Psychology Course Descriptions

PSY 1390 The Journey of Life (3 semester hours) An honors class in developmental psychology. The focus of the course is the study of physical, cognitive, and socioemotional development throughout the lifespan. A number of lifespan theories, research, and applications will be discussed. (3-0) T

PSY 2301 (PSYC 2301) Introduction to Psychology (3 semester hours) Overviews the major theories and scientific research examining the human mind and behavior. The topics range from studies of perception, cognition, memory, language, and thought to studies of development, personality, relationships, motivation, abnormal patterns of thought and behavior, and cultural differences. (3-0) S

PSY 2317 (PSY 2317) Statistics for Psychology (3 semester hours) This course introduces concepts and calculations of descriptive statistics, including mean, sum of squares, variance, standard deviation, correlation and regression. It also includes the logic of statistical decision making, the use of binomial and Gaussian distributions, and fundamental considerations in the design of psychological experiments. Prerequisite: 3 semester hours college-level mathematics. (3-0) S

PSY 3310 Child Development (3 semester hours) Introduction to psychological theory and research on physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development from birth to adolescence. (3-0) Y

PSY 3322 Psychology of Adjustment (3 semester hours) This course is designed to give students a broad understanding of effective living and coping, combining basic scientific and applied perspectives to help students sort through the best approaches to personal adjustment. Among the topics covered are coping, stress, personality, the self and identity, interpersonal communication, work and career development, adult development, health, abnormal psychology, love and intimacy, and therapies. (3-0) Y

PSY 3342 Exceptional Children (3 semester hours) Introduction to the characteristics of exceptional children and their education, including children with disabilities (learning, emotional/behavioral, communication and physical) as well as those who are gifted. The causes and assessment of exceptionality are examined, along with educational and social policy considerations. This course assumes an introductory background in child development. (3-0) Y

PSY 3360 Historical Perspectives on Psychology: Mind and Machines since 1600 (3 semester hours) Basic frames of
reference in 20th-century psychology and their historical development in Western thought since 1600 with an emphasis on issues involved with minds, brains, and machines. Includes behaviorism, learning theory, artificial intelligence, gestalt, structural and cognitive approaches. (Offered in the spring semester.) Pre- or corequisite: PSY 2301 or CGS 2401. (Same as CGS 3325.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 3361** Cognitive Psychology (3 semester hours) Theory and research on perception, learning, thinking, psycholinguistics, and memory. (Offered in the spring semester.) Pre- or corequisite: PSY 2301 or CGS 2401. (Same as CGS 3361.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 3362** Cognitive Development (3 semester hours) A contrast of Piagetian, behaviorist, and information-processing approaches to the development of cognitive processes throughout the life span. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 4334 or PSY 3310. (3-0) Y

**PSY 3363** Evolution of Behavior (3 semester hours) This course places human behavior in an evolutionary framework, showing how much human behavior has been subject to natural selection and is genetically transmitted. Emphasizes the continuities between human and non-human behavior. Classic ethological theories and sociobiology are discussed. (3-0) T

**PSY 3364** Animal Communication (3 semester hours) Surveys the diverse forms of communication used throughout the animal kingdom. Topics include the social contexts of communication, the sensory and neural mechanisms involved in signal production and perception, as well as the evolutionary and ecological forces that shape these systems in their natural environments. (3-0) Y

**PSY 3392** Research Design and Analysis (3 semester hours) Advanced techniques for research design and data analysis in the behavioral sciences, with an emphasis on analysis of variance and the general linear model. Prerequisite: PSY 2317 or STAT 1342. (3-0) Y

**PSY 3393** Experimental Projects (3 semester hours) Laboratory and field experience in designing and conducting psychological research, with a major emphasis on the writing of research reports. (This course fulfills the advanced writing requirement for Psychology majors.) Prerequisite: PSY 3392 or PSY 3490. (3-0) S

**PSY 3490** Honors Quantitative Methods (4 semester hours) An honors-level survey of methods of conducting research in psychology. Presents measurement techniques, basic research designs, and statistical analyses developed in terms of the general linear model. Draws upon examples primarily from cognitive and social psychology to illustrate methods in behavioral research. (Offered in the fall semester.) Prerequisite: PSY 2317. (4-0) Y

**PSY 4322** Social Communication (3 semester hours) Interpersonal communication processes in dyads and groups. Relationships between those processes and global outcomes such as intimacy, group cohesion, decisions, and therapeutic change. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 2301. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4328** Health Psychology (3 semester hours) An examination of psychological factors as they influence physical disease; the involvement of personality variables and stress in heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Behavioral interventions and their effects are discussed. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4331** Personality (3 semester hours) A comparative survey and analysis of theories of personality, including consideration of research and research techniques. (Offered in the fall semester.) Pre- or corequisite: PSY 2301. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4332** Psychology in the Workplace (3 semester hours) Emphasizes the importance of the human element in the workplace. Special attention is paid to self-awareness and self-esteem as the bases for personal and professional effectiveness. Other topics include emotional intelligence, communication, leadership, motivation, decision making, teamwork, conflict and stress management, and abuse in the workplace, including sexual harassment. (3-3) Y

**PSY 4333** Human Relations (3 semester hours) Factors influencing empathy and effective communication in long-term human relationships, such as those involved in family and employment. The role of human relations in a phenomenological-humanistic context is discussed. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 2301. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4334** Lifespan Development (3 semester hours) The development of personality, social skills, language, and thought throughout the human life span. (3-0) S

**PSY 4336** Psychology of Language (3 semester hours) Psychological processes in the use of language, with consideration of language structure and acquisition. (3-0) T

**PSY 4343** Abnormal Psychology (3 semester hours) Considers patterns of abnormal human behavior, approaches to psychotherapy, and related research. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 4331. (3-0) S

**PSY 4344** Child Psychopathology (3 semester hours) Present various views of clinical issues in childhood from
sociological, anthropological, and psychological perspectives. Historical views of children are examined in terms of the evolution of current perspectives on childhood psychopathology. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 4334 or PSY 3310. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4345 Violence in the Family** (3 semester hours) Explores the area of family violence with primary emphasis on the problems of spouse abuse and child abuse. Analysis of each of these areas of family violence focuses specifically on the epidemiology of the problem, characteristics of the families, etiological theories, and treatment approaches. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 4334. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4346 Human Sexuality** (3 semester hours) This course covers a wide range of issues, including both behavioral and biological aspects of sexuality. Topics include how to judge sexual research, values and sex, love and intimacy, male and female sexual anatomy and physiology, sexually transmitted diseases, patterns of sexual response, sexual problems and therapies, the development of sexuality, sexual orientation, reproductive sexuality, forcible sexual behavior, and social issues in sexuality. (3-0) S

**PSY 4352 Cellular Neuroscience** (3 semester hours) This course concerns the cell biology and cellular physiology of the neuron. Growth and maintenance of dendrites, axons and synapses, and the underlying processes of macromolecule synthesis, packaging, and transporting are the central biological issues. Electrical signaling, ion channel functions, and synaptic transmission are the main physiological issues. Pre- or corequisite: BIO 3301 or NSC 4361. (Same as NSC 4352.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4354 Integrative Neuroscience** (3 semester hours) Examines the collective behavior of neuronal systems with respect to sensory processing, motor control, and the plasticity regulating more advanced behavioral, motivational, and cognitive functions. Prerequisite: NSC 4361. (Same as NSC 4354.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4356 Neurophysiology** (3 semester hours) This course focuses on the elements of neural functions ranging from the kinetics of channels in excitable membranes to the collective behavior of real neural networks. Prerequisite: NSC/PSY 4352. (Same as NSC 4356.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4357 Brain and Memory** (3 semester hours) Current research and theory on modifications in the central nervous system that may underlie memory. Includes an overview of synaptic physiology and pharmacology, and development of the concept of neural plasticity from foundations in anatomy and physiology on the basis of electrical stimulation and pharmacological evidence. Includes discussion of applications such as amnesia. Pre- or corequisite: NSC 4361. (Same as NSC 4357) (3-0) T

**PSY 4358 Human Computer Interactions** (3 semester hours) This course considers the type of mental models that users construct and exploit in the course of their interactions with computers. Problems concerned with the design and evaluation of efficient human user-interfaces to computers are considered from a cognitive science perspective. (Same as CGS 4352.) (3-0)

**PSY 4360 Learning** (3 semester hours) The theoretical basis of learning is presented with emphasis on results from animal research. Introduces the student to the scientific analysis of behavior and the application of experiments in the development of a psychology of learning. Includes classical and instrumental conditioning, non-associative learning, and behavior modification. Prerequisite: PSY 2301. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4362 Perception** (3 semester hours) Considers the processes by which the individual gathers information from the external world, the physiological basis of those processes, and how they develop throughout the life span of the individual. Pre- or corequisite: NSC 4361. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4363 Neuropharmacology** (3 semester hours) A survey of neurotransmitter functions with special emphasis on effects in the central nervous system. Emphasis is on receptor theory and neurochemistry, but neurotransmitter metabolism and release are also considered. Correlations between neurotransmitter activity and behavior and pathological states are discussed where appropriate. Prerequisite: NSC/PSY 4354. (Same as NSC 4363.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4364 Attention and Memory** (3 semester hours) Factors influencing the capacity to pick up, organize, and remember complex information. Prerequisite: PSY 3361, or consent of instructor. (3-0) T

**PSY 4365 Psychology of Music** (3 semester hours) An examination of the psychological bases for musical understanding, emotional responses to music, musical creativity, and the dramatic use of music, including relationships between musical structure and the representation of psychological states. (3-0) R

**PSY 4366 Neuroanatomy** (3 semester hours) Introduction to the anatomical organization and basic functional principles of the major sensory, motor, associational, and modulatory systems of the human brain. Students learn to identify visually specific structures on slides, magnetic resonance images (MRI), and dissected brain specimens in relation to neural
pathways and system interconnections. This course provides a basis for a general understanding of the human brain and its functions in relation to disease and behavior. Prerequisite: NSC 4361. (Same as NSC 4366.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4367 Developmental Neurobiology** (3 semester hours) Examines the processes guiding the proliferation, differentiation and migration of neurons as they form transient or long-lasting connections and circuits are examined in this course. Prerequisite: NSC/PSY 4354. (Same as NSC 4367.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4370 Industrial and Organizational Psychology** (3 semester hours) Overview of psychological theory and research bearing on recruitment, personnel selection, training and development, job design, work group design, work motivation, leadership, performance assessment, and job satisfaction measurement. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 2301. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4371 Psychology and the Legal System** (3 semester hours) Overviews the contributions of psychology to the legal and criminal justice systems. Criminal law issues, including theories about the causes of crime and research relating to investigative processes, are covered. A major focus is on the trial process itself, including presenting evidence, expert psychologist testimony, jury selection/deliberation, and eyewitness testimony. (3-0) R

**PSY 4373 Psychological Assessment** (3 semester hours) Explores both theory and application of psychological assessment, especially concerning individual differences in ability and personality, as well as for diagnostic purposes. Test construction and validation will be discussed and specific examples of tests will be presented. (3-0) T

**PSY 4374 Judgment and Decision Making** (3 semester hours) Processes of human judgment will be examined from the perspective of cognitive, computer-based, and social psychological theories of inference. Focus is on specific domains of judgment, such as attitude formation and change, biases and prejudices, decision making in organizations, and marketing strategies to illustrate basic principles of decision making. Pre- or corequisite: PSY 3361. (3-0) Y

**PSY 4375 Senior Honors Seminar** (3 semester hours) A course for students proposing to conduct undergraduate thesis research in the School of Human Development. The seminar will focus on different approaches to conducting research, current research topics in the school, and development of the student's thesis proposal. Credit/No Credit unless program head approves for letter grade. Permission of College Master required. (Same as CGS 4375, NSC 4375, and SPAU 4375.) (3-0) Y

**PSY 4394 Internship** (3 semester hours) Students earn course credit for field experience in an applied setting. Requires working at least 8 hours per week at an approved community agency or business of the student's choice. Students keep daily job diaries, attend one class meeting per month, and write brief papers relevant to their experiences. Open to all students who have reached junior or senior standing (more than 53 hours). Apply for placements in the College Master's office. Must be taken on Credit/No Credit basis. (Same as CGS 4394, NSC 4394 and SPAU 4393.) (3-0) S

**Special Topics**
Topics under the following course number vary from semester to semester. The class schedule for the current semester will list the special topic that will be offered.

**PSY 4V90 Special Topics in Psychology** (1-6 semester hours) May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) R

**Independent Study**
The following independent study courses are advanced individualized projects to be arranged with a supervising professor. Open only to qualified students by consent of instructor. Students must contact professor and design study contract prior to enrollment. Permission forms are available in the College Master's office.

**PSY 4397 Honors Thesis** (3 semester hours) An independent study course in which the student writes an honors thesis under faculty supervision. (3-0) S

**PSY 4V98 Research in Psychology** (1-6 semester hours) Student assists faculty with research projects or conducts a research project under weekly faculty supervision. Taken on a Credit/No Credit basis unless Program Head approves for letter grade. May be repeated for credit. ([1-6]-0) S

**PSY 4V99 Independent Study in Psychology** (1-6 semester hours) Student studies advanced topics under weekly faculty direction and writes a paper. Taken for letter grade unless Program Head approves for Credit/No Credit basis. ([1-6]-0) S