieldwork placements where psychological services are provided. Students are encouraged to work closely with a member of the psychology faculty to develop a program that will best satisfy their intellectual, vocational, and personal interests.

Learning Outcomes
We expect that our students will develop a strong psychological knowledge base, sharpen their critical thinking and communication skills, understand psychological applications and research methods, develop a socio-cultural awareness, and plan effectively for their career, academic, and personal futures.

MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY WITH A CONCENTRATION IN NEUROSCIENCE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR (14)
This concentration focuses the psychology major on courses relevant to the interactions of brain function, cognition, and behavior. This concentration is ideal for students interested in applying to graduate programs in cognition, neuroscience, or certain clinical programs focused on the biological basis of psychopathology. The major can be combined with further study in natural sciences, and with careful planning it is possible to pursue a second major or a minor in one of these disciplines. Students who choose this concentration are also encouraged to do internships or independent studies in laboratories studying psychophysiology, neurobiology, or the biological basis of behavior.

Required Courses (14)
All of the below courses are required. In addition to these, concentrators will need to take one additional Psychology elective in order to complete the Psychology major.
It is highly recommended that interested students declare their this major by the beginning of their junior year.
Students are advised to take the Foundations in Biological Science courses in their sophomore or junior year. Students are further recommended to take Introduction to Brain and Behavior (offered in the fall) in their junior year, and to complete the two Neuroscience Capstones in their senior year.

**Foundations in Psychology Course (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
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**Research Sequence (3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 224</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 225</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 390</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
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**Foundations of Biological Science (2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 160</td>
<td>Concepts in Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 210</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
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**Foundations of Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience (5)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 210</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 216</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 251</td>
<td>Introduction to Brain and Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 252</td>
<td>Cognitive Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 335</td>
<td>Motivation and Emotion</td>
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**One further Psychology elective (1)**

May be from any area: elective, cornerstone, or seminar

**Neuroscience Capstones (2)**

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 402</td>
<td>Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 415</td>
<td>Principles of Neuroscience</td>
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**Suggested, but not required:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY 250</td>
<td>Perception</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 410</td>
<td>Stereotypes and Prejudice</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 425</td>
<td>Clinical Psychology</td>
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**RECOMMENDED FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR THE MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY WITH A CONCENTRATION IN NEUROSCIENCE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR**

The following plan is recommended for psychology majors with a concentration in neuroscience of human behavior. It prepares students for the workforce or for graduate school, though to work within the field of neuroscience a graduate degree is almost always required. The concentration is designed so that students reap all of the benefits of a major in psychology while focusing their study on topics relevant to neuroscience, as well as gaining some interdisciplinary expertise through the biology requirements. The major is flexible to accommodate study abroad and students can successfully complete the major with the latest starting point being spring of sophomore year. Students who intend to go to graduate school are encouraged to gain additional research experience in the junior and senior year.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundations of Psychological Science:</strong> PSY101</td>
<td><strong>Foundations of Psychological Science:</strong> Social Psychology PSY210 or Abnormal Psychology PSY216</td>
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**Sophomore Year**

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Foundations of Psychological Science:</strong> Social Psychology PSY210 or Abnormal Psychology PSY216</td>
<td><strong>Foundations of Psychological Science:</strong> Cognitive Psychology PSY252, F/S or Motivation and Emotion PSY335</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Research Sequence: PSY 224 Statistics F/S

Foundations of Biological Science: Concepts in Biology BIO160 with lab, F/S

Junior Year

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Psychological Science: Introduction to Brain and Behavior PSY 251</td>
<td>Foundations of Psychological Science: Cognition PSY252, F/S or Motivation and Emotion PSY335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Sequence: PSY 390 Research Seminar F/S</td>
<td>Psychology Elective 200+–level (F/S; Recommended PSY250, PSY410, PSY425)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations of Biological Science: Genetics BIO210 with lab, F/S</td>
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Senior Year

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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>Neuroscience Capstones: Principles in Neuroscience BIO415 with lab</td>
<td>Neuroscience Capstones: Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience PSY402</td>
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DOUBLE COUNTS IN THE CORE AND THE PSYCHOLOGY NEUROSCIENCE MAJOR

Second scientific or quantitative course
PSY224 or PSY 101 or PSY 253 or any of the Biological Foundation courses

Person and Society
PSY101 or PSY210 or PSY290 or PSY 240

Global Awareness
PSY218 (currently not offered)

ADVISING TIPS FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY NEUROSCIENCE MAJOR

• Although 12 psychology courses are required for the major, students can take up to 14 psychology courses.
• Note that all of the requirements of the Psychology major pertain to the major with the concentration; however, some of the choices within the major are constrained to fit the Foundations model.
• Please note: The Foundation courses are designed to build up to PSY402 and BIO415; thus, while some students do take these courses in their junior year, it is more ideal to take them senior year.
• For concentrators only, PSY251 stands in place of the Physiology pre-requisite for BIO415. Concentrators will need to obtain Professor Lemons’ signature to sign into BIO415.
• Many concentrators decide to minor in Biology, as the concentration includes about half of the requirements toward such a minor.
• Several students take independent study (PSY399) to gain more research experience.
• Students may begin to explore the major by taking PSY101, which is a prerequisite to several research courses (PSY225, PSY390) and some cornerstone courses (PSY 250, PSY 251, PSY 252).
• Students may also begin to explore the major by taking any cornerstone course without a prerequisite (PSY210, PSY290, PSY216, PSY240, PSY253).
• Students must complete the research courses in the sequence of PSY224, PSY 225, PSY390. We recommend students take the courses in consecutive semesters, unless they study abroad.
• PSY 301 Internship in Psychology is only offered in the spring semester. Students are encouraged to take this course in the spring of the junior year to help guide career planning for entering the workforce or graduate school.
• ABA courses count as elective courses (PSY253 is a prerequisite to all ABA courses).
• To maintain the academic integrity of the major, transfer courses are approved under strict conditions. Students should consult with the department chair before registering for courses outside the day school of Assumption College.
• Concentrators are encouraged to explore the offerings of our Center for Neuroscience and to get involved in the new student-run neuroscience club.

WHAT CAREERS DOES A MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY NEUROSCIENCE LEAD TO?
The websites of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science offer a wealth of information about the current state of the field and career paths.

**Current topics:**
- [https://www.psychologicalscience.org/topics/research-topics](https://www.psychologicalscience.org/topics/research-topics)

**Career paths:**

Learn more about ABA:
- [https://www.abainternational.org/about-us/behavior-analysis.aspx](https://www.abainternational.org/about-us/behavior-analysis.aspx)

Join the psychology club or follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- [https://www.facebook.com/ACPsychology/](https://www.facebook.com/ACPsychology/)
- [https://twitter.com/AC_Psychology](https://twitter.com/AC_Psychology)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**PSYCHOLOGY (PSY)**

**PSY 101  GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**
In this introduction to psychology, students learn the language, methods, theoretical perspectives, and research of the discipline. This course introduces students to a range of topics within psychology, such as the biological and social bases of behavior, as well as basic principles of perception, learning, and motivation. This course counts as a social science in the Core Curriculum requirements. (Fall, Spring)

Staff/Three credits

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**PSY 202 THE PSYCHOLOGY OF VOCATION**
This course will provide students with an understanding of vocation from a psychological perspective and guides them through the discovery of their own strengths, interests, and vocational aspirations. Students are introduced to various theoretical frameworks used to conceptualize our motivation to work and contribute to society, including social learning theory, career development theory, and positive psychology. Students will complete a series of self-evaluations of their career and personal aspirations and will be helped to interpret and reflect on their self-discoveries. In addition, we will read and discuss various examples of individuals and their vocational paths based on psychological conceptions of vocation and students will interview an individual to gain deeper insights into career development and factors that influence it. This seminar-style course heavily emphasizes class discussions of theoretical and case materials in career and vocational psychology.

Kuersten-Hogan/Three credits

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**PSY 210 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**
This course will examine theoretical and empirical contributions in the field of social psychology. Specific topics to be covered include social perception; social cognition; attitudes; theories of self; interpersonal relations; group processes; aggression; pro-social behavior; and how social psychology can be applied to everyday life. This course counts as a social science in the Core Curriculum requirements. (Fall, Spring)

Parmley/Three credits

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**PSY 212 SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY**
This course is a survey of the field of sports psychology and all emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and social phenomena related to the fields of performance, competition, exercise, and training. We seek in this class to understand the complexity of the psychological experience of an athlete in performance. Topics will be broken down into three general categories. First, an examination of the lived-experience of the athlete in performance will be considered. Second, we will explore therapeutic intervention techniques that can be deployed with athletes to reduce anxiety, increase motivation, conceptualize emotions, and energize the body in performance. Lastly, a bio-psycho-social examination of the athlete’s career transition will be examined. Here we will look closely at the effects of head trauma, the loss of identity, the loss of interpersonal structures, and
the experiential shifts that may occur as athletes navigate retirement. All of these topics will be examined by reviewing the scientific literature relevant to each phenomenon, supplemented at points with memoirs and non-fiction literature written by athletes or those with close involvement in sport. (Fall)

Staff/Three credits

PSY 216 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
This course provides students with a detailed description and analysis of the forms of behavior seen as abnormal in our contemporary culture. Research relevant to and theoretical perspectives on these disorders are presented. Throughout the course students are asked to consider the implications of being labeled abnormal and to apply their knowledge to individual cases. (Fall, Spring)
Cirillo, Volungis/Three credits

PSY 217 PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN
This course will acquaint students with the unique experiences and challenges faced by women and girls as they move through the complex process of psychological development. Questions of gender identity, socialization, sex-role stereotyping, and self-image will be among the topics discussed. In addition, many of the important roles filled by women throughout the lifespan will be addressed, along with circumstances, such as poverty and domestic violence that undermine the well-being of women in American society. Primary source material as well as textbook readings will be required along with class presentations, reflective essays, and a biography analysis project, among other assignments. (Spring)
Staff / Three credits

PSY 218 CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY
This course explores the way in which cultural traditions and social practices regulate, express, transform, and permute the human psyche to shape human experience. We will explore constitution of culture, examine cultural similarities and, more importantly, cultural diversities in mind, self, and emotion, and investigate why cultures differ and ways in which culture interacts with human psyche to produce cultural effects. Students will be challenged to step outside of their own cultural framework, suspend their presumptions of human behavior to enter into the mind of other people from differing cultural backgrounds to see what is normal, beautiful, and true from their perspectives. Known principles of human behavior from mainstream psychology will be assessed in a cultural light and cross-cultural compassions will be made across a broad range of psychological phenomena, ranging from perception to psychopathology to social organization. It is the aim of this course that after taking this course students will become a more mindful citizen in today’s interconnected, globalized world. Zhang/Three credits

PSY 220 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
This course introduces students to basic theoretical issues, research findings, and practical strategies in the field of interpersonal communication. The course examines the processes through which people collaboratively construct shared understandings in conversation, including discussion of how ideas about the self are shaped and expressed in dialogue with others. Through readings, discussion, and exercises, the class will work toward an understanding of how effective communication patterns, as well as problematic patterns, arise in the course of person-to-person interaction. (Fall, Spring)
Parmley/Three credits

PSY 224 STATISTICS
This course is an introduction to statistical methods used in behavioral research. The course will cover both inferential and descriptive statistics, with an emphasis on the conceptual understanding of how to use statistics to summarize and evaluate information. This course counts as a second Math course in the Core curriculum. (Fall, Spring)
Parmley, Zhang/Three credits

PSY 225W RESEARCH METHODS
The purpose of this course is to explore the logic and methods used in psychological research (e.g., control, measurement, correlation, and experimental design) as well as the practical (e.g., developing hypotheses, presenting findings in a written format) and ethical concerns involved in conducting empirical studies. Prerequisite: PSY 101 and PSY224 Statistics. (Fall, Spring)
Gordon, Fitzpatrick/Three credits
PSY 240 PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSONALITY
The course surveys several important theories of personality with the goal of helping students explain human behavior from a variety of perspectives. Historically significant theories, as well as recent interpretations of personality formation and dynamics, will be presented. (Fall, Spring)
Zhang/Three credits

PSY 250 PERCEPTION
The main purpose of this course is to gain an appreciation of the importance of our sensory and perceptual systems in making us uniquely psychological beings. Throughout the semester, we will explore what it means to gain a scientific understanding of these systems. We will consider a number of different perspectives for addressing these issues regarding perceptual processes, as well as different methods and procedures for testing sensory responses and perceptual experiences. Students will actively be involved in participating in computer-based experiments, perceptual simulations, and internet assignments. In addition, time will be spent reading and discussing articles to illustrate the everyday importance of our perceptual systems. Sensory disorders and deficits such as hearing loss, loss of proprioception, phantom limbs, and visual agnosia will be discussed. Prerequisite: PSY 101. (Spring)
Fitzpatrick/Three credits

PSY 251 INTRODUCTION TO BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR
In this course, stress is placed on determining the contributions and limitations of Introduction to Brain and Behavior in understanding behaviors, such as perception and thinking, psychosomatic disorders, learning, and emotion. Prerequisite: PSY 101. This course fulfills the Core Requirement for a science without a lab. (Fall)
Cavanagh/Three

PSY 252 COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
The purpose of this course is to give each student an opportunity to consider what it means to have knowledge and to explore how it is possible to have a scientific understanding of what it means to think. We will discuss a number of historical and contemporary theories of how we acquire, store, and use information about the world. The importance and relevance of these ideas will be explored by studying their application in diverse fields, such as artificial intelligence, law, neuroscience, health, and aging. Prerequisite: PSY 101. (Fall, Spring)
Gordon/Three credits

PSY 253 PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING
The purpose of this course is to provide students with a grounding in important principles of learning, such as conditioning, extinction, generalization, and discrimination. The behavioral approach of B.F. Skinner is predominant throughout the course, although the concepts of important learning theorists such as Thorndike, Tolman, and Hull are also presented. In addition, the philosophical underpinnings of a learning-based model of human behavior and the complex questions of freedom and determinism raised by modern behaviorism are addressed in the course. (Fall, Spring)
Lionello-Denolf/Three credits

PSY 281 PSYCHOLOGY OF ADOLESCENCE AND MATURITY
The course will examine a wide range of issues in adolescence, such as historical perspectives on adolescence; biological changes; cognitive development; parenting styles and family dynamics; moral development; drug abuse; and psychological disorders of adolescence. The issues will be illustrated and further developed through the use of several case studies. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits

PSY 285 WOMEN’S STUDIES I: IMAGES
This course is an introduction to the study of women. The course will develop a coherent, integrated view of women and their roles; emphasize the full range of contributions of and the limited opportunities for women; examine and appraise the experiences of women; and critically examine the thinking about women at various times and from various perspectives. The basic approach is interdisciplinary, and the concentration of the course is on women in North America from the 19th century to the present. This is the same course as HIS 285, and SOC 285. This course counts as a social science in the Core Curriculum requirements. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits
PSY 286 ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL PSYCHOLOGY
This course undertakes a survey of current theory and practice in the field of industrial psychology. Topics covered include personnel issues, leadership, motivation and satisfaction, and communications. Emphasis will be placed on the person in the work environment at all levels. (Spring)
Staff/Three credits

PSY 290 PSYCHOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT: INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD
This course examines human growth and development during infancy and childhood. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between theory, research, and the application of knowledge in child development. Different theoretical perspectives (psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive-developmental); current research on selected topics (e.g., day care, cross-cultural differences in child rearing); and ways to encourage optimal growth in children at home, with friends, and at school are reviewed. This course counts as a social science in the Core Curriculum requirements. (Fall, Spring)
Kalpidou/Three credits

PSY 295 PSYCHOLOGY OF DEVIANCE
This course is concerned with a critical analysis of the meaning of deviance. It examines socially undesirable deviance; for example, mental disorder, white-collar crime, crime in the streets, and juvenile delinquency, as well as social innovation. The theories and research considered will focus on the process whereby an individual in our culture acquires and adjusts to a deviant status, as well as how society defines and reacts to deviance. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits

PSY 301 INTERNSHIP IN PSYCHOLOGY
This course is designed to give students exposure to the many roles psychologists currently play in the community. Students are expected to spend 8 to 10 hours per week working in a clinical or research setting off-campus for 13 weeks. This translates into 100 hours of placement time. It is important to have one full day or two half days available to complete the field-based component of the course. In addition, students are required to attend a weekly seminar. Students must secure their own internships prior to the start of the semester. Prerequisites: Limited to Junior and Senior Psychology majors and minors. Prerequisite: PSY 101. (Spring)
Kuersten-Hogan/Three credits

PSY 330 POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: PSYCHOLOGY OF WELL-BEING
This course explores contemporary research in positive psychology, neuroscience, and psychology of religion on how spirituality (mindfulness, meditation, religion), and positive emotions, activities, and traits impact well-being. This course invites students to understand factors that allow an individual to thrive and lead a meaningful and fulfilling life. Students will read both science and non-science sources to understand the neuroscience that lends empirical validation to our understanding of what constitutes a “good life”. Students will also participate in experiential exercises to apply course concepts to their own lives, develop knowledge to live well, and contribute to their communities. This course helps students integrate knowledge across specializations in psychology (positive psychology, psychology of religion, neuroscience) as well as across disciplines (e.g., philosophy and theology). Students will be challenged to think about how the claims of faith can be integrated with and/or compared to science as they explore the complementarity of faith and reason. (Fall)
Fitzpatrick/Three credits

PSY 335 MOTIVATION AND EMOTION
This course will examine theoretical and empirical contributions to the understanding of human motivation and emotion. Specific topics to be covered include the psychological bases of motivation and emotion; the motivational-emotional bases of sex and aggression; the development of emotion regulation; the communication of emotion; and the social and cognitive influences on motivation and emotion. Prerequisite: PSY 101. (Spring)
Cavanagh/Three credits

PSY 386 PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING
This course is aimed at giving undergraduate students an exposure to the multiple facets of the aging experience within a lifespan developmental perspective. While an overview of the basic research on biological, psychological, and social aspects of aging will be presented, this course will attempt an integration of the material through an exploration of the salient issues faced by the individual elderly person and a society dealing with an increasingly aged population. Staff/Three credits
PSY 390 RESEARCH SEMINAR
This seminar is a continuation of PSY 225 focusing on more advanced problems of research design and analysis. Students are required to design and conduct a research project during the course of the semester. (Senior and Junior Psychology majors)
Prerequisite: PSY 224, PSY 225. (Fall, Spring)
Fitzpatrick, Gordon, Kalpidou, Parmley, Zhang/Three credits

PSY 392 RAISING HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN
The goal of this course is to discover the childhood roots of adult happiness and success. The students will identify the emotional, social, intellectual, moral, and spiritual needs of children and adolescents and discuss the things that parents, schools, and society can do to meet these needs. Among others, topics include the role of early social relationships, the influence of the material world, the effects of media and technology, the importance of character, and the significance of faith and spirituality. The students will read a collection of primary and secondary sources from experts in the science of success and happiness of children and adolescents. The students will also read and reflect on readings from other disciplines as well as biographies of successful people with focus on their childhood and adolescent years.
Kalpidou/Three credits

PSY 399 INDEPENDENT STUDY
Open to qualified Junior and Senior Psychology majors with permission of the instructor, the Chairperson, and the Dean of Studies. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/One to Three credits

PSY 401 SENIOR SEMINAR (Seminar course)
This course is designed to offer the student an opportunity to integrate concepts introduced in previous psychology courses and to examine one psychological issue in depth. The course format will vary with instructors. Prerequisite: Senior and Junior Psychology majors. (Spring)
Staff/Three credits

PSY 402 SOCIAL, COGNITIVE, AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE (Seminar Course)
This upper-level seminar course will lead students to understand and critique contemporary peer-reviewed research in the fields of social, cognitive, and affective neuroscience. After a brief review of brain anatomy and technologies used to study the live human brain, we will critically examine a number of representative research articles in the aforementioned domains. Topics of interest will include the neural substrates of consciousness, prejudice, language, emotion, and psychopathology. Prerequisite: PSY 251 Introduction to Brain and Behavior, or permission of instructor. (Spring)
Cavanagh/Three credits

PSY 408 FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY (Seminar Course)
This course will provide students with an understanding of normal family functioning including family interaction and communication patterns and normative family life cycle transitions. Students are introduced to various theoretical frameworks used to conceptualize family functioning, including family systems theory. Furthermore, the role of gender, culture, and ethnicity in families is examined. Students are familiarized with research methods and coding systems utilized in family research and will have the opportunity practice analyzing family interaction patterns portrayed in case examples. Students are also guided through interpretations of research reports published in family psychology journals. While the main focus in this class is on characteristics of normative family functioning, students will receive a brief introduction to the dynamics of families afflicted with mental illness and receive an overview of different family therapy models. This seminar-style course heavily emphasizes class discussions of theoretical and empirical literature in family psychology as well as discussions of videotaped examples of family interaction patterns. In addition, classes involve student presentations, lectures, and hands-on learning activities designed to illustrate principles of family dynamics. Prerequisites: PSY 290, PSY 216 (Fall, Alternate Years)
Kuersten-Hogan/Three credits

PSY 409 COMMON PROBLEMS IN CHILDHOOD (Seminar Course)
Parents and child practitioners often encounter children's problems that may not necessarily reflect psychopathology. This course is an in-depth study of the challenges that children face, the guidelines for determining when a behavior is a cause of concern, and how problems can be addressed. Students will explore the psychological, biological, and social roots of difficult phases of development such as difficulty to grow, bed-wetting, problems with sleeping and eating, common anxiety problems and fears, bad habits, and problems in self-regulation and social behavior. Prerequisite: PSY 290 (Spring)
PSY 410 STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICE (Seminar Course)
This course will examine the current theories and methodologies focused on understanding stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. The origins of stereotypes and prejudicial attitudes, and how affective, motivational, and cognitive processes might be involved will be discussed. To explore these issues, the course will examine how stereotypes are assessed, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, and present a multi-method approach for assessing stereotypes and prejudice. Topics in the course include: reasons for the persistence and prevalence of stereotypes and prejudice, understanding psychological processes underlying prejudice directed toward a variety of social groups, and possible ways to change group stereotypes or reduce prejudice. Finally, psychology’s current understanding of why people use and apply stereotypes in their everyday behavior and thinking will be investigated. Prerequisite: PSY 210 (Spring)

PSY 416 ABNORMAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY (Seminar Course)
This course will provide an understanding of various forms of psychopathology in children and adolescents. It is intended as an overview of the taxonomy of childhood disorders with many videotaped examples of different disorders to help apply knowledge to actual cases. Different theoretical models used to explain how psychopathology develops in children will be presented and the role of home and school environment, child gender, ethnicity, culture, and socioeconomic status will be explored. In addition to learning about the characteristics of various psychological disorders in youngsters, a review of the research into the causes and outcomes of mental disorders in children and adolescents will be explored. Finally, special challenges in diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of psychological disorders in children are highlighted. This seminar-style course includes lectures but heavily emphasizes class discussions, student presentations, and case studies. Prerequisites: PSY 116, PSY 190 (Fall, Alternate Years)

PSY 425 CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (Seminar Course)
This course is a consideration of the history, problems, and techniques of clinical psychology. Research and theoretical issues related to clinical assessment and different methods of psychotherapy are examined. Prerequisite: PSY 101, PSY 216. (Fall, Spring)