



SWIFT THINKING

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

PLANNING FOR SPRING 2023

A table showing our course offerings for [Spring 2023](#) is available on-line. The table includes information on meeting days and times. In addition, it indicates which major and minor requirements each course can fulfill, whether a course is available for pre-registration, and whether you need permission to enroll.

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PRE-REGISTERING FOR SPRING COURSES

(Please check this table and the [Registrar's website](#) for updates.)

The Psychology Department will offer pre-registration through CAESAR for most of our Spring Quarter courses the week prior to regular registration. All students listed as psychology, cognitive science, or neuroscience majors or minors in the Registrar's system should be able to pre-register through CAESAR for these courses. The only courses not available for pre-registration for Spring Quarter are the **PSYCH 101**, **PSYCH 110**, and the **PSYCH 397/398/399** research courses.

Pre-registration times are announced by the Registrar's Office. Students can pre-register for a maximum of two courses.

Wait Lists

Psychology courses are very popular and they often close during registration. If a course you want to take has closed, use the electronic wait list function* on CAESAR. As students drop and seats become available, instructors will fill open seats with permission numbers.

Wait lists will be monitored until the last business day before classes begin.

REGISTERING FOR PSYCH 205 - RESEARCH METHODS

Students listed in CAESAR as majoring or minoring in psychology, cognitive science, or music cognition may pre-register for PSYCH 205. Make sure you have the statistics prerequisite or an allowed [substitution](#) before you enroll. You **may not** take both PSYCH 205 and the statistics prerequisite during the same quarter. Wait lists for Psych 205 are managed by the Undergraduate Program Assistant, questions should be directed to Psychology Advising.

Students who are using an AP Stats credit substitution: Caesar does not recognize this approved substitution and it will block your registration. *Please email psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu to obtain a permission number to register for Psych 205.*

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (UPA) NEWS

The Undergraduate Psychology Association (UPA) is a group of students who share a passion for exploring Psychology. UPA welcomes students of all majors to participate in academic, career-oriented, and social events during the school year. Our primary goals are to help undergraduate students learn more about psychology in a non-classroom setting, foster student-faculty communications, and facilitate the awareness of professional opportunities related to psychology. If you have any questions or are interested in joining UPA, you can reach us at upa@u.northwestern.edu and follow our Instagram ([@nu_upa](https://www.instagram.com/nu_upa)).

RESEARCH COURSES REQUIRING DEPARTMENT AND INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION

PSYCH 397-1, 397-2, and 399

A great way to learn more about psychological research is to become actively involved in research activities through PSYCH 399-Independent Study or the two-quarter PSYCH 397-Advanced Supervised Research series. This is especially valuable for students considering graduate study in psychology and it can be an educational and enjoyable experience for others as well.

PSYCH 397 and 399

You can count at most 1 quarter of 397-1 or 399 toward the major. You cannot count both courses toward the major requirements. PSYCH 205-Research Methods in Psychology is a prerequisite for PSYCH 397. The second quarter of the Advanced Supervised Research sequence, PSYCH 397-2, fulfills the upper-level research requirement for the psychology major. For more information on 397 and 399, including the differences between them, how they count toward requirements, and tips on finding a research adviser, see our webpage on "[Research for Course Credit](#)."

To enroll in PSYCH 397 or PSYCH 399, download the [application](#), fill it out, and have it signed by the professor with whom you will be working. Then, email the form to the Undergraduate Program Assistant at jillian.sifuentes@northwestern.edu and a student-specific permission number will be generated. Please note that you must turn in your application and register for the course through CAESAR **before the last day** to add a class for Spring Quarter in April.

We cannot guarantee that an application submitted on the final day of the add period can be reviewed in time to generate a permission number before the add deadline. Students will need to obtain permission for the late addition of a course from the Dean's Office in this situation

STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE AVAILABLE

We have created a Canvas course with Statistics Tutorials for Psychology students. The site is open to any student at Northwestern who would like to be able to use the resource. It currently has video tutorials on most of the topics covered in Psych 201-Statistics, some more advanced topics, as well as some videos on using SPSS.

All of our current majors and minors should have already been added to the [Canvas site](#). If you have not been added but would like to access the resources, contact psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu. Provide your NetID and request to be added to the Statistics Tutorials Canvas site.

SPECIAL COURSES FOR SPRING QUARTER 2023

- **PSYCH 310 Special topics in Social/Personality/Clinical :**

Identity and Motivation

Professor Mesmin Destin

The discussion-based course focuses on the connection between conceptions of the self and goal-oriented motivation, with particular attention devoted to the influence of social, structural, and cultural forces. The first segment of the term will cover classic theoretical work concerning the self and identity. Next, we will consider the relevance of a variety of social influences on identity and motivation. Finally, the course will close with a survey of contemporary identity-based intervention research and practical applications relating to trends in social inequalities, including education and health. Prior completion of an introductory or higher level course in Psychology is required to enroll.

- **PSYCH 350 Special Topics in Psychology:**

Using R for Analyses

Professor William Revelle

R is open source statistical system that has become the lingua franca of statistical data analysis. R is both a statistical system for processing data using traditional and modern statistics and a programming language for developing new methods. This course will introduce you to R with an emphasis in using R for psychological research. Time will be spent using standard R packages for data analysis including regression, factor analysis, test construction, and multilevel modeling. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of programming in R and will be shown how to modify existing packages to be more useful for their own work. No prior experience in programming is required, although a willingness to learn is essential.

- **PSYCH 390 Advanced Seminar in Personality Clinical, or Social Psychology:**

Cooperation and Prosocial Behavior

Professor Daniel Molden

If people did not possess some basic concern for the welfare of others, it would not be possible to develop or sustain the complex societies in which we currently live. However, within these societies, individuals, groups, and corporations often encounter a wide variety of opportunities and temptations to pursue their own personal goals, aspirations and achievements at the expense of the larger social good. What then determines when people will resist versus give into these temptations? Where do people's concerns for others come from in the first place, and what types of experiences nurture versus suppress these concerns? In this course we will explore such questions by reviewing research on prosocial behavior performed by economists, evolutionary biologists, and social psychologists. Furthermore, the primary objective of this course is to not only teach you about when and why people choose to act prosocially, but to also have you experience first-hand the obstacles and rewards that such choices entail.

- **PSYCH 391 Advanced Seminar in Cognition or Neuroscience:**

Left Brain / Right Brain

Professor Mark Beeman

This course will examine the how the two hemispheres of the human brain differ, in cognitive processing, anatomy, and computation. We will explore this specific topic in depth, as a model for cognitive neuroscience methods and theoretical approaches. We will link to other topics, potentially including complex language processing, visual perception and attention, emotion, mental illness, and others. The course will be taught in a mix of lecture, student presentations, experiment design and potentially data collection, depending on the enrollment. Students graded on class discussion participation, presentations, very brief reaction papers, and a brief experiment proposal paper at end of term.

- **PSYCH 392 Advanced Seminar in Psychology:**

Psychology and "Weird" Beliefs

Professor Sara Broaders

Lots of people have beliefs that other people think are just plain weird. Why do people have these beliefs? We'll look at "weird" beliefs within our culture and maybe some cross-cultural examples to understand the social and cognitive processes that lead to development and maintenance of beliefs. Among the specific topics we may cover are: distinction between science and pseudoscience, science denial, superstition, parapsychology, conspiracy theories, ghosts, near-death and out-of-body experiences, witchcraft, alien abduction, and repressed memories of abuse. Since this is an upper-level research course, we will focus on psychological theories, methodological issues, and empirical research in this area. We'll do some hands-on research and data interpretation activities during class meetings. Students will work in groups to design, conduct, analyze, and write up an empirical research project during the quarter.

NAMES TO KNOW

Jillian Sifuentes Undergraduate Program Assistant



Is the person to contact for routine matters such as officially declaring a major or minor, scheduling an advising appointment, or submitting an application for Psych 399-Independent Study or Psych 397-Advanced Supervised Research. She can also answer some questions about our undergraduate program. You can reach her via email at psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu or jillian.sifuentes@northwestern.edu.

Abigail Osterlund Participant Pool Coordinator



- Coordinates student research assignments for Psych 110
- Manages the Participant pool and paid registry website

Office: Swift Annex 124
Email: abigail.osterlund@northwestern.edu

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADVISING

Department advisors are available to talk with undergraduates about major and minor requirements, course selections, career choices, and how to plan an undergraduate program that will best prepare you for whatever you might do next. They are also good resources for learning about research opportunities in our department. You should see an advisor to complete your official Graduation Petition, which needs to be filed one year before your expected graduation date (typically in Spring Quarter of your junior year).

Department Advisors

- Sara Broaders
- Ben Gorvine
- Ginger Pennington
- Edith Chen
- H. David Smith
- Michael Bailey
- Wendi Gardner

APPOINTMENTS

To make an appointment with any undergraduate advisor, send an email message to psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu; include the following information:

Name:

ID #:

Class Year:

Majors/Minors:

Reason for meeting: (Example: Major or minor declaration, Petition to graduate, course questions, Study abroad etc.)

Email:

THE SENIOR HONORS PROGRAM: ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CURRENT JUNIORS

Each Spring, select juniors with outstanding records in psychology are invited into to apply for the Psychology Honors Program. Each student in the program participates in a special honors seminar and conducts a year-long research project under the guidance of a faculty member. The project culminates in the preparation of a senior thesis. Students who fulfill all of the requirements for the Honors Program are recommended to Weinberg College for graduation with Honors in Psychology. (Final decisions are made at the College level.)

Students interested in participating in the Honors Program next year will need to submit formal applications this Spring. At this point, prospective Honors Program candidates should be thinking about who their thesis adviser may be. Updated information on this program, including details on how to apply, will be posted on our website under the [Honors in Psychology](#) link. The deadline for applying is **April 21, 2023**.

JUNIORS: PETITION TO GRADUATE

All Northwestern undergraduates must complete and submit Graduation Petitions **one year prior to their intended graduation date**. The latest to submit the petition is two quarters before you anticipate graduating (e.g., before the end of Fall quarter if you expect to graduate in Spring quarter, and during Spring quarter if you plan to graduate in Fall quarter). You must schedule an advising meeting with a department advisor before your Petition to Graduate can be signed/approved. You can set up an appointment with one of the department advisers by emailing psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu. *Please include: Full name, Student ID #, Year, Psych Major/Minor/other, Reason (to match with advisor).*

Completing your Graduation Petition on time ensures you are on appropriate graduation lists and that you, your adviser, and the Registrar's Office agree on what requirements you have left to complete. It also provides an opportunity to talk about your experiences in the department thus far and your plans for the coming year and beyond.

You can read more about the petition process, including submission deadlines and access petition forms, on the Registrar's website. A good place to start is the [Registrar's Graduation Page](#).

Special Event



Graduation Reception

The psychology department will honor all graduating psychology majors at a reception on June 11th. The reception will be held from 3:00 – 5:00pm, location TBD. All our graduating seniors and their families are invited to attend and to celebrate with us!