PSYCHOLOGY

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Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, the brain, and human behavior. The Psychology department offers course work and research opportunities in the fields of clinical, cognitive, developmental, neuroscientific, and social psychology. By studying psychology, students better understand human behavior, including who we are, how we do the things we do, and how we enhance our lives and society. The Psychology major provides a foundation for careers in education and research; law; medicine and public health; politics and public policy; and in business fields such as marketing, finance, and management.

COURSE NUMBERING

Courses in the department are organized so that they are best taken in several parallel sequences. Courses numbered from 120 to 190 and ending in a zero are core survey courses that introduce students to major areas of psychology and provide additional background for more advanced courses. These courses represent major content areas of psychology; students should sample broadly from them before specializing. Courses numbered from 200 to 299 focus on statistics. Courses numbered from 210 to 299 teach general methodology or data collection in various areas of psychology. Courses numbered from 300 to 399 are more advanced courses in a particular specialization. Senior seminars, whose enrollment is limited to twenty students, are numbered from 400 to 489. These seminars are best taken once a student has appropriate background. Courses numbered from 490 to 499 are special tutorial courses that require permission of the adviser and the director of undergraduate studies.

PREREQUISITE

PSYC 110, a general survey course, is prerequisite to several 100-level and all 200-level and above courses. This prerequisite may alternatively be satisfied by a score of 5 on the Psychology Advanced Placement test or a score of 7 on the IB Psychology exam.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The standard major in Psychology for both the B.A. degree program and the B.S. degree program requires twelve term courses beyond PSYC 110, including the senior requirement.

1. Because psychology is so diverse a subject, every student is required to take four courses from the list below. Two of these courses must be from the social science point of view in psychology and two must be from the natural science point of view. At least one from each group must be a course designated as "Core" in the course listings. Students are expected to take their two core courses as early as possible in the major, normally within two terms after declaring their major.


2. Because statistical techniques and the mode of reasoning they employ are fundamental in psychology, a course in statistics (PSYC 200) is required, preferably prior to the senior year. A student may substitute S&DS 103 for PSYC 200 or may substitute an examination arranged with the instructor of PSYC 200 for the course requirement. Students may take the examination only one time, and an additional course in psychology should be taken if the examination substitutes for PSYC 200. A student who has taken S&DS 103 may not take PSYC 200 for credit.

3. To assure some direct experience in collecting and analyzing data, students must elect at least one course, preferably prior to the senior year, in which research is planned and carried out. Courses numbered between 210 and 299 fulfill this research methods requirement.

4. Students may, with permission of the DUS, count up to three term courses in other related departments toward the major. Appropriate courses are rare and students should consult with the DUS in Psychology about selecting outside courses.

Students interested in research are encouraged to take an independent study course (PSYC 493) as early as the sophomore year. Students may also take PSYC 495 for one-half course credit of independent research per term with prior permission of the faculty adviser and the DUS. To obtain permission, download the tutorial form from the department website, and submit it by the seventh calendar day after classes begin. These independent study courses are graded P/F. No more than a total of three credits from PSYC 490–499 combined may count toward the major.

Neuroscience track Students with a major interest in neuroscience may wish to elect the neuroscience track. Such students are considered Psychology majors for whom the requirements have been modified to accommodate their interests, and to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of modern neuroscience and psychology. Given the broad nature of the field of neuroscience, students may wish to concentrate their studies in one area of the field (e.g., behavioral, cellular and molecular, cognitive, affective, social, clinical, or developmental). Interested students are encouraged to meet with the track adviser, Avram Holmes, 402 SSS, 436–9240, avram.holmes@yale.edu. Majors in the neuroscience track meet with the track adviser at the beginning of each term in their junior and senior years.
Requirements for the neuroscience track are the same as for the standard major, with the following additional requirements:

1. Two terms of introductory biology are required for the major, either MCDB 120 or BIOL 101 and 102, and either E&EB 122 or BIOL 103 and 104. Students who have scored 5 on the Advanced Placement test in Biology or scored 7 on the IB Psychology exam may place out of these courses.

2. Students must take PSYC 160 or 170 and a data-collection course chosen from PSYC 230L, 260, or 270. MCDB 320 may substitute for the PSYC 160 or 170 requirement, or MCDB 320 and 321L may substitute for the PSYC 230L, 260, or 270 requirement, but not both. If MCDB 320 is substituted for a Psychology course, it cannot be counted as one of the two advanced science courses outside the department (see item 4 below).

3. As required for the standard major, students in the neuroscience track must take two courses from the social science list above, at least one of which must be designated as "Core" in the course listings. Students in the neuroscience track must also take a course from the natural science list in addition to the courses specified in item 2 above.

4. At least two advanced science courses must be chosen from Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology courses numbered 200 and above that deal with human and/or animal biology; recommended courses include MCDB 200, 202, 205, 210, 250, 300, 315, 320, E&EB 220, 225, and 240. Certain courses outside of these departments may also meet the advanced science requirement, including BENG 350, 421, CPSC 475, MB&B 300, 301, 420, 435, 443, 452, MATH 222, 225, 230, 231, and 241. Other courses may qualify for this requirement with permission of the neuroscience track adviser. Laboratory courses do not count toward the advanced science requirement. Students should note that many advanced science courses have prerequisites that must be taken first.

Credit/D/Fail No more than two term courses taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the major; no 200-level course taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the major.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Standard major Majors are required to earn two course credits from courses numbered PSYC 400–499. At least one of these courses (excluding PSYC 490–495, which can only be taken P/F) must be taken during the senior year, for which a student must write a substantial final paper (a minimum of 5,000 words) and receive a letter grade. The B.A. degree is typically awarded to students who conduct a nonempirical literature review during senior year. There are no restrictions in the research format for the B.A. The B.S. degree is awarded to students who conduct empirical research through PSYC 499 during senior year. An empirical research project normally includes designing an experiment and collecting and analyzing the data.

Neuroscience track The senior requirement for the neuroscience track is the same as for the standard major, except that the two required course credits from PSYC 400–499 must have neuroscience content. Students pursuing the B.S. degree in the track must carry out a neuroscientific empirical project in PSYC 499 and must be supervised by a faculty member within the neuroscience area of the Psychology department. Students who wish to work with an affiliated faculty member studying neuroscience outside the department must obtain permission from the neuroscience track adviser.

Distinction in the Major To be considered for Distinction in the Major, students must submit a senior essay to the Psychology department at least one week before the last day of classes in the term when the course used for the senior essay is taken. Senior essays that are submitted after the deadline will be subject to grade penalties. Senior essays considered for Distinction in the Major are graded by a second reader and the essay adviser.

ADVISING Schedules for all majors must be discussed with, and approved by, the DUS or the adviser for the neuroscience track in Psychology. Only then may a schedule be submitted to the residential college dean’s office. For questions concerning credits for courses taken at other institutions or at Yale but outside the Department of Psychology, students should consult with the DUS. For questions concerning the neuroscience track, students should consult with the adviser for the neuroscience track in Psychology.

Computer Science and Psychology major The interdepartmental major in Computer Science and Psychology may be considered by students with interests lying squarely between the two disciplines. See under Computer Science and Psychology for more information.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

STANDARD MAJOR

Prerequisite PSYC 110

Number of courses 12 courses beyond prereq (incl senior req)

Specific course required PSYC 200

Distribution of courses B.A. or B.S. – 2 social science courses and 2 natural science courses, as specified; 1 course numbered PSYC 210–299

Substitution permitted For PSYC 200, S&D5 103 or exam arranged with instructor; up to 3 relevant courses in other depts, with DUS permission

Senior requirement B.A. – 1 course credit from PSYC 400-489 or 499 taken during senior year; 1 additional course credit from PSYC 400-499; B.S. – PSYC 499 taken during senior year; 1 additional course credit from PSYC 400-499

NEUROSCIENCE TRACK
Prerequisite  PSYC 110

Number of courses  12 courses beyond prereq (incl senior req); same as for the standard major with the additional requirements listed below

Specific courses required  MCDB 120 or BIOL 101 and 102; E&EB 122 or BIOL 103 and 104; PSYC 160 or 170; PSYC 200; PSYC 230L, 260, or 270

Distribution of courses  B.A. or B.S. – 2 social science courses and 1 natural science course, as specified; at least 2 advanced science courses, as specified

Substitution permitted  MCDB 320 for PSYC 160 or 170; or MCDB 320 and 321L for PSYC 230L, 260, or 270; S&DS 103 or exam arranged with instructor for PSYC 200

Senior requirement  B.A. – 1 course credit from PSYC 400-489 or 499 with neuroscience content taken during senior year; 1 additional course credit from PSYC 400-499 with neuroscience content; B.S. – PSYC 499 taken during senior year, with neuroscience content in a research project; 1 additional course credit from PSYC 400–499 with neuroscience content

Faculty of the Department of Psychology

Professors  Woo-kyoung Ahn, John Bargh, Paul Bloom, Thomas Brown, Tyrone Cannon, BJ Casey, Marvin Chun, Margaret Clark, John Dovidio, Jutta Joormann, Frank Keil, Joshua Knobe, Marianne LaFrance, Gregory McCarthy, Jennifer Richeson, Peter Salovey, Laurie Santos, Brian Scholl, Nick Turk-Browne, Karen Wynn

Assistant Professors  Arielle Baskin-Sommers, Steve Wohn Chang, Molly Crockett, Yarrow Dunham, Dylan Gee, Maria Gendron, Avram Holmes, Julian Jara-Ettinger

Lecturers  Natalia Cordova, Nelson Donegan, Jennifer Hirsch, Angie Johnston, Kristi Lockhart, Mary O’Brien, Matthias Siemer

Courses

PSYC 110a or b, Introduction to Psychology  Staff
A survey of major psychological approaches to the biological, cognitive, and social bases of behavior.  SO

* PSYC 125a / CHLD 125a / EDST 125a, Child Development  Nancy Close and Carla Horwitz
The reading of selected material with supervised participant-observer experience in infant programs, a day-care and kindergarten center, or a family day-care program. Regularly scheduled seminar discussions emphasize both theory and practice. An assumption of the course is that it is not possible to understand children—their behavior and development—without understanding their parents and the relationship between child and parents. The focus is on infancy as well as early childhood. Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.  WR, SO

PSYC 126a, Attraction and Relationships  Jennifer Hirsch
Theory and empirical research on the antecedents and consequences of attraction, and on intra- and interpersonal processes that either facilitate or interfere with the formation and maintenance of close relationships. Methodological bases for rigorous study of these topics.  SO

* PSYC 127a or b / CHLD 127a or b / EDST 127a or b, Theory and Practice of Early Childhood Education  Carla Horwitz
Development of curricula and responsive educational environments for young children—in light of current research and child development theory. The course focuses on critical analysis of programs for young children and the ways in which political context contributes to the practice of education. Regularly scheduled seminar discussions emphasize both theory and practice. Supervised participant-observer experience in an early childhood classroom. Components of the course include behavior and development, planning, assessment and standards, culture, teacher preparation, and working with families. Priority given to seniors, juniors and Ed Studies students.  WR, SO RP

* PSYC 128b / CHLD 128b / EDST 128b, Language, Literacy, and Play  Nancy Close and Carla Horwitz
The complicated role of play in the development of language and literacy skills among preschool-aged children. Topics include social-emotional, cross-cultural, cognitive, and communicative aspects of play.  WR, SO RP

PSYC 130a / CGSC 110a, Introduction to Cognitive Science  Brian Scholl
An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of how the mind works. Discussion of tools, theories, and assumptions from psychology, computer science, neuroscience, linguistics, and philosophy.  SO

PSYC 131a, Human Emotion  Matthias Siemer
Introduction to major discoveries in human emotion. Evolutionary theories of anger, love, and disgust; emotion and morality; cultural and gender differences; emotion and the brain; relation between emotion and thinking; development of emotion; and abnormal emotions in mental illness.  SO RP

* PSYC 136a, Canine Cognition  Angela Johnston
This sophomore seminar provides an overview of recent research in canine cognition. The focus is primarily on what current research with dogs, dingoes, and wolves can tell us about human cognition. Considerable time is spent reading primary source material and discussing potential avenues for future research.  SO
PSYC 139a / CGSC 139a / EDST 139a, The Mental Lives of Babies and Animals  Karen Wynn
Interdisciplinary exploration of the cognitive, social, and emotional capacities of creatures lacking language and culture. The extent to
which our complex psychology is unique to mature humans; the relative richness of a mental life without language or culture. Some
attention to particular human populations such as children with autism and adults with language disorders.  SO

PSYC 140b / EDST 140b, Developmental Psychology  Frank Keil
An introduction to research and theory on the development of perception, action, emotion, personality, language, and cognition from a
cognitive science perspective. Focus on birth to adolescence in humans and other species. Prerequisite: PSYC 110.  SO

PSYC 141a / NSCI 141a, The Criminal Mind  Arielle Baskin-Sommers
Theoretical and empirical study of the development of criminal behavior, including constitutional, social, and neurobiological elements.
Personality and psychopathological factors associated with criminal behavior; theoretical and psychobiological explanations of crime; the
biological/environment interaction; the impact of psychobiological models for policy and intervention.  SO

PSYC 147a / NSCI 147a, Animal Models of Clinical Disorders  Nelson Donegan
An interdisciplinary approach to understanding and treating psychiatric disorders, integrating clinical psychology, psychiatry, and
advances in basic neuroscience. Focus on how research with animal models can advance our understanding of psychiatric disorders and
generate more effective treatments for patients. Topics include drug addiction, depression, Parkinson’s disease, and schizophrenia.  
SC, SO

PSYC 150b / EDST 160b, Social Psychology  Maria Gendron
Theories, methodology, and applications of social psychology. Core topics include the self, social cognition/social perception, attitudes
and persuasion, group processes, conformity, human conflict and aggression, prejudice, prosocial behavior, and emotion. Prerequisite:
PSYC 110.  SO

PSYC 160a / NSCI 160a, The Human Brain  Gregory McCarthy
Introduction to the neural bases of human psychological function, including social, cognitive, and affective processing. Preparation for
more advanced courses in cognitive and social neuroscience. Topics include memory, reward processing, neuroeconomics, individual
differences, emotion, social influences, and clinical disorders. Neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neuropharmacology are also
introduced.  SC

PSYC 165b, Personality Psychology  Jennifer Hirsch
This course provides a broad overview of the research topics, methodology, and findings in the study of personality psychology. Content
includes breadth (and focused depth) on personality development, the self, the influence of personality on behavior, and individual
differences, like motivation and emotionality. Please note this is not an abnormal psychology class and, as such, will largely not be focused
on psychopathy or personality disorders.  SO

[ PSYC 179, Thinking ]

PSYC 180b / EDST 180b, Abnormal Psychology  Jutta Joormann
The major forms of psychopathology that appear in childhood and adult life. Topics include the symptomatology of mental disorders;
their etiology from psychological, biological, and sociocultural perspectives; and issues pertaining to diagnosis and treatment.  SO

PSYC 182a / CGSC 282a / PHIL 182a, Perspectives on Human Nature  Joshua Knobe
Comparison of philosophical and psychological perspectives on human nature. Nietzsche on morality, paired with contemporary work
on the psychology of moral judgment; Marx on religion, paired with systematic research on the science of religious belief; Schopenhauer
paired with social psychology on happiness.  HU

PSYC 200b, Statistics  Angela Johnston
Measures of central tendency, variability, association, and the application of probability concepts in determining the significance of
research findings.  QR

* PSYC 229Lb / NSCI 229Lb, Laboratory in Human Neuroscience  Gregory McCarthy
Instruction in the acquisition and analysis of human neuroscience data. This laboratory complements the lecture course “Methods in
Human Neuroscience” (PSYC 230/NSCI 240). The main topics include structural, diffusion, and functional magnetic resonance imaging
(MRI), electroencephalography (EEG), and event-related potentials. Students engage in laboratory exercise that illustrate the design and
analysis of experiments using each technique. These laboratory exercises involve acquiring, visualizing, and analyzing MRI and EEG data.
Prerequisites: PSYC 160/NSCI 160, PSYC 200, PSYC 230/NSCI 240, or permission of the instructor.  SC RP ½ Course cr

PSYC 230b / NSCI 240b, Research Methods in Human Neuroscience  Gregory McCarthy
Experience in methods of human neuroscience research. Focus on functional magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalography, and
evoked potentials. Some attention to psychophysiological techniques such as the measurement of skin conductance. Prerequisites: PSYC
110, 170, and a course in statistics, or permission of instructor.  SC

PSYC 235a or b, Research Methods, Writing Intensive  Staff
Introduction to general principles and strategies of psychological research. Topics include generating and testing hypotheses, laboratory
and field experiments, scale construction, sampling, archival methods, case studies, ethics and politics of research, and Internet and cross-
cultural methods. Hands-on research experience in laboratories.  WR, SO
* PSYC 248b / ANTH 148b / NSCI 164b, Hormones and Behavior  Claudia Valeggia, Eduardo Fernandez-Duque, and Margaret Corley
The purpose of this course is to give students exposure to, and practice with, some of the key concepts and methods used in the conduct of behavioral endocrinology, as well as insight into the process of scientific inquiry, from the construction of hypotheses and the formulation of quantitative directional predictions, to research design, data collection and analysis. Students have the opportunity to experience all the steps involved in conducting a scientific research study, from the initial reading of the background literature, to study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation, and finally, dissemination. Students must enroll in ANTH 148L, concurrently with this course. sc

PSYC 248Lb / ANTH 148Lb / NSCI 164Lb, Hormones and Behavior Lab  Claudia Valeggia, Eduardo Fernandez-Duque, and Margaret Corley
Introductory laboratory focusing on the interaction between hormones and behavior from an evolutionary and developmental perspective. Students gain competency in basic laboratory techniques (pipetting, diluting, aliquoting, etc.) and develop a small, group research project. Additional study of the theoretical background on which any laboratory work is developed through reading and discussing primary scientific literature on both human and non-human primates. This course must be taken concurrently with ANTH 148. sc ½ Course cr

* PSYC 258b / NSCI 258b, Computational Methods in Human Neuroscience  Nicholas Turk-Browne
This course provides training on how to use computational science for the advanced analysis of brain imaging data, primarily from functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Topics include scientific programming, high-performance computing, machine learning, network/graph analysis, real-time neurofeedback, nonparametric statistics, and functional alignment. Prerequisites: CPSC 100 or upper level course involving programming (CPSC 201, CPSC 202, and knowledge of Python preferred); PSYC 160; PSYC 230 preferred. QR, sc

[ PSYC 260, Research Methods in Behavioral Genetics ]

PSYC 270a or b / NSCI 255a or b, Research Methods in Behavioral Neuroscience  Nelson Donegan
Students design and conduct research to study brain function and behavior. Emphasis on hands-on participation in behavioral and neuroscience techniques. Prerequisites: PSYC 160 or 170, and a course in statistics, or with permission of instructor. sc

PSYC 303b / NSCI 355b, Social Neuroscience  Molly Crockett
Exploration of the psychological and neural mechanisms that enable the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of social relationships. Topics include the neuroscience of how we form impressions and decide whether to instigate relationships with others; how we build relationships through trust, cooperation, attachment, conflict, and reconciliation; and group-level processes including intergroup bias, moral judgment, and decision making. Prerequisite: PSYC 110 or permission of instructor. sc

PSYC 307a, Human Memory  Natalia Córdova Sánchez
This course surveys classic and current issues in the study of human memory. Topics include the ability to actively maintain thoughts in the face of distraction (working memory), the ability to remember previously experienced events (episodic memory), and the ability to learn and remember the meanings of items (semantic memory). In delving into how the human mind remembers (and forgets), evidence from behavioral experiments and neuroscientific studies are considered. Prerequisite: PSYC 110 or permission of instructor. sc, so

PSYC 308b, Intergroup Relations: The Psychology of Social Inequality  Jennifer Richeson
This course surveys core concepts in social psychology through the lens of societal intergroup relations. Specifically, the perception, cognition, and motivations that give rise to the formation, maintenance, and even acknowledgement of societal inequality are examined. We also examine the effects of societal inequality on perception, cognition, motivation, and health (individual outcomes), as well as how inequality may shape close relationships and even broader sets of interactions between and within societal groups. Prerequisites: PSYC 110 or equivalent and PSYC 150. so

PSYC 315a / CGSC 315a, The Modern Unconscious  John Bargh
The notion of the unconscious mind traced from the early 1800s through Freud to present-day cognitive science, with a focus on the past thirty years. The power and function of the unconscious as a pervasive part of normal everyday human functioning. Readings from philosophy of mind and evolutionary biology. so

PSYC 316a / NSCI 360a, Clinical Neuroscience  Tyrone Cannon
The biological bases of psychopathology, with attention to the interplay of biological and psychological factors. Research and theory regarding the role of biological influences such as genetics, neuronal physiology and signaling, and psychopharmacology in the major classes of mental disorders. Discussion of mood and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, addictions, personality disorders, eating disorders, and autism. sc

PSYC 317a / EDST 237a / LING 217a, Language and Mind  Maria Piñango
The structure of linguistic knowledge and how it is used during communication. The principles that guide the acquisition of this system by children learning their first language and adults learning a second language. The processing of language in real-time. Language breakdown as a result of brain damage. so

PSYC 318b / LING 220b, General Phonetics  Jason Shaw
Investigation of possible ways to describe the speech sounds of human languages. Acoustics and physiology of speech; computer synthesis of speech; practical exercises in producing and transcribing sounds. so
PSYC 327a / LING 227a, Language and Computation I  Robert Frank
Design and analysis of computational models of language. Topics include finite state tools, computational morphology and phonology, grammar and parsing, lexical semantics, and the use of linguistic models in applied problems. Prerequisite: prior programming experience or permission of instructor.  QR, SO

PSYC 330b, Psychology and the Law  Kristi Lockhart
Contributions of psychological theory and research to our understanding of the law and the criminal justice system. Topics include criminality, eyewitness testimony, lie detection, jury decision making, the death penalty, the insanity defense, civil commitment, prisons, repressed memories, children as witnesses and defendants, and the role of psychologists as expert witnesses and trial consultants.  SO

PSYC 331b / LING 231b, Neurolinguistics  Maria Piñango
The study of language as a cognitive neuroscience. The interaction between linguistic theory and neurological evidence from brain damage, degenerative diseases (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease), mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia), neuroimaging, and neuropsychology. The connection of language as a neocognitive system to other systems such as memory and music.  SO

* PSYC 334a / CHLD 334a, Developmental Psychopathology  Fred Volkmar, Eli Lebowitz, and Denis Sukhodolsky
Study of developmental psychopathology during childhood and adolescence, team taught by a child psychiatrist and three psychologists. Topics include: aspects of normal development, assessment methods, clinical disorders, treatment, and legal and social policy issues. Review of normative development, followed by discussion of theoretical approaches to understanding developmental aspects of common mental health conditions in childhood. Attention to treatment models as well as relevant issues of culture and ethnicity in the expression of psychopathology. PSYC 130, 140, 180, or equivalent, or with permission of instructor.

PSYC 335b / NSCI 340b, Cognitive Neuroscience  Steve Wohn Chang
This course covers how cognition is made by the brain. Students learn brain mechanisms underlying human cognition, including making decisions, paying attention, regulating emotion, remembering events, as well as understanding others. The course discusses both established and newly emerging findings based on several landmark experiments in both humans and animals. During this process, students are also introduced to cutting-edge techniques in cognitive neuroscience for studying human cognition. Prerequisite: PSYC 160 or specific chapter readings from the instructor.  SC

PSYC 342a / WGSS 315a, Psychology of Gender  Marianne LaFrance
Exploration of the relationship between gender and psychological processes at individual, interpersonal, institutional, and cross-cultural levels.  SO

* PSYC 350b / CHLD 350b / EDST 350b, Autism and Related Disorders  Fred Volkmar and James McPartland
Weekly seminar focusing on autism and related disorders of socialization. A series of lectures on topics in etiology, diagnosis and assessment, treatment and advocacy, and social neuroscience methods; topics cover infancy through adulthood. Supervised experience in the form of placement in a school, residence, or treatment setting for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Details about admission to the course are explained at the first course meeting. Prerequisite: an introductory psychology course.  SO

PSYC 352a or b / CGSC 352a or b / NSCI 352a or b, Arrested or Adaptive Development in the Adolescent Brain  BJ Casey
Study of empirical and theoretical accounts of adolescent-specific changes in the brain and in behavior that relate to the development of self control. Discussions will focus on adaptive and arrested adolescent brain development in the context of relevant legal, social, and health policy issues.  SC

* PSYC 355a / EDST 355a, Clinical Psychology in the Community  Kristi Lockhart
Mental disorders as they are treated within a community setting. Students participate in a fieldwork placement, working either one-on-one or in groups with the psychiatrically disabled. Seminar meetings focus on such topics as the nature of severe mental disorders, the effects of deinstitutionalization, counseling skills, and social policy issues related to mental health. Prerequisite: PSYC 180 or permission of instructor.

* PSYC 372a / LING 490a, Research Methods in Linguistics  Hadas Kotek
Development of skills in linguistics research, writing, and presentation. Choosing a research area, identifying good research questions, developing hypotheses, and presenting ideas clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; methodological issues; the balance between building on existing literature and making a novel contribution. Prepares for the writing of the senior essay.

PSYC 376a / NSCI 341a, Learning and Memory  Thomas Brown
The basic facts, general principles, and theories that describe how higher animals, from mice to humans, are changed by their experiences. The historically separate fields of learning and memory research desegregated under a neuroscientific perspective that recognizes the evolutionary continuity among higher animals. Prerequisite: Introductory courses in biology and psychology, or permission of instructor.  SC, SO

[ PSYC 402, Topics in Infant Studies ]

* PSYC 404b, Topics in Cognition and Emotion  Matthias Siemer
An overview of current research questions and results in the area of cognition and emotion. Exploration of both basic research questions as well as implications of cognitive approaches towards emotions for domains such as emotional disorders and psychological resilience and well-being. Prerequisite: PSYC 110.  SO, RP
* PSYC 405a, Social Emotions  Margaret Clark
The nature and function of emotions in social context. How emotions such as happiness, sadness, fear, and anger shape how we relate to others; how the ways in which we relate to others shape our experience and expression of these emotions. The nature and functions of additional emotions that seem to arise only within the context of social relationships: feelings of hurt, guilt, gratitude, empathic joy, and empathic sadness.  

* PSYC 409a, Science of Free Will  Thomas Brown
The scientific facts and arguments behind the theory that free will is an illusion or invalid construct. Implications of this theory for religion, law, and morality. Supporting evidence drawn from the fields of psychology, neuroscience, genetics, physics, and complex adaptive systems.  

* PSYC 416b, The Psychology of Group Life  Yarrow Dunham
Study of social categorization, the psychological tendency to partition individuals into groups, with attention to cognitive, developmental, social, and evolutionary approaches. The nature and development of social categorization, including its evolutionary advantages and its relation to the phenomenon of categorization more broadly. Ways in which social categorization influences prejudice and discriminatory behavior; methods for reducing such negative effects. Prerequisites: PSYC 110 and permission of the instructor.  

* PSYC 417b, Etiology and Treatment of Addictions  Arielle Baskin-Sommers
Research from the fields of cognitive neuroscience, psychology, sociology, and public health on the etiology and treatment of addictions. Social, neurobiological, and genetic explanations for addiction; evaluation of addiction treatments; the social construction of substance policies.  

* PSYC 421a / CGSC 421a, Cognitive Science of Pleasure  Paul Bloom
Exploration of the mysterious pleasures of the imagination, including daydreams, novels, movies, pretend play in children, and video games. Approach is eclectic, drawing on fields such as psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, evolutionary theory, and literary criticism.  

Introduction to the emerging field of moral cognition. Focus on questions about the philosophical significance of psychological findings. Topics include the role of emotion in moral judgment; the significance of character traits in virtue ethics and personality psychology; the reliability of intuitions and the psychological processes that underlie them.  

* PSYC 425b / CGSC 425b, Social Perception  Brian Scholl
Connections between visual perception, among the earliest and most basic of human cognitive processes, and social cognition, among the most advanced forms of higher-level cognition. The perception of animacy, agency, and goal-directedness; biological motion; face perception (including the perception of facial attractiveness); gaze processing and social attention; "thin-slicing" and "perceptual stereotypes"; and social and cultural influences on perception.  

* PSYC 428a / NSCI 442a, Neuroscience of Decision-Making  Molly Crockett
An overview and examination of the neuroscience of decision making. Interdisciplinary course highlighting research from cognitive neuroscience, psychology, behavioral economics, finance, marketing, computer science, and public health. Topics include utility and value, reinforcement learning, risky decision making, impulsivity and self control, social decision making, psychopathology, and commercial applications (e.g., neomarketing and neurofinance). Permission of the instructor.  

* PSYC 430a, Topics in Cultural Psychology  Maria Gendron
Overview of theory and research in cultural psychology, including the role of culture in social, cognitive, and health domains. Principles of the acquisition, transmission, and evolution of culture. Specialized topics include culture in non-human animals, and the intersection between culture and globalization and technology. Prerequisite: PSYC 110.  

* PSYC 437b / CGSC 437b, Minds, Brains, and Machines  Julian Jara-Ettinger
Exploration of the implications that the brain is a kind of computer that gives rise to the mind. Readings combine classical and cutting-edge research in psychology, philosophy, and artificial intelligence.  

* PSYC 477a / EDST 377a, Psychopathology and the Family  Kristi Lockhart
The influence of the family on development and maintenance of both normal and abnormal behavior. Special emphasis on the role of early childhood experiences. Psychological, biological, and sociocultural factors within the family that contribute to variations in behavior. Relations between family and disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, anorexia nervosa, and criminality. Family therapy approaches and techniques.  

* PSYC 493a or b, Directed Research  Woo-kyoung Ahn
Empirical research projects or literature review. A student must be sponsored by a faculty member, who sets the requirements and supervises the student’s progress. To register, the student must download a tutorial form from http://psychology.yale.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-major-forms, complete it with the adviser, and submit it to the director of undergraduate studies by the seventh calendar day from the beginning of the term. The normal minimum requirement is a written report of the completed research or literature review, but individual faculty members may set alternative equivalent requirements. May be elected for one or two terms. May not be used for the Psychology senior requirement.
* PSYC 495a or b, Research Topics  Woo-kyoung Ahn
Empirical research project or literature review. A student must be sponsored by a faculty member, who sets the requirements and supervises the student’s progress. To register, the student must download a tutorial form from http://psychology.yale.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-major-forms, complete it with the adviser, and submit it to the director of undergraduate studies by the seventh calendar day from the beginning of the term. The normal minimum requirement is a written report of the completed research or literature review, but individual faculty members may set alternative equivalent requirements. May be elected for one or two terms. May be repeated for credit. May not be used for the Psychology senior requirement. ½ Course cr

* PSYC 499a or b, Senior Essay  Woo-kyoung Ahn
Independent senior research project (either empirical research or literature review), conducted under the guidance of a faculty adviser who sets the requirements and supervises the research. To register, the student must download a tutorial form from http://psychology.yale.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-major-forms, complete it with the adviser, and submit it to the director of undergraduate studies by the seventh calendar day from the beginning of the term. The normal minimum requirement is a written report of the completed research or literature review, but individual faculty members may set alternative equivalent requirements. A paper of 5,000 words or more meets the writing needed for the senior requirement. To be considered for Distinction in the Major, the paper should be submitted at least one week before the last day of classes and will be graded by the adviser and a second reader assigned by the DUS.