



SWIFT THINKING

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024



PLANNING FOR SPRING 2024

A table showing our course offerings for [SPRING 2024](#) is available online. 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 Winter 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, and 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.*

STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE AVAILABLE

We have 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.

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

Psych 310: Special Topics in Social/Clinical/Personality:

- ***Unpacking Your Cultural Self***

Professor Stephanie Fryberg

What does it mean to be a "self"? What role does culture play in how you experience being a person? In this course, we will read texts from social and cultural psychology, but also on a smaller scale anthropology and sociology, to unpack our cultural selves. Research from social and cultural psychology tell us that what it means to be a self is deeply embedded in cultural contexts. Thus, we will examine other questions such as: To what extent is it possible to describe an "American" experience or to describe "not being American" but living or attending school in the U.S.? How are different people included in or excluded from the imagined community that is America? How does a person's race, class, gender and sexuality affect his or her experience of belonging to this country? These are just some of the questions we will consider as we explore the great diversity of childhood and young adult experiences of people who have grown up in or who are currently visiting this country. Our investigations will involve reading literature, watching films and examining a variety of cultural products as we draw on methods developed in both literary and psychological studies.

Psych 350: Special Topics in Psychology

- ***Adult Development and Aging***

Professor Daniel Mroczek

Scientists who study human development (e.g., developmental biologists, developmental psychologists, life-course sociologists) have only recently begun to understand the profound changes that occur in adulthood and in late life. While much is known about development and change that takes place from infancy through late childhood, we are only at the beginning of really understanding development in adulthood. This class will examine a number of key issues in this relatively young field of adult development and aging. While we will draw mainly on studies from the social and behavioral sciences, we will take an interdisciplinary approach and consider biological and biomedical studies as well. (No textbook required; readings will be provided by the instructor.)

Psych 350: Special Topics in Psychology

- ***Using R for Analysis***

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.

SPECIAL COURSES FOR SPRING QUARTER 2024

Psych 350: Special Topics in Psychology

- *Cognition and Emotion in Everyday Life*

Professor Almaz Mesghina

Why is it so hard to argue without crying? Why does your performance get worse at something as soon as you have an audience? Can humans be truly "rational"? We typically think of cognitive processes (e.g., thinking, deciding, recalling) as being distinct from emotional processes (e.g., feeling, expressing). However, very rarely do these processes explain human behavior in the absence of the other's influence. In this course, we will complicate our understanding of cognition and emotion by exploring some of the many real-world, everyday experiences that can only be explained at the intersection of the two processes. Through readings, in-class discussions, and out-of-class activities and exercises, we will explore a wide array of everyday phenomena (e.g., choking under pressure, lying, shopping) that span different developmental periods (e.g., childhood, adolescence, the elderly), contexts (e.g. school performance, jury duty, social media), and populations (e.g., clinical vs. nonclinical). To understand human behavior, we will take a truly interdisciplinary approach - drawing from a vast literature both within psychology (e.g., social, developmental, cognitive, political, and educational psychology) and across disciplines (e.g., law, health communications, consumer marketing). Ultimately, our discussions, readings, and exercises will equip us to better understand how and why we conduct ourselves the way we do. Course readings will include journal articles and select chapters from popular press books. There is no required textbook. This is a discussion heavy class-you will be expected to co-lead a discussion and submit a group final presentation as part of this class.



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)).

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADVISING

Advisors

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

APPOINTMENTS

To make an appointment with any undergraduate advisor, send an email message to psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu; include the 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 Undergraduate Program Assistant, Jillian Sifuentes, 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.

People to Know!



Jillian Sifuentes

Undergraduate Program Assistant

- Advising appointments
- Permission numbers
- Major/Minor Declarations
- assistance with questions concerning courses and other aspects of the undergraduate program

Office: Swift Hall 102

Email:

psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu



Abigail Osterlund

Participant Pool Coordinator

- Coordinates student research assignments for Psych 110
- Coordinates the paid participant registry for psychology studies at Northwestern
- Manages the Participant pool and paid registry website

Office: Swift Annex 124

Email: abigail.osterlund@northwestern.edu

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).*

Email

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](#).

2023-24 Graduation Petition Deadlines

Graduation Quarter	2023-24 Deadlines
Fall quarter 2023	June 1, 2023
Winter quarter 2024	October 8, 2023
Spring quarter 2024	December 1, 2023
Summer quarter 2024	March 1, 2024