

Faculty

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At Kenyon, psychology is taught as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The psychology curriculum provides an opportunity for majors and nonmajors to examine diverse theoretical views and findings in such areas as physiological psychology, cognition, human development, perception, personality, social psychology, and abnormal psychology. At all levels of study, the department gives students the opportunity to pursue research and to become involved

in the work of local educational and mental-health agencies that are affiliated with the Off-Campus Activities in Psychology Program (OAPP).

New Students

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

PSYC 101 and PSYC 102, the introductory courses, are prerequisites for all other psychology courses, although some courses have only PSYC 101 as a prerequisite. The first semester (PSYC 101) covers the basic processes underlying behavior, such as physiological, cognitive, and motivational factors. NEUR 112 (Introduction to Neuroscience) can be used as a substitute for PSYC 101 and as a prerequisite for the basic-processes courses in psychology. The second semester (PSYC 102) emphasizes behavior in various contexts, covering personality and the social, abnormal, and developmental aspects of behavior.

Requirements for the Major

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

Majors are required to have a balanced curriculum within the discipline that reflects coursework concerning the basic processes of behavior as well as behavior in context. To satisfy the basic process requirement, 1 unit of work must be completed by earning at least .5 unit of credit in any two of the following

categories: (1) learning and motivation; (2) sensation and perception; (3) comparative; (4) physiological or neuropsychology; and (5) psychology of language or cognition. The behavior-in-context requirement can be fulfilled by taking at least .5 unit of credit in any two of the following categories: (1) child development or adult development; (2) abnormal; (3) personality; (4) social; and (5) the psychology of women or cross-cultural psychology.

Further, students are expected to take one .5-unit course in research methods in the basic process area (i.e., research methods in biopsychology, research methods in physiological psychology, research methods in cognitive psychology, research methods in learning and motivation, or research methods in sensation and perception) as well as one .5-unit course involving research methods employing a contextual approach to behavior (i.e., research methods in developmental psychology, research methods in social psychology, research methods in personality, research methods for studying gender, or research methods in cross-cultural psychology).

Senior Exercise

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

Honors

Students who do excellent work are encouraged to apply to the department chair during the second semester of their junior year if they are interested in admission to the Honors Program. Participants complete a large-scale research project or literature review on an approved topic of their choice during their

senior year. Each project is supervised by a single faculty member, but is also reviewed periodically by all members of the department prior to an oral examination by an outside examiner in the spring.

Year Courses

Individual Study

PSYC 493Y-494Y (1 unit)
Staff

Students conduct independent research under the supervision of a member of the department. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair, along with demonstrated special interest.

Senior Honors

PSYC 497Y-498Y (1 unit)
Staff

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

First-Semester Courses

Introduction to Psychology: Basic Processes

◆ PSYC 101 (.5 unit)
Staff

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. In this introductory course, which is a prerequisite for all of the other psychology

courses, you will explore a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research, and you will learn about the process of conducting research. For example, you will study the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, and learning and memory. The course is for first-year students and sophomores.

Honors Introductory Psychology: Basic Processes

PSYC 111 (.5 unit)
McFarlane

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore topics in the history of psychological science, biopsychology, sensation, perception, memory, thought, and language in more depth than the traditional introductory course. In addition to an advanced textbook, students will have supplementary readings and will participate in computerized laboratory exercises related to the topics covered each week, so as to develop communication and research skills. This course is designed for students who are serious about becoming majors in psychology and have already had some experience prior to college entry. It is more challenging than the traditional introductory psychology course, it is more interactive, and it goes into greater depth. One goal is for students to become proficient in computer skills early in their major. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, some experience in the study of psychology prior to college, an AP score of 3 or 4, and a strong intention of majoring in psychology. This course is not appropriate for all first-year students.

Statistical Analysis in Psychology

PSYC 200 (.5 unit)
Krieg, Murnen

In this course, students will learn to conduct a variety of statistical tests that are commonly used in psychological research. In addition, the skills of choosing the appropriate statistical tests for particular research designs, and writing and interpreting the results of statistical analyses, will be emphasized. The computer statistical

package SPSS will be used. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited. Psychology and neuroscience majors have preference.

Psychology of Learning and Motivation

PSYC 303 (.5 unit)
Millin

This course is concerned with the basic theories and principles underlying the concepts of learning and motivation as they apply to animal and human behavior. A thorough review will be made of the theoretical issues, experimental methods, and findings relevant to the processes of learning and motivation. Finally, a major part of the course will be concerned with how the fields of learning and motivation have been applied to real-world issues (e.g., drug addiction and behavioral therapies). Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112. Enrollment limited.

Psychology of Language

PSYC 306 (.5 unit)
Crane

People use language day in and day out, so effortlessly that it often may seem automatic. Yet language-use is a complicated phenomenon that plays an important role in almost every aspect of high-level human functioning. In this course, language will be examined from a variety of psychological perspectives, including production, comprehension, acquisition, neurology, pragmatics, and more. By the end of the course, students will have gained a heightened awareness of just how complex language-use really is, and a richer appreciation of the far-reaching impact that it has on their everyday lives. Course requirements include exams, mini-papers, a research project, and class participation. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited to twenty-five.

Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 321 (.5 unit)
Levine

This course provides students with an introductory overview of the nature, causes, and treatment of adolescent and adult mental disorders, including anxiety disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia, and organic mental

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

Adult Development

PSYC 322 (.5 unit)
Staff

This course examines changes in personality, cognition, self development, and physical functioning from early adulthood to old age. Life events, such as marriage, nest emptying, and retirement, and their effects will also be covered. The course will present growth perspectives as well as theories focusing on stability and decline. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 102. Enrollment limited.

Child Development

PSYC 323 (.5 unit)
Staff

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

Social Psychology

PSYC 325 (.5 unit)
Fenigstein

Social psychology is the systematic study of social behavior. In general, it examines how we are affected by our social environment: how we perceive and interpret the behavior of others and the social situation, how we respond to others and they to us, and the nature of social relationships. Application of social psychological theory and methodology is encouraged through participation in small-scale laboratory or field observational studies. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Theories of Personality

PSYC 326 (.5 unit)
Levine

This course introduces students to major approaches to understanding both consistencies in individual behavior

and differences between individuals. This survey will focus on seven paradigms: psychodynamic, phenomenological, dispositional, cross-cultural, social learning, cognitive, and existential. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Cross-Cultural Psychology

PSYC 327 (.5 unit)
Crane

People cannot speak without having an accent from somewhere. In much the same way, people's psychological functioning is not accent-free. This course highlights the extent to which all levels of psychological functioning, even "basic" ones, are grounded in culture-specific assumptions about what matters, what is "good," and how the world works. Students are expected to emerge from this class with a sharpened ability to critique generalizations made about human psychology, a greater appreciation of interpersonal diversity, and a richer understanding of how their own ways of thinking and being derive from culture-bound experiences. Course requirements include exams, response papers, a research project, and class participation. Prerequisite: PSYC 102. Enrollment limited to twenty-five.

Human Sexual Behavior

PSYC 344 (.5 unit)
Fenigstein

This course examines the biological, psychological, and social bases of human sexuality. Topics include the physiology of sex functions, variations of sexual behavior, nature and treatment of sexual malfunctions, sexual identity and attitudes, sex differences in social behavior, and the social dynamics of sexual interaction. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and 102. Enrollment limited.

Psychology of Women

PSYC 346 (.5 unit)
Murnen

Psychological research about women is examined critically in this course. Topics such as gender differences, gender stereotypes, hormonal effects on women's behavior, eating disorders, and violence against women will

be addressed with particular attention to the effects of sociocultural factors on the research in these areas. A variety of learning tools (e.g., conducting projects, engaging in discussion, taking exams) will be used by the class. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Psychology in Context

PSYC 350 (.75 unit)
Krieg

This course will focus on the application of psychology to social settings and social services. We will examine a selection of social problems and the influence of social systems on individuals. In addition to regular class meetings, students will spend six out-of-class hours each week at a local community agency (e.g., Knox County Head Start). Students will integrate these service experiences with course-related material. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Preference given to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to ten students.

Research Methods in Developmental Psychology

QR PSYC 421 (.5 unit)
Krieg

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

Individual Study

PSYC 493 (.5 unit)
Staff

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

Second-Semester Courses

Introduction to Psychology: Behavior in Context

◆ PSYC 102 (.5 unit)
Staff

This is the second part of the introductory psychology course. While PSYC 101 dealt with basic processes of behavior, in PSYC 102 you will examine behavior in context. You will study developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and other issues. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112.

Honors Introductory Psychology: Behavior in Context

PSYC 112 (.5 unit)
Levine

This course is designed to engage students in an in-depth exploration of topics pertaining to the study of personality, stress and coping, health psychology, abnormal psychology and psychopathology, clinical psychology, social psychology, and developmental psychology. Unlike the typical introductory psychology courses at Kenyon, this course is a seminar that emphasizes the integration of information from a textbook, supplementary readings, and, where possible, computerized presentations or laboratory exercises. This course is designed for students who are serious about becoming majors in psychology. Prerequisite: An AP score of 3 or 4, a strong intention of majoring in psychology, and permission of the instructor.

Statistical Analysis in Psychology

PSYC 200 (.5 unit)
Murnen

See first-semester course description.

Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 301 (.5 unit)
Payne

This course will consider research and theories regarding basic cognitive processes such as memory and perception, as well as higher level thinking processes such as decision-making,

language processing, and social cognition. Emphasis will be on the study of laboratory research, with discussion of how the findings relate to real-world cognition. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and PSYC 102. Enrollment limited.

Neuropsychology

PSYC 304 (.5 unit)
McFarlane

This course will examine recent advances in our understanding of brain mechanisms involved in human higher mental processes. With a focus on cortical functions, the course will range from the study of brain development in infancy, across a variety of deficits attributable to brain dysfunction, to a consideration of assessment and treatment. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112. Enrollment limited.

Physiological Psychology

PSYC 305 (.5 unit)
McFarlane

This course will investigate the relationships among the brain, the body, and behavior. Material covered will include neuroanatomy as well as the organization and function of the central and peripheral nervous systems as well as the endocrine system. The ways in which this knowledge can be used to understand sensory and motor phenomena will be explored as a prelude to attempts to relate knowledge of human and animal physiology to psychological processes such as motivation, thought, mood, learning, and emotion. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112. Enrollment limited.

Sensation and Perception

PSYC 307 (.5 unit)
Niemic

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

allow organisms to act on their environment. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or NEUR 112. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology

QR PSYC 402 (.5 unit)
Payne

This course is designed with three specific goals: (1) to provide an understanding of basic research and design; (2) to cover essential issues, history, and debate in the field of cognitive psychology; and (3) to give students hands-on experience with some of the classic experiments in the field. The course will include lectures and discussion, as well as laboratory exercises in which students will participate in computerized experiments, collect data, and learn how cognitive psychologists make inferences about mental processes using observable performance measures. The course also requires students to create their own research proposal and present it in class. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and PSYC 301, or PSYC 306. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Learning and Motivation

QR PSYC 403 (.5 unit)
Williams

This methods course provides students with the critical skills for understanding and conducting behavioral research in animal subjects. Students will be actively engaged in collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. Students will also learn about designing research projects, making valid conclusions, critiquing journal articles, and writing a scientific paper. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and previous or concurrent enrollment in PSYC 303. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Sensation and Perception

QR PSYC 406 (.5 unit)
Niemic

This methods course teaches students the skills necessary for conducting research in sensation and perception. It will provide students with firsthand experience with a number of concepts and measurement techniques as well as an understanding of the ways in

which sensory psychologists investigate how the brain gathers, processes, and interprets information from the external environment in order to construct an internal representation of reality. Students will learn to design experiments; collect, analyze, and present data using computer software packages; and write a scientific paper. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and previous or concurrent enrollment in either PSYC 307, PSYC 301, or PSYC 305 as well as permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited.

Research Methods in Personality

QR PSYC 422 (.5 unit)
Levine

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

Research Methods in Cross-Cultural Psychology

QR PSYC 424 (.5 unit)
Crane

This course is designed to train students in the skills needed to conduct cross-cultural research studies in psychology. The format will be primarily that of a lab-oriented seminar, though lecture also will be included. Through discussion and hands-on research activities, students will develop and refine their ability to generate and test cultural hypotheses, to collect and analyze relevant data, and to report and critique cross-cultural research findings. Topics to be covered include experimental design, questionnaire construction, naturalistic observation,

content analysis, computer-based statistical analysis, and American Psychological Association writing style. Course requirements include two data-collection projects with lab reports, in-class presentations, and a final exam. Prerequisite: PSYC 200. Enrollment limited to twelve.

Research Methods to Study Gender

QR PSYC 425 (.5 unit)
Mumen

Science is a valuable tool for understanding the world, but when dealing with the issue of gender, it has often been applied in flawed ways. A feminist critique of science has helped us understand both the limits and the possibilities of examining issues related to gender from a scientific perspective. In this course we will consider the application of feminist theories and methods to understanding psychological issues related to gender. You will critically analyze various research articles, conduct two class research projects and prepare written reports of the results, and develop your own proposal for a piece of independent psychological research related to gender. Prerequisites: PSYC 200 and any one or more of the following: PSYC 323, PSYC 325, PSYC 326, PSYC 346 or WMNS 111.

Individual Study

PSYC 494 (.5 unit)
Staff

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