Welcome to the Psychology Department

Psychology is a great major! The Bachelor of Arts Program in Psychology is the largest major in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and one of the most popular at YSU because an understanding of human behavior is essential for most professions and careers.

The Bachelor of Arts degree may be appropriate for students seeking:
- a general liberal arts degree
- paraprofessional employment
- preparation for graduate study in psychology

We have faculty who teach all major specialties of the field including clinical, personality, learning, cognitive, developmental, physiological, health, and social psychology.

As the theme of the Psychology Department is Student and Community Success, faculty members conduct research into topics such as resilience and protective factors; mental and physical health, wellness, and fitness; learning persistence; motivation; personal beliefs; and developing critical thinking.

We are unique because we
- are focused upon student success,
- have small classes that are mostly taught by full-time faculty members,
- conduct personal advising,
- inspire students to participate in research opportunities with faculty,
- encourage student engagement through study-abroad experiences, traveling to conferences, joining Psi Chi, and doing fieldwork / internship placements.

For more information, visit the Department of Psychology (http://www.ysu.edu/academics/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/psychology-major) or call (330) 941-3401

The Bachelor of Arts in psychology can be earned in eight semesters if students average 15-16 hours per semester. Psychology majors must select an official minor as listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Chair

Jeffrey T. Coldren, Ph.D., Professor, Chair

Professor

Jaelyn Farris, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Stephen R. Flora, Ph.D., Professor

Karen Giorgetti, Ph.D., Associate Professor

James Juergensen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Matthew Lindberg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Michael Raulin, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Sharon A. Stringer, Ph.D., Professor

Ying Joy Tang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Lecturer

Swati Sethi, M.A., Lecturer

Majors

- BA in Psychology (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-psychology/ba-psychology)
- BA in Psychology - Pre-Physical Therapy (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-psychology/ba-psychology-pre-physical-therapy)

Minors

- General Psychology Minor (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-psychology/general-psychology-minor)
- Developmental Psychology Minor (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-psychology/developmental-psychology-minor)
- Psychology of Mental Health Minor (http://catalog.ysu.edu/undergraduate/colleges-programs/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-psychology/psychology-of-mental-health-minor)

PSYC 1560 General Psychology 3 s.h.
An examination of scientific and clinical approaches to understanding the relationships between one's physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and quality of life, including the basic principles governing the growth and maintenance of behavior, emotion, and cognition.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

PSYC 1560H Honors General Psychology 3 s.h.
An examination of scientific and clinical approaches to understanding the relationships between one's physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and quality of life, including the basic principles governing the growth and maintenance of behavior, emotion, and cognition.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

PSYC 2617 Research Methods for Psychology 3 s.h.
An introduction to psychological research methods. Students learn how to conduct ethical research and report their findings as well as to critically evaluate the research of others.
Prereq.: "C" or better in PSYC 1560, psychology major or minor, or consent of instructor.

PSYC 2618 Statistics for Psychology 4 s.h.
Further exploration of psychological research methods and statistical analysis, with emphasis on descriptive and inferential techniques. Three hours of lecture, two hours of lab per week.
Prereq.: "C" or better in PSYC 2617 and psychology major or consent of instructor.

PSYC 2692 Human Sexuality 3 s.h.
An interdisciplinary approach to the study of human sexuality. Listed also as PHLT 2692.

PSYC 3700 Social Psychology 3 s.h.
Examination of the influence of social interactions on the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of the individual and the group.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.
Gen Ed: Social Science.

PSYC 3700H Honors Social Psychology 3 s.h.
Examination of the influence of social interactions on the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of the individual and the group.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.
Gen Ed: Social Science.
PSYC 3700L Social Psychology Laboratory 1 s.h.
An introduction to planning and conducting social psychological research.
Topics include creating participant impact while minimizing loss of control,
reducing demand characteristics and experimenter bias, and enhancing
mundane and experimental realism. Two hours per week.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617 with grade of "C" or better and PSYC 3700 or PSYC 3700H
(may be taken concurrently).

PSYC 3702 Abnormal Psychology 3 s.h.
Patterns of deviant behavior including current systems of classification;
classic syndromes; the nature and trend of major maladjustments; possible
causative factors; and methods of prevention and treatment.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3702H Honors Abnormal Psychology 3 s.h.
Patterns of deviant behavior including current systems of classification;
classic syndromes; the nature and trend of major maladjustments; possible
causative factors; and methods of prevention and treatment.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3702L Abnormal Psychology Laboratory 1 s.h.
An introduction to conducting research on psychological disorders, to include
a critical review of research literature, examination of case studies, and
gathering field-based data. Two hours per week.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617 with grade of "C" or better and 3702 or PSYC 3702H (may
be taken concurrently).

PSYC 3705 Psychology of Learning 3 s.h.
A study of the learning process with emphasis on factors such as
reinforcement, respondent conditioning, discrimination, generalization,
transfer, etc.; an introduction to modern learning theory.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617; Must be taken concurrent with PSYC 3705L.

PSYC 3705L Psychology of Learning Laboratory 1 s.h.
Laboratory studies of learning processes. Students use observational and
data-recording techniques relevant to investigations of learning processes.
Laboratory activities include investigations of classical conditioning,
reinforcement, shaping, extinction, practice effects or other phenomena. Two
hours per week.
Prereq.: Must be taken concurrently with PSYC 3705.

PSYC 3707 Psychology of Intimate Relationships 3 s.h.
Psychological principles pertaining to intimate relationships, both marital and
non-marital, and family dynamics. Includes topics such as communication,
problem solving, domestic violence, and sexuality.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3709 Psychology of Education 3 s.h.
Principles of psychology as applied to the educational process, including
characteristics of the individual learner, the classroom, the instructor, methods
and techniques, and other factors in the learning process.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3709L Psychology of Education Lab 2 s.h.
Application of principles of psychology in a K-12 educational setting.
Evaluation and synthesis of psychological principles, theories, and research.
Three hours per week, one hour to be arranged.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.
Concurrent: PSYC 3709 or consent of instructor.

PSYC 3710 Psychophysiology 3 s.h.
An introduction to the relationship between the psychological and
physiological basis of behavior. Response systems, such as cardiovascular,
respiratory, and gastrointestinal, as well as applications of principles and
theories.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617, concurrent with PSYC 3710L.

PSYC 3710L Psychophysiology Laboratory 1 s.h.
Measurement and research techniques in basic and applied psychophysiology.
Two hours laboratory-discussion.
Prereq.: Must be taken concurrently with PSYC 3710.
PSYC 3755L  Child Development Laboratory  1 s.h.
Experimental and nonexperimental research methods for gathering data on the
development of children. Two hours per week. A criminal background check is
required to take the course.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617 with "C" or better and PSYC 3755 (may be taken
concurrently).

PSYC 3756  Adolescent Development  3 s.h.
Human development from preteen to young adulthood.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3756H  Honors Adolescent Development  3 s.h.
Human development from preteen to young adulthood.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3757  Adult Development  3 s.h.
Human development from adulthood through old age.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3758  Lifespan Development  3 s.h.
Study of theory and research on development from conception to death.
Focus upon psychological, physiological, social and cultural influences. May
not be taken for credit if the student has received credit for two or more of
PSYC 3755, PSYC 3756, PSYC 3757.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3760  Perception  3 s.h.
Theories and experimental evidence on how environmental, physiological, and
personal factors influence the reception, organization, and interpretation of
sensory input.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617; Must be taken concurrent with PSYC 3760L.

PSYC 3760L  Perception Laboratory  1 s.h.
Laboratory demonstrations and experiments using research techniques in
perception. Two hours per week.
Concurrent: PSYC 3760.

PSYC 3761  Cognition  3 s.h.
Experimental methods, research findings, and current theories concerned with
human cognitive processes. The information-processing approach, focusing
on how information is transformed, stored, manipulated, and retrieved.
Topics include attention, pattern recognition and categorization, memory, and
language.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617; Must be taken concurrent with PSYC 3761L.

PSYC 3761L  Cognition Laboratory  1 s.h.
Laboratory demonstrations and experiments using research techniques in
cognition. Two hours per week.
Prereq.: Must be taken concurrently with PSYC 3761.

PSYC 3763  Comparative Psychology  3 s.h.
The variety of behaviors within the animal world are compared and contrasted
with human behaviors.
Prereq.: PSYC 2617.

PSYC 3770  Individual Study  1-2 s.h.
Individual study of a special problem, or a review of the literature relating to a
specific psychological problem or issue. A written report is required, one copy
of which remains on file in the department. May be repeated for a maximum of
4 s.h. with different problems.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560 and consent of the chairperson.

PSYC 3775  Personality  3 s.h.
A critical overview of the major personality theories and theorists in the field
of psychology, their application to the understanding of everyday life and a
description of the pertinent research applicable to the evaluation of personality
theories.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3777  Cross-Cultural Social Psychology  3 s.h.
A psychological examination of the impact of culture on individual social
behavior as applied to topics such as attribution, moral reasoning, gender
differences, and group dynamics.
Prereq.: PSYC 3700 or ASST 1550.

PSYC 3779  Careers in Psychology  3 s.h.
Overview of professional development, including information on career
preparation, job search strategies, and graduate studies.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3780  Psychological Aspects of Disease and Death  3 s.h.
The primary factors affecting an individual's attitude toward illness,
bereavement, and mortality. The psychological and physiological aspects of
disease processes and death.
Prereq.: PSYC 1560.

PSYC 3785H  Honors Seminar in Psychology  1 s.h.
Study of selected topics within psychology suitable to the honors program.
Prereq.: Admission to the Psychology Honors Program, permit required.

PSYC 3790  Field Work in Psychology  3 s.h.
Exploration of different types of work and issues encountered in professional
positions within the field of psychology. Supervised field work hours
(approximately 4 hours per week) will be arranged. Criminal background check
required. May be repeated one time.
Prereq.: 9 s.h. in Psychology, junior/senior standing, and consent of chair.

PSYC 4800  Introduction to Psychotherapy  3 s.h.
A critical overview of major psychotherapeutic approaches to mental
health including an evaluation of empirical validity. Students will develop an
increased sensitivity to multicultural and ethical issues.
Prereq.: PSYC 3702 or PSYC 3775.

PSYC 4815  Health Psychology  3 s.h.
Psychosocial factors that affect the promotion and maintenance of health, as
well as the prevention and treatment of illness.
Prereq.: 6 s.h. of 3700-level PSYC courses.

PSYC 4835  Special Topics in Developmental Psychology  3 s.h.
Advanced and specialized topics in developmental psychology. Topics vary
over semesters, and may include the study of infancy, the development of
exceptional children, cross-cultural developmental psychology, among others.
May be repeated with different topics to a maximum of 6 s.h. toward the major.
Prereq.: PSYC 3755 or PSYC 3756 or PSYC 3757 or PSYC 3758.

PSYC 4841  History of Psychology  3 s.h.
The development of scientific psychology, with major emphasis on trends
since the mid-19th century.
Prereq.: 9 s.h. of psychology.

PSYC 4850  Seminar  2 s.h.
Major topics in psychology not covered in listed courses. Two s.h. may be
applied to the psychology major.
Prereq.: Senior standing in psychology, or consent of instructor.

PSYC 4857  Biopsychological Aspects of Health and Aging  3 s.h.
Broad overview of development and change across the adult lifespan, focusing
on an examination and understanding of biological aging and how they affect
functioning, adjustment, and wellness. Distinction between primary aging
(normal, universal biological changes) and secondary aging (disease, lifestyle-
determined changes) will be made.
Prereq.: PSYC 3757 or PSYC 3758.

PSYC 4860  Motivation  3 s.h.
Classical and contemporary theories of motivation. Overview of research and
theory on the interactive role of biological, learned, and cognitive components
in motivation of human behavior, including emotion, need for achievement,
affiliation, and power.
Prereq.: PSYC 2618.

PSYC 4890  Senior Thesis  1 s.h.
Data collection and a research paper on a topic approved by the thesis
advisor. This project takes two semesters to complete. Must be repeated for a
maximum of 2 s.h.
Prereq.: Senior status, grade of "C" or better in PSYC 2618, one PSYC lab
course, & consent of thesis advisor & chair.
Gen Ed: Capstone.
PSYC 4891H  Honors Thesis  1 s.h.
The student prepares an empirical research paper on a topic approved by an
honors thesis advisor and honors thesis committee. May be repeated for a
maximum of 4 s.h.
Prereq.: Senior status, C or better in PSYC 2618, one PSYC lab course, consent
of thesis advisor & chair, and admission into the Honors Program.
Gen Ed: Capstone.

PSYC 4895  Senior Psychology Capstone Experience  2 s.h.
A capstone experience for the major in psychology.
Prereq.: Senior status, grade of “C” or better in PSYC 2618, one PSYC lab
course, and consent of thesis advisor and chair.
Gen Ed: Capstone.