

FALL 2025

SWIFT THINKING

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER



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PLANNING FOR WINTER 2026

A table showing our course offerings for WINTER 2026 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.

PRE-REGISTERING FOR WINTER 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 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.

WAITLISTS

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. If you add yourself to a waitlist but decide you are no longer interested, **please remove yourself from the waitlist!***



REGISTERING FOR PSYCH 301 - RESEARCH METHODS

Students who are sophomores and beyond, and who are listed in CAESAR as majoring or minoring in psychology, cognitive science, or music cognition may pre-register for PSYCH 301. Make sure you have the statistics prerequisite or an allowed [substitution](#) before you enroll. You **may not** take both PSYCH 301 and the statistics prerequisite during the same quarter. Wait lists for Psych 301 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 301.*



STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE

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 301-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 psych-advising@u.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 classes start in the winter!

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

SPECIAL COURSES FOR WINTER QUARTER 2026

Psych 330: Special Topics in Cognitive/Neuroscience: Child and Adolescent Brain Development

- Professor Katie Insel

This course will explore the dynamics of brain development during the first and second decade of life. We will discuss key changes that occur in the brain during childhood and adolescence, and how these changes impact multiple components of adolescent behavior. Over the course of the seminar, class topics will include hormones and puberty, self-control, risk-taking, learning and memory, emotion and emotion regulation, risk for mental health disorders, sensitivity to peers, and public policy.

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 do you suck at doing 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.

Psych 390: Advanced Seminar in Personality, Clinical, or Social Psychology: Theoretical Controversies

- 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 generally accurate? Are young people today especially narcissistic? Is willpower limited or unlimited? 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 our class meetings.

SPECIAL COURSES FOR WINTER QUARTER 2026

Psych 390/489: Advanced Seminar in Personality, Clinical, or Social Psychology: Motivated Thinking

- Professor Dan Molden

At one time or another, every one of us has engaged in “wishful thinking,” or “let our hearts run away with our heads.” That is, every one of us has experienced the effects of our motivations on our thoughts and behaviors. This course is focused on the psychological study of how people’s goals, values, needs and desires specifically initiate and guide their basic cognitive processes. We will discuss the influence of a variety of different motivations, including desires for belonging, understanding, control, and accuracy, on a variety of different outcomes, including social impressions, attitude formation, evaluations of evidence, and decision making. The overall goal of the course is to provide students with a solid understanding of the principles that describe the interactions of motivations and cognitions so that they might better understand the influences of motivation in the outcomes they observe and be able to apply these principles to their own research interests. Each weekly course meeting will focus on the discussion of several articles from the Social Psychology literature with all students submitting discussion questions and alternating in the role of discussion leader. Besides discussion questions, assignments include short (500-word maximum) weekly analysis and extension papers prepared after each meeting and a final paper that consists of a research proposal applying the themes of the course to a topic of students’ own choosing.

- **Please note: this is an advance cross-listed course. Undergraduate students seeking permission to enroll should e-mail Prof. Molden a brief statement that includes:**

1. A SHORT paragraph describing their interest in the course
2. A list of any other 300-level classes they have completed (including 399 and 397)
3. The name of one Professor as a reference (students do not need to request a letter or statement from that professor)

SPECIAL COURSES FOR WINTER QUARTER 2026

Psych 391: Advanced Seminar in Cognition or Neuroscience: Critical thinking and Multi-Disciplinary Research Methods Across the Developmental and Cognitive Sciences

- Professor Sandra Waxman

In recent years, a field known as Developmental Science has inspired new disciplinary and interdisciplinary ventures. As result, there has been a blossoming of new research ideas and experimental techniques, all aimed at discovering what infants really know. The very best work in Developmental Science draws upon strong theoretical traditions to consider how adopting a developmental perspective enriches our understanding of development broadly, including language, cognitive and social development. This seminar is designed to introduce students to classic theoretical issues, consider evidence from diverse methodological approaches, and to spark new ideas for research. In this project-based seminar, students will identify new research questions and develop experimental designs to address them.

APPLYING FOR HONORS

Do you enjoy conducting psychological research? When you read your textbooks or attend psychology classes, do you think of new research questions that you'd like to address? The Psychology Honors Program provides an opportunity for senior psychology majors to explore a research topic in detail under the guidance of a faculty member. In addition, participants discuss current psychological issues and research questions with other outstanding students.

Students interested in participating in the Psychology Honors Program apply in Spring of their Junior Year. While the application isn't due for several months, it's never too early to start thinking about whether this is something you'd like to pursue. In particular, now is a good time to become involved in research with a faculty member to ensure you have a potential honors advisor lined up by the time the application rolls around in Spring!

The Psychology Honors Program is an exciting, intellectually challenging, and worthwhile experience. However, while participating in the honors program is usually a wonderful opportunity, it is not for everyone. You really have to enjoy psychological research and be willing to work hard on your project throughout the academic year. Before you apply to the program, think about whether you will have the time and the motivation to complete a project of this magnitude. Please feel free to talk with the honors coordinator Dan Molden(molden@northwestern.edu) if you have questions.

More information regarding the honors program can be found [Here](#).



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

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
- Prof. Rick Zinbarg

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:

Email:

ID #:

Class Year:

Majors/Minors:

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

The Undergraduate Program Assistant, Chris Kent, 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. They can also answer some questions about our undergraduate program. You can reach them via email at psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu.

PEOPLE TO KNOW!



Chris Kent (They/Them)
Undergraduate Program Assistant

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



Charlotte Cagliostro (She/Her)
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 Hall 102
Email: psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu

Office: Swift Hall 102
Email: charlotte.cagliostro@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](#).

Graduation Quarter	Deadlines
Fall quarter 2025	June 1, 2025
Winter quarter 2026	October 8, 2025
Spring quarter 2026	December 1, 2025
Summer quarter 2026	March 1, 2026
Fall quarter 2026	June 1, 2026
Winter quarter 2027	October 8, 2026
Spring quarter 2027	December 1, 2026
Summer quarter 2027	March 1, 2027