PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

http://pbs.jhu.edu/

The psychological and brain sciences are concerned with understanding the biological and psychological processes underlying animal and human behavior at all stages of development.

The undergraduate program leading to the baccalaureate degree is intended to provide students with a sound background in psychological and brain sciences and, at the same time, to prepare them for advanced study.

The program for doctoral students in psychological and brain sciences has a strong empirical focus and emphasizes research methodology. The broad aim of the graduate program is to train students to become scientists rather than practitioners.

Facilities
The department's offices and laboratories contain dozens of desktop computers (PCs and Macintoshes) and UNIX workstations used for experimental control and for computational studies, simulation, data analysis, and manuscript preparation.

The F. M. Kirby Research Center for Functional Brain Imaging houses 3.0T and 7.0T Philips research-directed MRI scanners for fMRI studies of human perception, memory, and cognition.

The cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience laboratories contain a wide range of computer equipment and special-purpose research equipment, including image-processing and large-format graphics systems, eye-movement monitors, speech recognition and analysis systems, stereoscopic graphic systems, video equipment, EEG, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation, and other stimulus-presentation and response-collection devices.

The biopsychology laboratories have all the facilities necessary to conduct modern behavioral neuroscience research, including equipment for behavioral and operant testing, electrophysiology, histology, surgery, neurochemistry, and systems for the analysis and synthesis of audio signals.

Programs
• Psychology, Bachelor of Arts (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/psychological-brain-science/psychology-bachelor-arts/)
• Psychology, Minor (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/psychological-brain-science/psychology-minor/)
• Psychology, PhD (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/psychological-brain-science/psychology-phd/)

For current course information and registration go to https://sis.jhu.edu/classes/

Courses
AS.200.101. Introduction To Psychology. 3 Credits.
Do we all see colors the same way? How did so many 'good' people support the Nazi party? Do crossword puzzles really stave off Alzheimer's Disease? This course tries to answer these questions and many others, providing a comprehensive overview of the scientific study of the mind. We'll explore topics such as perception, language, memory, decision-making, creativity, love, sex, art, politics, religion, dreams, drugs, brain damage and mental illness, grappling with deep and long-standing controversies along the way: differences between the sexes, the relationship between mind and brain, causes and consequences of racism, human uniqueness (or not) within the animal kingdom, nature vs. nurture, good and evil, consciousness. Appropriate for anyone wanting to know who and what we are as human beings (or who noticed that psychology is now on the MCAT).
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.110. Introduction to Cognitive Psychology. 3 Credits.
Introductory survey of current research and theory on topics in cognitive psychology. The course will cover a range of topics in perception, attention, learning, reasoning, and memory, emphasizing relationships among mind, brain, and behavior.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.132. Introduction to Developmental Psychology. 3 Credits.
An introductory survey of human development from the prenatal period through adolescence. The developing child is examined in terms of cognitive, social, emotional, motor, and language development.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.133. Introduction to Social Psychology. 3 Credits.
An introductory survey of social psychology. Topics include social perception, social cognition, attitudes, prejudice, attraction, social influence, altruism, aggression, and group behavior.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.141. Foundations of Brain, Behavior and Cognition. 3 Credits.
A survey of neuropsychology relating the organization of behavior to the integrative action of the nervous system. Cross-listed with Behavioral Biology and Neuroscience.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.159. Freshmen Seminar: Evolutionary Psychology. 1 Credit.
In this course we discuss evolutionary psychology, which is the idea that the mind can be understood as an adaptation to our ancestral environment by means of natural selection. Freshmen only. Note: This course does not count towards the Psychology major.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.162. Childhood Disorders & Treatments. 3 Credits.
This is an online course. The class will meet for ten weeks and will follow the deadlines for that term for add/drop/withdraw and grade changes. This course examines the psychological disorders that are usually first diagnosed prior to adulthood. Some of the specific disorders that will be discussed are Attention-Deficit and Disruptive Behavior Disorders, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Learning Disorders and Intellectual Disability. Students will become familiar with various diagnoses, etiologies, and methods of treatment. Note: This course does not count towards the Psychology major.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.200.199. Psychopathology and Its Development. 1 Credit.
Examine an overview of abnormal psychology (i.e., psychopathology),
including its development, etiological/theoretical perspectives, diagnosis,
and treatment. Broadly cover the DSM categories, with a focus on
understanding the major features of the common disorders and the
evidence-based treatment of these conditions.

AS.200.200. Research Methods in Psychology. 4 Credits.
The goal of this course is to introduce how psychological scientists
develop and test research questions about the mind and behavior.
We will explore how empirical investigation differs from other ways
of making discoveries and learning about the world, and how psychologists
employ various methodologies to tackle their phenomena of interest.
We will examine the relationships between research questions and
research designs, the benefits and drawbacks of differing measurement
and sampling approaches, the ethical implications of various research
paradigms, and best practices in communicating research findings
clearly and engagingly. You will have the opportunity to engage
“hands-on” with the research process through interactive labs and
demonstrations. Over the course of the semester, you will develop and
receive feedback on a research proposal, which will serve as a foundation
for the spring course "Design and Analysis for Experimental Psychology".
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral
Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.200.201. Design & Statistical Analysis for Psychology. 4 Credits.
The goal of this course is to expose you to the processes of data
collection, analysis, and dissemination in psychology. This course is
the follow-up to “Research Methods in Experimental Psychology,”
and therefore will draw on the methodological principles and practices
covered in the Fall semester. This course will cover a wide array of
analytical techniques (i.e., statistics) that you will apply to data collected
as part of a semester-long group research project. The course will also
include extensive coverage of the R programming language for use in
data management, analysis, and visualization. With your group members,
you will collect primary research data, carry out appropriate statistical
tests, compose individual research manuscripts, and collectively present
a poster at an on-campus research symposium. In combination with
the Fall course, this class will serve as strong preparation for those
considering honors theses, joining research labs at Homewood and/or
JHMI, conducting independent research projects, and ultimately pursuing
careers/graduate work in experimental psychology.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.200 (was AS.200.207)
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral
Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.200.202. Forensic Psychology. 3 Credits.
The field of forensic psychology is focused on answering legal questions
about the causes of human behavior. This survey course will explore the
work that forensic psychologists do; their research, assessment, and
clinical methods; and how their work influences lawyers, judges, and
other legal practitioners. Specific topics will include mental capacity
assessment, psychopathy, claims of mental distress, child custody
evaluations, juvenile delinquency, forensic treatment, and forensic
neuropsychological assessments.
Prerequisite(s): Students can only receive credit for AS.200.202 or
AS.200.325, not both.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.204. Human Sexuality. 3 Credits.
Course focuses on sexual development, sexuality across the lifespan,
gender identity, sexual attraction and arousal, sexually transmitted
disease, and the history of commercial sex workers and pornography.
Please note that the use of electronic devices is not permitted during this
class, in order to promote the full interactive potential of this engaging
seminar-style offering. Open to Juniors & Seniors within the following
majors/minors: Behavioral Biology; Biology; Cognitive Science; Medicine,
Science & the Humanities; Molecular & Cellular Bio; Neuroscience;
Psychological & Brain Sciences; Public Health; Sociology; Study of
Women, Gender, & Sexuality. Students may receive credit for either
AS.200.204 or AS.290.420, but not both.
Prerequisite(s): Students may receive credit for either AS.200.204 or
AS.290.420, but not both.
Corequisite(s): Students may enroll in both AS.200.204 and AS.290.420,
but cannot do so in the same semester.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.208. Animal Behavior. 3 Credits.
This course examines how and why animal behaviors are produced
across the animal kingdom. Neurobiological, hormonal and
developmental mechanisms and adaptive function of behaviors are
examined in an evolutionary context. Behaviors include survival,
acquiring food, reproduction, communication, parental care, and
cooperation. Students will also learn how to develop hypotheses and
predictions for scientific questions and interpret graphical results.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141 OR Permission of Instructor.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.209. Personality. 3 Credits.
This is a survey course focused on theory and research on human
personality. Topics include personality traits, motivation, unconscious
processes, self-regulation, cognitive and behavioral aspects of
personality, biological and evolutionary influences on personality, and
dysfunctional manifestations of personality.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.211. Sensation & Perception. 3 Credits.
This course surveys how stimuli from the environment are transformed
into neural signals, and how the brain processes those signals to
interpret the objects and events in the world. A primary focus will be on
the visual system, with additional coverage of hearing, touch, taste, and
smell.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.212. Abnormal Psychology. 3 Credits.
A survey of the major syndromes of psychological disorders. Research
and theory about the mechanisms, development, and diagnosis of
psychopathology are emphasized.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.222. Positive Psychology. 3 Credits.
The course will review the growing field of positive psychology and will
review the research on positive human attributes such as optimism,
happiness, hope, resiliency, self-esteem, altruism, empathy, and
forgiveness. This course will explore the research on how such positive
attributes are developed and how they relate to psychological and
physical well-being.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
**AS.200.240. Industrial and Organizational Psychology. 3 Credits.**
This course provides a survey of the field of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, a scientific discipline that studies human behavior in the workplace. The course focuses on understanding the psychological bases of work behaviors, cognitions, and emotions and practices that can be implemented to create a good fit between employees’ characteristics and work demands. A number of topics are addressed in the scientist-practitioner model, including the structure/characteristics of jobs, techniques for assessing and supporting employee performance, selecting and training a workforce, and the various mechanisms that influence employee motivation and attitudes, among other topics. Real-world applications and research are emphasized throughout the course.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.200.250. Behavioral Neuroscience. 3 Credits.**
Behavioral neuroscience is the study of the neural basis of behavior of animals, including humans. This course will introduce the student to this field. We will cover fundamental properties of brain structure and function, mechanisms of psychoactive drug action, and brain mechanisms of perception, homeostatic drives, learning and memory, and cognition. Along the way, we will touch on the biological bases for social interactions, as well as for behavioral and mental illnesses, such as addiction, autism and schizophrenia. A key focus will be understanding how behavioral neuroscientific research, past and present, leads to knowledge in this area.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.101 OR AS.200.141
Area: Natural Sciences

**AS.200.301. History Of Psychology. 3 Credits.**
A survey of leading figures, schools, and systems in the history of psychology. The course will emphasize the development of experimental psychology in late 19th century Germany and its establishment in America at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Chicago, and Columbia. Special topics will include the development of clinical and applied psychology and psychological testing. Enrollment limited to Juniors and Seniors only. Sophomores with instructor approval. Recommended Course Background: two prior Psychology courses.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.200.304. Neuroscience of Decision Making. 3 Credits.**
This course will survey the neural mechanisms of decision-making. Current experimental research and theory concerning selection, control, and evaluation of actions are examined in humans and animals. Topics will range from simple perceptual judgements to complex social behavior. The course involves a weekly lecture about a specific topic followed by a student presentation of a current research paper. Cross-listed with Neuroscience.
Prerequisite(s): AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306 or instructor permission
Area: Natural Sciences

**AS.200.305. Advanced Seminar in Forensic Psychology. 3 Credits.**
Forensic psychologists determine clinical diagnoses and offer expert opinions to assist court decision makers who must employ legal tests to make case determinations. This course will explore how forensic psychologists communicate with the courts via consultation, report writing, and expert testimony. Students will write forensic analyses on a variety of controversial, cutting edge forensic topics (e.g., for competence to stand trial, child abuse, civil commitment, compensation for mental injuries, sex offender commitment, insanity, fitness for duty, child custody). Recommended background: AS.200.212
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.202
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

**AS.200.307. Medical Psychology. 3 Credits.**
Medical Psychology is a specialization within clinical psychology that focuses on the application of psychological theories, research, and techniques to physical health problems and health promotion. Students will learn about the consultation process and interventions used in medical psychology practice to improve the physical and psychological health of medical patients, including those with chronic conditions (e.g., chronic pain, heart disease) and those with acute illnesses and injuries. Enrollment limited to Junior & Senior Psychology Majors or with instructor approval.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.212
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.200.311. Sensory Representations in the Brain: Maps, Modules, & Distributed Coding. 3 Credits.**
In this course we will explore the ways in which information from vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste is encoded in the brain. We will compare and contrast different representation schemes and their computational advantages in order to uncover some overarching organizing principles of sensory processing in the brain. Class meetings will consist of lectures plus group discussions of classic papers in cognitive neuroscience, computational modeling, and neuropsychology. Enrollment limited to Juniors & Seniors.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.211 OR AS.080.203 OR AS.050.203 OR AS.200.141 OR AS.020.312
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.200.313. Models of Mind and Brain. 3 Credits.**
This is a seminar surveying computational approaches to understanding mental and neural processes, including sensory and conceptual representation, categorization, learning and memory. The course will also develop familiarity with computational tools such as numerical simulation, linear transformation and data visualization. Recommended Course Background: AS.110.106 / Calculus I OR AS.110.108 Calculus I, AS.050.101 / Cognition OR AS.200.211 / Sensation & Perception OR AS.080.105 / Introduction to Neuroscience OR other introductory coursework in cognitive & neural sciences. Experience with at least one programming language is strongly recommended.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.200.316. Thought and Perception. 3 Credits.**
This year’s topic: Philosophical, Foundational, and Methodological Issues Connected to Bayesian Approaches in Cognitive Science. Bayesian probability theory and Bayesian decision theory aim to lay out how ideal reasoners update their beliefs in the light of new evidence and make decisions based on those beliefs. But what about such apparently non-ideal agents such as ourselves? The past few decades have witnessed a rising tide of Bayesian work on perception, higher cognition, neural coding, etc. It’s been accompanied by vigorous debate concerning the aims and claims of these approaches. Some see the prospect of a grand unified theory of the mind/brain; others demur. We’ll examine these debates and what one can learn from them regarding more generally about approaches to modeling the mind and the nature of rationality. Readings will be drawn both from the empirical and the philosophical literature. (This course meets jointly with AS.200.616 & AS.150.476)
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.200.317. Interpersonal Relations. 3 Credits.
This course will investigate interpersonal processes ranging from
attraction and courtship to relationship functioning and distress.
Enrollment limited to Psychology majors and Psychology minors.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.133
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.321. Child and Adolescent Psychopathology. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on mental disorders in children and adolescents.
The course begins with an exploration of the general models and theories
for why psychopathology occurs in childhood. The second portion
of the course provides a systematic review of the symptoms, course,
risk factors, theories, and treatments for specific disorders, including
mood disorders, anxiety disorders, autism, ADHD, eating disorders, and
behavioral disorders. Restricted to Junior & Senior Psychology Majors &
Minors, or permission of the instructor.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.212
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.322. Clinical Neuropsychology. 3 Credits.
Clinical Neuropsychology is a clinical psychology specialty focused on
assessment and treatment of acquired or developmental disorders of
the nervous system, including dementia, neurodegenerative disorders,
traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities, and neurodevelopment
disorders. This course will focus on research findings and techniques
used by psychologists in the assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation
processes. Recommended Course Background: AS.200.141 /
Foundations of Brain Behavior Cognition.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.323. Psychology and Social Media. 3 Credits.
This course explores modern-day social media use (e.g., Facebook,
Match.com) through multiple theoretical lenses within psychology.
Through weekly student-led discussions and readings, it will
accomplish 3 aims: 1) applying psychology of identity, motivation,
and communication to social media (e.g., self-presentation, intergroup
dynamics), 2) investigating clinical/health implications of social media
use (e.g., addiction, loneliness), and 3) exploring social media as data-
gathering environments (e.g., user experience research from already
committed guest-speakers who work in social media industries).
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.326. Law, Psychology and Public Policy. 3 Credits.
An introduction to applications of psychological research in policy
analysis. Special emphasis is given to the use and misuse of psychology
in Supreme Court advocacy and decision making in the areas of children’s
rights, adult sexuality, and educational and employment opportunity.
Recommended Course Background: Statistics & Regression Analysis
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.329. Real World Human Data: Analysis & Visualization. 3 Credits.
Experiments in human cognition typically involve careful manipulation
and control of variables in order to answer specific questions about the
mind or brain. However, digital devices now provide an ocean of incidental
human data: information collected continuously about our behavior and
physiological states as we go about our lives. These incidental datasets
are often large and noisy, and pose different analysis and visualization
challenges from more traditional manipulated experiments. In this course
students will learn computational tools and qualitative approaches for
exploring, visualizing and interpreting large human data. The course
emphasizes computer-based analysis of open-source human behavioral
and neuroimaging datasets. Analyses will be conducted in MATLAB.
Instructor will grant approval as long as you have previous programming
experience (roughly equivalent to material covered in an introductory-
level programming course). Self-taught or real-world experience can be
applicable in lieu of previous formal classroom instruction.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral
Sciences

AS.200.330. Human and Machine Intelligence. 3 Credits.
Description: The class will discuss original papers in a variety of papers
and book chapters on the following topics: 1. What is intelligence?2.
Machine intelligence5. Neural network
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.200.332. Seminar in Theoretical Neuroscience. 3 Credits.
This course develops a theoretical understanding of the large-scale
anatomical and functional organization of the cerebral cortex. We
will discuss, present, and write about primary literature in the area of
theoretical neuroscience. The principles to be explored will include:
hierarchy; normalization; pattern completion; prediction; gradient-
based learning; and conjunctive representation. We will consider the
broader motivation for each of these computational principles, and we
will ask how successfully they organize the empirical data about our
brains. Specific questions include: What are the functional benefits
of a hierarchical anatomical organization of the cerebral cortex? Do
neocortical circuits generically implement a normalization operation?
How and why is pattern completion implemented in the neocortex and
the hippocampus? Can gradient-based representational learning occur
in the cerebral cortex without supervision or reinforcement signals? How
is the flow of information between brain regions regulated? How can
distinct cortical representations be “bound” into joint representations? Cal
1; Programming is not required, but students should be willing to engage
with computational concepts. Recommended Course Background:
AS.200.110 OR AS.050.203 OR AS.200.211 OR AS.080.105 OR other
introductory coursework in cognitive & neural sciences.
Prerequisite(s): AS.110.106 OR AS.110.108
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral
Sciences

AS.200.333. Advanced Social Psychology. 3 Credits.
The class is designed as a seminar including discussion of primary
readings of social psychology articles ranging in topics from
interpersonal relationship to behavior in large groups. Rising junior &
senior Psychology majors only.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.133
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.200.334. Human Memory Psychology. 3 Credits.
This class will survey the behavioral and biological science of human memory. Historical perspectives as well as modern controversies will be discussed. Intersections with other fields such as law, education, medicine, and technology will be highlighted. The course will be a mixture of lectures and group discussions.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.335. How Does the Brain Predict the Future?. 3 Credits.
"Have you ever wondered how you predict the beat will drop in a song or that a traffic light will change? A combination of evolution and experience have wired your brain to generate predictions about the future. In this course, you will learn about the factors which influence neural predictions. Understanding how the brain forms predictions is critical to understanding perception, movement, music, language, and cognition. Some examples include: hallucinations, how we walk, why we like pop music, how we converse, and how we make plans. We will read news articles and original research to strengthen scientific literacy and critical thinking. The content of our readings will encompass a variety of research methods (including behavioral assessment, fMRI, single electrode recordings, EEG, and ECoG). We will discuss key factors in neural predictions, such as: predictive domain (what is the objective of the prediction and where does it occur in the brain?), specificity (is the prediction very detailed or general?), timescale (when is something predicted to occur?), statistics (how probable is the predicted outcome?), consciousness (do you explicitly or implicitly know the prediction?), and reward (how much reward is associated with the predicted outcome?). Finally, we will talk about general theories of prediction, including predictive coding and Bayesian inference."
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141 OR AS.080.306
Area: Natural Sciences

AS.200.340. Diversity in Psychology. 3 Credits.
This course presents an overview of the nature of human diversity in psychology and fosters the critical examination of major diversity issues in psychology. Conceptual, historical, philosophical, and theoretical issues and empirical research are reviewed. Students develop sensitivity and critical thinking regarding issues in psychology research and professional practice that may be influenced by factors such as age, generational influence, ethnicity, race, religion and spirituality, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, national origin, disability and other cultural diversity topics. Current issues will be highlighted. Students will also be introduced to public health paradigms regarding the changing roles of psychology researchers and practitioners. This course is limited to Senior Psychology Majors and Minors. Junior Psychology Majors and Minors can request to enroll by instructor permission.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.344. Behavioral Endocrinology. 3 Credits.
This course examines both the evolution and mechanisms of hormonal effects on behavior across animals, including humans. Topics will include the effects of hormones on sexual differentiation, reproductive behavior, parental behavior, stress and social behavior. Additionally, this course emphasizes developing skills in hypothesis testing and critically assessing the scientific literature. Cross-listed with Behavioral Biology and Neuroscience.
Prerequisite(s): (AS.200.141 OR AS.080.306) OR (AS.020.151 AND AS.020.152) or instructor’s permission
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.350. Why is thinking hard?. 3 Credits.
In what ways and why is human cognition limited? This seminar will focus on understanding and explaining the limitations and capabilities of human cognition through deep dives into a number of subtopics. Possible topics include: What is 'intelligence,' does it have quantifiable units and/or a substance-like underpinning? Why does thinking feel hard, why and how do we experience mental effort? What limits visual attention and working memory? Where does insight come from? Why do we forget things? What is creativity? What makes some concepts hard to learn? Why do we misunderstand science? How do we evaluate our own knowledge and understanding?
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.110
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.357. Advanced Statistical Methods. 3 Credits.
Topics in applied probability and statistical inference; analysis of variance; experimental design. Recommended Course Background: one statistics course.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.358. Advanced Research Design and Analysis. 3 Credits.
Second half of statistics sequence, covering complex research design and analysis. Recommended Course Background: AS.200.357. Enrollment limited to seniors by instructor approval.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.357
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.361. Tests & Measurements. 3 Credits.
Psychological tests and measures are used in several settings including research, clinical, business, forensic, school and other applied settings. This course will consider the methodological and practical issues involved in test construction, the evaluation of instruments, and the uses of psychological tests across settings and for different purposes. Examples of assessments that may be discussed are aptitude and achievement tests; personality and behavioral inventories; neuropsychological tests, observations and interviews; and tests for employment and forensic use. Enrollment limited to Junior & Senior Cognitive Science & Psychology Majors, or instructor approval.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.201
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.200.368. Sleep, Dreams, and Altered States of Consciousness. 3 Credits.
Sleep, dreaming, resting and arousal to waking represent very different states of consciousness which differ dramatically both psychologically and physiologically. This course focuses on cognitive, psychological, physiological, biological and genetic aspects characterizing each of these states with some reference to other altered states. The course includes a focus on the major pathologies affecting sleep-wake states. Clinical cases will be considered. These inform about both psychological and biological aspects of these states. The relative biological functions of each state will be evaluated with particular attention to the mystery of why we have and apparently need REM and NREM sleep. Actual physiological recordings of sleep states will be reviewed and the student will learn how these are obtained and how to evaluate these. The circadian rhythms, ontogeny and evolution of these sleep-wake states will also be covered. This will include a review of information learned from non-human animal sleep. The change from sleep to full awakening reflects change toward increasing brain organization supporting consciousness. Understanding of the neurobiology of these states will be used to explore some of the more modern and scientific concepts of human self-awareness or consciousness. Recommended Course Background: AS.200.101 OR AS.080.203 OR AS.050.203
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.369. Neuroscience of Motivation & Reward. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the neurobiological bases of motivated behavior, including eating, drinking, and reproduction, tracing the history of our understanding from early neuroscientific studies to the modern day, with a focus on mammalian model systems. We will discuss innate motivated behaviors, and well as how learning can guide the expression of these behaviors. Neural mediation of processes such as reward and aversion will be considered in depth, as will applications of these findings to the understanding of addiction and other behavioral disorders. The course will be a mixed lecture/seminar format; we will read original research articles and scholarly reviews.
Prerequisite(s): AS.080.306 (students may enroll concurrently); AS.080.305; Students may not have taken AS.200.366.
Area: Natural Sciences

AS.200.370. Functional Human Neuroanatomy. 3 Credits.
This course examines the general organizing principles of the anatomy of the human central nervous system and how this anatomical organization relates to function, from the level of neural circuits, to systems, to behavior. Students will learn to identify neuroanatomical structures and pathways in dissections and MRI images through computerized exercises. Readings and lectures will emphasize general structure-function relationships and an understanding of the functional roles of particular structures in sensory, motor, and cognitive systems.
Prerequisite(s): AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306 or Instructor Permission
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.376. Neuropsychopharmacology. 3 Credits.
Designed to provide information about how drugs affect the brain and behavior. The course focuses on biological concepts underlying structures and functions of the brain that relate to mental disorders. An introduction to neurobiology and brain function is presented as it applies to the interaction of various classes of drugs with the individual neurotransmitter systems in the brain. A brief historic review is followed by a discussion of clinical relevance. Cross-listed with Behavioral Biology and Neuroscience. Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.
Prerequisite(s): (AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306) OR AS.020.306 AND AS.020.312 OR (AS.200.141 AND AS.020.306)
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.377. Neuroethology. 3 Credits.
A comparative and evolutionary approach to understanding the neural underpinnings of biologically relevant behaviors in vertebrate and invertebrate animals. Enrollment limited to Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors or by instructor approval. Recommended Course Background: AS.200.141
Area: Natural Sciences

AS.200.380. Neurobiology of Human Cognition. 3 Credits.
The complexity of human behavior surpasses even our closest primate relatives. Only humans communicate through language, build complex technology, devise legal system and wage war. What neurobiological capacities set humans apart from other animals? This course will explore the neurobiology of cognition, focusing on cognitive domains that are particularly developed in the human species: language, social cognition, number, executive function and concepts. The course format will consist of lectures and in class workshops.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141 OR AS.200.312 OR AS.080.105 OR AS.080.203 OR AS.050.203 OR AS.050.312
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.382. Models of Psychotherapy. 3 Credits.
This course reviews the major models of psychotherapy, including psychodynamic, cognitive, behavioral, interpersonal, and family therapy, with a focus on modern and empirically supported treatments. The application of the models through the analysis of clinical case studies is emphasized. Restricted to Junior & Senior Psychology Majors. Instructor permission required to enroll.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.212
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.200.385. Mind, Brain & Experience. 3 Credits.
How do nature and nurture shape the human mind? How does experience contribute to the development of visual perception, language and social reasoning? This course explores insights into these age-old questions from neuroscience and psychology. Studies of infant behavior reveal rich knowledge about objects and people in the first months of life. At the same time, experience has profound effects on behavior and neurobiology. For example, temporary absence of vision (i.e. blindness) during development permanently alters visual perception and the visual cortex. Key evidence also comes from studies of naturally occurring variation in human experience (e.g. blindness, deafness, socioeconomic and cultural differences). We will discuss what such studies of cognitive and neural function tell us about the origins of human cognition. This is a writing intensive course with weekly lectures and seminar style discussion of primary sources. Students will be required to write weekly responses to readings and a term paper.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141 OR AS.050.105 OR AS.080.105 OR AS.050.203 OR (AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306) OR AS.080.203
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.200.386. Animal Cognition. 3 Credits.
Examine relations between brain, mind, and behavior in nonhuman animals, focusing on topics such as learning, memory, attention, decision-making, navigation, communication, and awareness. We will take a variety of approaches, including behavioral, computational, evolutionary, neurobiological, and psychological perspectives.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141 OR AS.200.208 OR AS.290.101 or Instructor permission.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.200.388. Occupational Health Psychology. 3 Credits.
Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) concerns the application of psychology to improving the quality of work life, and to protecting and promoting the safety, satisfaction, health, and well-being of workers. This course will consider a broad range of topics in OHP including the role of work on well-being, job stress and burnout, diversity and work, safety climate, work-family balance, conflict, and counterproductive work behaviors. The emphasis will be on drawing connections between OHP theory and OHP practice and at the relationship between individual and organizational health and well-being. This class should be of interest to students interested in industrial/organizational psychology, social psychology, health psychology, clinical psychology, human factors, public health, preventive medicine, and industrial engineering.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.240 or instructor permission
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.401. Careers in Psychology - Freshmen. 1 Credit.
An introduction to the varied career paths offered across the field of psychology, hosting a diverse representation of speakers from various Johns Hopkins institutions and the local Baltimore community.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.402. Careers in Psychology - Sophomore. 1 Credit.
An introduction to the varied career paths offered across the field of psychology, hosting a diverse representation of speakers from various Johns Hopkins institutions and the local Baltimore community.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.403. Careers in Psychology - Juniors & Seniors. 1 Credit.
An introduction to the varied career paths offered across the field of psychology, hosting a diverse representation of speakers from various Johns Hopkins institutions and the local Baltimore community.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.404. Careers in Psychology - Seniors. 1 Credit.
An introduction to the varied career paths offered across the field of psychology, hosting a diverse representation of speakers from various Johns Hopkins institutions and the local Baltimore community.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.431. Neural Systems & Behavior. 1 Credit.
Discussion of research activities in the Neural Systems and Behavior Lab. Discussion of research activities in the Neural Systems and Behavior Lab. This course is only available for undergraduate students currently working on research projects in the Moss Lab.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.450. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant in Psychology. 1 - 3 Credits.
Qualified students can serve as undergraduate Teaching Assistants for psychology courses they have already taken at Hopkins (by faculty instructor invitation only). Each individual faculty instructor will determine TA responsibilities based upon departmental policy. Upon invitation, potential Teaching Assistants should forward the instructor invitation to the co-Director of Undergraduate Studies (Dr. Drigotas) and make a request in SIS to add the course using the instructor's section number (e.g., 200.450 section 2). Dr. Drigotas will be approving requests in SIS.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.501. Psychological Research - Freshmen. 3 Credits.
S/U grading only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.502. Psychology Research-Freshmen. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.503. Psychological Research - Sophomores. 3 Credits.
S/U grading only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.504. Psychology Research-Sophomores. 1 - 3 Credits.
Grading Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.506. Psychological Readings. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.509. Internship-Psychology. 1 Credit.
S/U grading only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.510. Psychology Internship. 1 - 3 Credits.
Grading Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.511. Psychological Research - Juniors. 3 Credits.
S/U grading only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.512. Psychology Research-Juniors. 1 - 4 Credits.
Grading Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.513. Psychological Research - Seniors. 3 Credits.
The student chooses some research problem with the advice and approval of a faculty member. S/U grading only.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.514. Psychology Research-Seniors. 1 - 4 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.200.519. Seniors Honors Research. 3 Credits.
Seniors working on the honors thesis enroll with the approval of the undergraduate coordinator.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.
AS.200.520. Seniors Honors Research. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.200.540. Independent Study-Seniors. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.200.541. Independent Study - Juniors. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.200.542. Independent Study - Sophomores. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.200.595. Internship. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.200.597. Psychology Research. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.200.599. Independent Study. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

This is a required course for all first year PhD students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. The course covers foundational concepts and methods in neurobiology and cognitive neuroscience.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.616. Thought and Perception.
This year's topic: Philosophical, Foundational, and Methodological Issues Connected to Bayesian Approaches in Cognitive Science. Bayesian probability theory and Bayesian decision theory aim to lay out how ideal reasoners update their beliefs in the light of new evidence and make decisions based on those beliefs. But what about such apparently non-ideal agents such as ourselves? The past few decades have witnessed a rising tide of Bayesian work on perception, higher cognition, neural coding, etc. It's been accompanied by vigorous debate concerning the aims and claims of these approaches. Some see the prospect of a grand unified theory of the mind/brain; others demur. We'll examine these debates and what one can learn from them regarding more generally about approaches to modeling the mind and the nature of rationality. Readings will be drawn both from the empirical and the philosophical literature. (This course meets jointly with AS.200.316 & AS.150.476) Writing Intensive

This is a required course for all first year PhD students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. The course covers foundational concepts and methods in cognition.

This course will provide an overview of clinical, neuropsychological, imaging and neuropathological approaches to the study of cognitive systems altered in aging, AD and other neurodegenerative disorders. It will consider research using animal models as well as human subjects and clinical populations. The course is intended for graduate students and is open to advanced undergraduates only with permission of the professor. Predoctoral and Postdoctoral students from A&S, SPH and SOM students participating in the NIA Training Program on Age-Related, Cognitive and Neuropsychiatric Disorders are required to take this course; meets concurrently with PH.330.802(01).

AS.200.649. Aging, Cognition, and Neurodegenerative Disorders II.
Second part of a two-semester course. Course will provide an overview of clinical, neuropsychological, imaging and neuropathological approaches to the study of cognitive systems altered in aging, AD and other neurodegenerative disorders. It will consider research using animal models as well as human subjects and clinical populations. The course is intended for graduate students and is open to advanced undergraduates only with permission of the professor. Predoctoral and Postdoctoral students from A&S, SPH and SOM students participating in the NIA Training Program on Age-Related, Cognitive and Neuropsychiatric Disorders are required to take this course; meets concurrently with PH.330.802(01)

AS.200.650. Why is thinking hard?.
In what ways and why is human cognition limited? This seminar will focus on understanding and explaining the limitations and capabilities of human cognition through deep dives into a number of subtopics. Possible topics include: What is 'intelligence,' does it have quantifiable units and/or a substance-like underpinning. Why does thinking feel hard, why and how do we experience mental effort? What limits visual attention and working memory? Where does insight come from? Why do we forget things? What is creativity? What makes some concepts hard to learn? Why do we misunderstand science? How do we evaluate our own knowledge and understanding?
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.200.654. Psychological & Brain Sciences Core Topics A.
This course is designed to introduce students to core topics in psychological and brain sciences. Students will read seminal and contemporary papers in topics that cover the breadth of the field. Graduate students in Psychological and Brain Sciences.

AS.200.655. Psychological & Brain Sciences Core Topics B.
This course is designed to introduce students to core topics in psychological and brain sciences. Students will read seminal and contemporary papers in topics that cover the breadth of the field. Graduate Students in Psychological & Brain Sciences.

Topics in applied probability and statistical inference; analysis of variance; experimental design. Intended for graduate students. Recommended Course Background: one statistics course.
Prerequisite(s): Statistics Sequence restriction: students who have completed any of these courses may not register. EN.550.211 OR EN.550.230 OR AS.280.345 OR EN.550.310 OR EN.550.311 OR EN.560.435 OR EN.550.420 OR EN.550.430 OR EN.560.348 Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Second half of graduate statistics sequence, covering complex research design and analysis. Recommended Course Background: AS.200.657. Enrollment limited to seniors by instructor approval and graduate students.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences

Focus on frequently-used quantitative methods used in the study of brain sciences, including gaining conceptual understanding of techniques, analysis and summarization of data, extracting the process underlying a data set, explaining data as a function of variables, data visualization, etc. Enrollment is limited to undergraduate seniors and graduate students with instructor approval. Recommended Course Background: Probability & Statistics, Linear Algebra, MATLAB programming.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences

AS.200.661. Topics in Psychological & Brain Sciences.
An introduction to postdoctoral activities (e.g., grant applications, journal article submission, meeting presentations, the politics of psychology and American science) for Ph.D. candidates in psychology.

AS.200.662. Psychological and Brain Sciences: Career Development.
This seminar will cover advanced topics in vision from the perspectives of several disciplines. Topics include human visual psychophysics, perception and cognition, and computational vision. Graduate students only.


This seminar will cover advanced topics in neurocognitive aging. Topics will include animal models of memory loss in normal aging and in Alzheimer's disease (AD), including both behavioral and neurobiological findings. Special attention will be given to the relation between such findings and the effects of aging and AD on memory and the brain in man. Similar comparative analysis in other cognitive domains (e.g. attentional processes) will also be considered.


Guided independent readings. The class is designed as a seminar including discussion of primary research articles of cognitive aging. Specific topics include human imaging and animal models of memory, aging, and neurodegenerative disease.

AS.200.810. Research In Psychology.
Students plan and execute original research under guidance of advisers. Results are usually prepared in a form suitable for publication. Graduate students only.


Guided independent readings and research in special fields. Graduate Students only.


Research seminar covering topics related to neural circuits for learning.

Graduate students only.

Graduate Students Only.

Graduate Students only.

Graduate Students Only

Graduate Students Only

Graduate Students Only.

Research seminar covering topics related to perception & mind.

Research seminar covering topics on the behavioral and brain basis of perception in dynamic scenes.

Research seminar covering topics on cognitive and systems neuroscience.

Research seminar covering topics on the behavioral neurophysiology of the hippocampal formation


AS.200.848. Current Advances in Psychological and Brain Sciences.
Introduces advanced research topics to graduate students (as well as faculty) through a series of speakers and discussions.

AS.200.849. Teaching Practicum.
All candidates are required to obtain special experience in various aspects of undergraduate teaching. Graduate students only.

AS.200.850. Advanced Teaching Practicum.

Cross Listed Courses

Behavioral Biology

AS.290.400. Comparative Neural Systems and Behavior Research Discussions. 0.5 Credits.
This course is required concurrently with research in the Comparative Neural Systems Research and Behavior Lab. During the scheduled meetings we will discuss scientific papers, policies and procedures, research ethics and other information related to activities in the lab. At the end of the semester, students will present their research in groups. This course is only open to students doing research in the Neural Systems and Behavior Lab.
AS.290.510. Comparative Neural Systems and Behavior Research Discussions. 0.5 Credits.
This course is required concurrently with research in the Comparative Neural Systems Research and Behavior lab. During the scheduled meetings we will discuss scientific papers, policies and procedures, research ethics and other information related to activities in the lab. At the end of the semester, students will present their research in groups.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

Cognitive Science
AS.050.339. Cognitive Development. 3 Credits.
This is a survey course in developmental psychology designed for individuals with some basic background in psychology or cognitive science, but little or none in development. The course is strongly theoretically oriented, with emphasis on issues of nature, and development psychology as well as relevant empirical evidence. The principle focus will be early development, i.e., from conception through middle childhood. The course is organized topically, covering biological and prenatal development, perceptual and cognitive development, the nature and development of intelligence, and language learning.
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.050.358. Language & Thought. 3 Credits.
Have you ever wondered about the relationships between language and thought? Philosophers, linguists, psychologists, evolutionary theorists and cognitive scientists have too and this course will survey the current thinking on this matter. Classical papers such as those by Whorf and Sapir, more recent philosophical papers by people such as Fodor and Dennett, and recent empirical work by linguists and psycholinguists on the relationship between language and thinking in development and in adults will be covered. Discussions will focus on the theoretically possible relationships between language and thought and the empirical data that speak to these. Juniors and seniors only. Freshmen and sophomores by permission of instructor only.
Prerequisite(s): AS.050.102 OR AS.050.320 OR AS.050.325 or instructor permission.
Area: Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.050.375. Probabilistic Models of the Visual Cortex. 3 Credits.
The course gives an introduction to computational models of the mammalian visual cortex. It covers topics in low-, mid-, and high-level vision. It briefly discusses the relevant evidence from anatomy, electrophysiology, imaging (e.g., fMRI), and psychophysics. It concentrates on mathematical modeling of these phenomena taking into account recent progress in probabilistic models of computer vision and developments in machine learning, such as deep networks. Also offered as AS.050.375.

AS.200.141 OR (AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306) OR AS.290.510
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Psychological and Brain Sciences

AS.080.304. Neuroscience Learning and Memory. 3 Credits.
This course is an advanced survey of the scientific study of learning and memory. Different perspectives will be used to review the science of learning and memory including the cellular-molecular basis of synaptic plasticity, the functional circuitry involved in learning and memory systems in the brain. The course is designed to provide a deep understanding of the issues and current debates in learning and memory research and focuses specifically on animal models of memory and memory impairment. This is an interactive lecture course with a strong emphasis on student participation.
Prerequisite(s): AS.200.141 OR (AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306) OR (AS.020.312 AND AS.020.306) or instructor permission.
Area: Natural Sciences
For current faculty and contact information go to http://krieger.jhu.edu/publichealth/people/

AS.001.115. FYS: Illusions, Delusions, and Other Confusions. 1 Credit.
This course is suitable for all, but would be especially useful for a student who does not expect to take many (or any) additional psychology or cognitive science courses. We will explore what modern psychology has uncovered about how our intuitions concerning human nature deceive us.
Freshmen Only. Note: This course does not count towards the Psychology major.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

First Year Seminars
AS.001.109. FYS: Why'd Your Brain Sign You Up For This?. 2 Credits.
This First-Year Seminar will explore the neuroscience of choice. In addition to exploring the neurobiology of choice, we will dabble with philosophical ideas of free will and determinism. We will also touch on questions related to culpability. For example, are people who break the law but suffer from brain damage responsible for their actions? Sound interesting? Well, why stop there? Let’s sit back, eat some popcorn and take a look at how popular culture depicts the neuroscience of choice in the movies. Yes, with your help, we can do it all – but will you choose to???
Area: Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.080.305 AND AS.080.306
2 Credits.