DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Department Objectives

• To provide a general foundation in the various content areas of the field of Psychology;
• to provide suitable preparation in methodology for students planning to attend graduate school;
• to provide a sound basis for enhanced understanding of self and others;
• to prepare students for careers in human service areas and high school teaching;
• to support other departments by offering courses applicable to other majors and minors.

For departmental assessment purposes, all students will be required to complete a comprehensive examination in Psychology during their final semester.

Psychology Major

Four options are available in this major:

1. Psychology (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/psychology-ba) - Bachelor of Arts Degree or Psychology (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/psychology-bs) - Bachelor of Science Degree
2. Psychology Comprehensive (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/psychology-comprehensive-bs) - Bachelor of Science Degree
3. Psychobiology Comprehensive (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/psychobiology-comprehensive-bs) - Bachelor of Science Degree
4. Psychology 7-12 Teaching Subject Endorsement (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/psychology-7-12-teaching-field-endorsement-bae) - Bachelor of Arts in Education Degree

A minor in Psychology (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/psychology-minor) or Gerontology (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/psychology/gerontology-minor) is available for students pursuing majors in other disciplines.

The Psychology department participates in the Social Science 7-12 Teaching Field Endorsement (http://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/history/social-science-7-12-teaching-field-endorsement-bae).

Theresa Wadkins, Chair

Professor: Krista Forrest, Krista Fritson, Yozan Mosig, Robert Rycek, Theresa Wadkins, William Wozniak

Assistant Professor: Evan Hill, Julie Lanz, Megan Strain, Christopher Waples

Psychology (PSYC)

PSY 188 – GS Portal 3 credit hours
Students analyze critical issues confronting individuals and society in a global context as they pertain to the discipline in which the Portal course is taught. The Portal is intended to help students succeed in their university education by being mentored in process of thinking critically about important ideas and articulating their own conclusions. Students may take the Portal in any discipline, irrespective of their major or minor. Satisfies the General Studies Portal course requirement. Students may take their Portal course in any discipline. Students who transfer 24 or more hours of General Studies credit to UNK are exempt from taking a portal course.
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00
Prerequisite: First year freshman standing or sophomore standing only.

PSY 192 – Death and Dying 1-3 credit hours
Issues of death and dying are discussed from the perspectives of medicine, psychology, religion, philosophy, law and other fields.
Total Credits Allowed: 3.00

PSY 203 – General Psychology 3 credit hours
The fundamental concepts of psychology as derived through the scientific investigation of behavior are described.

PSY 220 – Introductory Psychology Seminar 1 credit hour
Small group activities in laboratory, discussion group, or seminars that supplement an introductory course.
Corequisite: PSY 203 or PSY 230 or PSY 231.

PSY 230 – Human Development 3 credit hours
Human growth and development is surveyed from the prenatal period through old age and death. Emphasis is placed on physiological, cognitive, and social/personality developments at the various age levels.

PSY 231 – Abnormal Behavior and Society 3 credit hours
An introduction to the various models for understanding abnormal behavior, e.g., genetic and developmental models; the descriptions of predominant mental disorders, and major modern treatment interventions. The course is recommended for those majoring in fields other than psychology.

PSY 250 – Behavioral Statistics 4 credit hours
The methodology used in scientific research is described along with the special problems that psychologists face in the interpretation of research results. Prior completion of college algebra is recommended. One laboratory each week.
Total Credits Allowed: 4.00
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 270 – Experimental Psychology 4 credit hours
Advanced methods in data collection are presented. Research designs and their appropriateness for specific areas of study are reviewed. One laboratory each week.
Prerequisite: PSY 250
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 280H – Special Topics 1-3 credit hours
An interdisciplinary General Studies course for Honors students that examines the connections between disciplines.
Total Credits Allowed: 3.00

PSY 300 – Orientation to Psychology 1 credit hour
An informal review of academic, professional, and career planning issues of a psychology major.
Prerequisite: PSY 203 and declared major in Psychology.
PSY 310 – Learning and Conditioning 3 credit hours
The concepts and principles of learning are studied in detail. Data from human and animal experimentation are considered. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 310L – Learning and Conditioning Laboratory 1 credit hour
Aspects of conditioning and learning are demonstrated. Must be taken concurrently with PSY 310.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 310.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 312 – Sensation and Perception 3 credit hours
Sensory and perceptual systems are examined in detail. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 312L – Sensation and Perception Laboratory 1 credit hour
Sensory and perceptual phenomena are reviewed within a laboratory setting. Must be taken concurrently with PSY 312.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 312.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 313 – Physiological Psychology 3 credit hours
The relationships between physiological processes and human behaviors are studied. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 313L – Physiological Psychology Laboratory 1 credit hour
The techniques and methodology used in the study of the biological influences on behavior are introduced. Must be taken concurrently with PSY 313.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 313.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 317 – Biopsychology 3 credit hours
Biopsychology deals with the interaction of biology and behavior from the molecular to the molar level. All levels of interaction are investigated. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 317L – Biopsychology Laboratory 1 credit hour
Biopsychology Laboratory uses the methods of Ethology and Comparative Psychology to investigate the relationship between biology and behavior. Must be taken concurrently with PSY 317.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 317.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 318 – Experimental Social Psychology 3 credit hours
An exploration of the theories, methods and research regarding the relationship of the individual to others and to society. Topics include person perception, interpersonal attraction, attitudes, and attitude change, conformity and leadership. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 318L – Experimental Social Psychology Laboratory 1 credit hour
A review of social psychological research methods, including experimental and quasi-experimental designs, unobtrusive measures, field studies, behavioral and verbal measurement, the avoidance of bias, and ethical issues in research.
Prerequisite: PSY 270
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 319 – Psychology Apprenticeship Programs 1-3 credit hours
Students assist faculty members as research assistants, as classroom discussion leaders, as proctors in PSI courses, or in preparing special lectures or programs. Departmental permission required. PSI proctoring is recommended for those students preparing to take the Graduate Record Exam.
Total Credits Allowed: 12.00
Prerequisite: PSY 203
A survey of the prominent theories, principles, and research related to socialization; and the design of jobs and organizations.

A survey of the human behavior and psychological principles related to job satisfaction and other attitudes; decision-making; employee management; and implementation strategies.

Personnel recruitment, selection and training; performance appraisal and industrial/personnel issues. Topics include: job and work analysis; personnel recruitment, selection and training; performance appraisal and implementation strategies.

The methodologies used in the study of cognitive processes are reviewed. Special emphasis is placed on computer analysis and on deciding which techniques are appropriate for various data sets.

Advanced multivariate statistical techniques are explored, including Multiple Regression, Canonical Correlation, MANOVA, Discriminant Function Analysis, and Factor Analysis. Special emphasis is placed on computer analysis and on deciding which techniques are appropriate for various data sets.

Topics concerning intellectual functioning are reviewed. Emphasis is placed on the information processing approach to the study of mental life. Topics include perception, attention, consciousness, memory, problem solving, and language. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.

The psychological aspects of various Eastern philosophical traditions including Sufism, Yoga, Taoism, and Buddhism are examined. The psychological aspects of various Eastern philosophical traditions are reviewed. Special emphasis is placed on computer analysis and on deciding which techniques are appropriate for various data sets.

Additional Course Fee Required

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PSY 435 – Psychology of Humor 3 credit hours
Survey of psychological theories, principles, and facts in areas such as social psychology, personality, psychobiology, development, cognition, industry/organizations, and health as they apply to humor. Specific topics include: why we laugh, how we understand humor, prejudice and humor, multicultural similarities and differences, humor in applied settings (e.g., workplace, education), and humorous media.
Prerequisite: PSY 203 and PSY 270 is recommended.

PSY 440 – Health Psychology 3 credit hours
Examines how thoughts, emotions, behaviors, physiology, and culture influence health and well-being. Topics include: physical systems of the body, stress and illness, health-related behaviors, health services, and end-of-life care.

PSY 440L – Health Psychology Laboratory 1 credit hour
Designed to be taken concurrently with PSY 440, this lab provides experience in critically analyzing quantitative and qualitative health research. In addition, students will develop and conduct a research project in their area of interest within the field of health psychology.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 440.

PSY 450 – Psychometrics 3 credit hours
Basic measurement concepts, the selection, administration, and interpretation of standardized tests are reviewed. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 450L – Psychometrics Lab 1 credit hour
Must be taken concurrently with PSY 450. Practical experience in test construction and the application of concepts such as norms, standardization, reliability and validity. Prior completion of PSY 270 is required.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 450 or PSY 850P.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 453 – Experimental Child Psychology 3 credit hours
The psychology of child development is studied. Special emphasis is placed on experimental findings related to the development of physical, intellectual and cognitive functioning, and the development of personality. Prior completion of PSY 270 is recommended.
Prerequisite: PSY 203 or PSY 230

PSY 453L – Developmental Psychology Laboratory 1 credit hour
Methods of studying children and adolescents are investigated. Must be taken concurrently with PSY 453.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 453.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 455 – Adolescent Psychology 3 credit hours
Adolescent development is comprehensively reviewed. The intellectual, physical, and social/moral development of adolescents is discussed, along with the special problems of young adults.
Prerequisite: PSY 203 or PSY 230

PSY 462 – Adult Development and Aging 3 credit hours
The changes in physical, cognitive and social/personality development during adulthood are addressed.
Prerequisite: PSY 203 or PSY 230

PSY 465 – Psychopharmacology 3 credit hours
The course consists of an introduction to pharmacology as a science followed by a discussion of therapeutic and recreational psychoactive drugs. Psychoactive drugs are discussed in relation to their effect on behavior and nervous system physiology. Prior completion of PSY 203, background in physiological psychology, or background in biology is recommended.
Department Consent Required

PSY 470 – Neuropsychology 3 credit hours
The relationship between human brain function and behavior is investigated. Special emphasis is placed on the behavioral effects of brain injury and methods of neuropsychological assessment.
Prerequisite: PSY 313

PSY 475G – Practicum in Gerontology 3 credit hours
This course gives the student the opportunity to work with professionals in the field of aging. Includes 120-180 actual contact hours during the practicum experience.

PSY 475 – Practicum in Psychology 1-3 credit hours
This course gives the student the opportunity to gain experience in the application of psychological principles in various settings.
Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 3.00
Prerequisite: 24 completed hours of Psychology coursework and permission of the department chair

PSY 477L – Psychology and Law Laboratory 1 credit hour
Designed to be taken with the Psychology and Law Course, this laboratory option allows students to critically evaluate both historical and contemporary research in the area of psychology and law. In addition to discussing the work of others, students will develop and complete a research project targeting their specific area of interest within the broader field of psychology and law.
Prerequisite: PSY 270.
Corequisite: PSY 477.
Additional Course Fee Required

PSY 477 – Psychology and Law 3 credit hours
Within this course, students will learn how psychology has influenced legal processes and outcomes. Topics covered include theories of criminology, factors associated with police questioning, jury selection and deliberation and punishment and sentencing. Students will also study how psychologists ranging from researchers and clinicians to expert witnesses and advocates work within the legal system.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 477G – Practicum in Gerontology 3 credit hours
This course gives the student the opportunity to gain experience in the field of aging. Includes 120-180 actual contact hours during the practicum experience.

PSY 477 – Psychology and Law 3 credit hours
Within this course, students will learn how psychology has influenced legal processes and outcomes. Topics covered include theories of criminology, factors associated with police questioning, jury selection and deliberation and punishment and sentencing. Students will also study how psychologists ranging from researchers and clinicians to expert witnesses and advocates work within the legal system.
Prerequisite: PSY 203

PSY 480 – Advanced Seminar in Psychology 3 credit hours
An in-depth examination of a particular topic in one of 13 designated areas of psychology. Taught in seminar format. Topics will be announced during the preceding semester.
Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00
Prerequisite: At least 12 completed hours of Psychology coursework and junior or senior standing and permission of the instructor.

PSY 493 – Readings in Psychology 1-3 credit hours
The student designs a set of readings in a chosen area of psychology. The work is completed under the supervision of the Department Chair.
Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 18.00
Prerequisite: 24 completed hours of Psychology coursework and permission of the department chair
PSY 499 – Research in Psychology  3 credit hours
The student engages in a research project of his/her own design. The project is supervised by a psychology faculty member.
Department Consent Required
Total Credits Allowed: 6.00
Prerequisite: 24 completed hours of Psychology coursework including PSY 270 and permission of the department chair