



# SWIFT THINKING

## UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

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### PLANNING FOR WINTER 2021

A table showing our course offerings for [Winter 2021](#) 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.

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

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#### Pre-registering for Winter Courses

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 Winter 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 the course, we will check the electronic wait list and send permission numbers to students to enroll.

*Wait lists will be monitored until the last business day before classes begin. Students will then need approval from the course instructor to be added to a course during the first week of classes.*

#### 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. Your records will be evaluated for

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING IN PSYCHOLOGY



Department advisors are available to talk with undergraduates about 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. You should meet with an advisor to complete your official Graduation Petition, which needs to be filed at the Registrar's Office one year before your expected graduation date (typically in Spring Quarter of your junior year).

### Psychology Department Advisors:

**Sara Broaders**

**Ben Gorvine**

**Ginger Pennington**

**David Smith**

**Dan McAdams**

To make an appointment, Send an email to [psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu)

Please include information about the purpose of your meeting so that we can match you with an appropriate advisor.

this requirement and you will be asked to drop the course if you have not completed it. Once regular registration begins, any student with the statistics prerequisite may enroll.

### RESEARCH COURSES REQUIRING DEPARTMENT AND INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION:

#### PSYCH 397-1, 397-2, 398, 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 [shelley.powers@northwestern.edu](mailto:shelley.powers@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 Winter Quarter, **which is January 8, 2021.**

*\*\*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 398-Senior Honors Seminar

Students who will take PSYCH 398-Senior Honors Seminar next quarter will require permission to enroll. The course will be set up in CAESAR so that only those on the list provided by Dr. Dan Molden, the Honors Coordinator, will be able to register for the course.

## SPECIAL COURSES FOR WINTER QUARTER 2021

### **Psych 390: Advanced Seminar in Personality, Clinical, or Social Psychology: Scientific Controversies in Social Psychology**

Professor Galen Bodenhausen

This is an advanced social psychology course designed to examine a variety of controversial topics in social psychology. Topics to be addressed include: Is there really such a thing as unconscious racism? Are stereotypes accurate? Does high self-esteem cause a variety of social problems? Are positive illusions about oneself beneficial or harmful? Is subliminal persuasion real? Are video games harmful to individuals and to society? Is parapsychology at all legitimate? Exploration of questions like these will form the basis for the class meetings.

### **Psych 249: Buddhist Psychology**

Professor Marcia Grabowecky

Buddhism is most often considered a religion, but it is also very much a psychological system. The course also provides a concise introduction to key concepts in Buddhism (with minimal discussion of the evolution of different Buddhist schools and sects) and how these ideas relate to topics from main-stream Psychology. As students work through the material, we will examine how the critical Buddhist observation of interdependence, especially of all living beings and their environment, leads to an ethical system based on the view that harming others is also harming oneself. Implications of these foundational concepts will be investigated in relation to class materials.

### **Psych 313: Relationship Science**

Professor Eli Finkel

The primary goal of this course is to provide an overview of scientific research on interpersonal attraction and close relationships. By the end of the course, students should be able to think more deeply about interpersonal relationships, to evaluate media claims more critically, and (ideally) to be better relationship partners.

### **Psych 340: Psychology & Law**

Professor Sara Broaders

This course will examine the complex issues involved in applying the science of psychology to the field of law. Among the topics we will cover: How psychological research can apply to policies and practices in the legal system, Expert testimony, Methods, uses and limitations of forensic assessment, Determination of legal competence, The insanity defense, Syndromes (Battered Women's Syndrome/Rape Trauma Syndrome) in the legal arena, Criminal profiling types, methods, and limitations, Eyewitness testimony and other memory issues, Interrogation and confessions, Jury selection and decision making, Prisons and death penalty.

## STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE AVAILABLE

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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](mailto:psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu). Provide your NetID and request to be added to the Statistics Tutorials Canvas site.

## UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (UPA) NEWS

Consider joining the Undergraduate Psychology Association (UPA) at Northwestern, a group of students who share a passion in exploring Psychology! All majors are welcomed to join. UPA sponsors academic, career-oriented, and social events during the school year. The primary goals are to help undergraduates learn more about psychology in a non-classroom setting, foster student-faculty communications, and facilitate the awareness of professional opportunities related to psychology. Please feel free to check us out at <http://upanorthwestern.weebly.com> for more information or you can visit the [UPA Facebook page](#) (NU Undergraduate Psychology Association). If you would like to be added to the UPA listserv and stay up to date on all things psychology at NU, simply send an e-mail to [upa.northwestern@gmail.com](mailto:upa.northwestern@gmail.com).

## 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). To complete your Graduation Petition, set up an appointment with one of the department advisers by emailing [psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu). Be sure to have a copy of your CAESAR Academic Requirements report ready for the advisor to review.

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](#).

## AWARDS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

### Funds for Summer Research

It may not even be winter yet, but it is not too soon to start thinking about summer – and about the possibility of spending your summer doing research in our department. Each summer the Psychology Department offers two or more undergraduates a **Benton J. Underwood Summer Research Fellowship**. Professor Underwood was chair of the Psychology department and a distinguished researcher in the field of memory. He worked to establish the fund that makes these fellowships possible.

Acceptance of an Underwood Fellowship implies a commitment to spend most of your summer working on research here at Northwestern with a Psychology professor. Your exact schedule will be worked out with the professor who supervises your research. Both current juniors and current sophomores can apply for this award. However, priority will be given to current juniors. Work on an Underwood project often serves as the foundation for a senior honors project. (Receipt of an Underwood fellowship does not guarantee acceptance to our Honors program.)

If you are interested in doing research this coming summer, you should look into other funding sources, too. All Underwood applicants should also apply for a **Northwestern University Summer Research Grant** from the Provost's Office. Weinberg College also offers funds for summer research by students. Different funding sources have different selection criteria, and applying to more than one will enhance your chances of receiving an award.

To apply for an Underwood Fellowship, follow these steps:

Choose a faculty member to supervise your research and talk with him or her about what you will be doing and what your time commitment will be. You should also talk with the faculty member about the need for Institutional Review Board approval for your planned project.

- Prepare an application in which you include (a) a statement describing your plans for this research – this can be the same proposal you submit to the university's grants committee; (b) a copy of your transcript (an unofficial transcript is fine); and (c) information about your general interests in psychology, your relevant course work, your previous research experience, and anything else that you think is relevant.
- Have the faculty member who will supervise your research write a confidential letter of support for your application.
- Get your application and letter of support to Sara Broaders at [s-broaders@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-broaders@northwestern.edu) by **Friday, March 12, 2021**. This is also the deadline for submitting summer grant applications to the University's Undergraduate Research Grants Committee.