



# SWIFT THINKING

## UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

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### PLANNING FOR WINTER 2020

A table showing our course offerings for [Winter 2020](#) is available online. The table includes information on meeting days and times. In addition, it indicates which major and minor requirements each course can fulfill, whether a course is available for pre-registration, and whether you need permission to enroll.

Please check this table and the [Registrar's website](#) for updates.

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### Pre-registering for Winter Courses

The Psychology Department will offer pre-registration through CAESAR for most of our Winter Quarter courses the week prior to regular registration. All students listed as psychology, cognitive science, or neuroscience majors or minors in the Registrar's system should be able to pre-register through CAESAR for these courses. The only courses not available for pre-registration for Winter Quarter are the PSYCH 101, PSYCH 110, and the PSYCH 397/398/399 research courses.

Pre-registration times are announced by the Registrar's Office. Students can pre-register for a maximum of two courses.

### Wait Lists

Psychology courses are very popular and they often close during registration. If a course you want to take has closed, use the electronic wait list function on CAESAR. As students drop the course, we will check the electronic wait list and send permission numbers to students to enroll.

*Wait lists will be monitored until the last business day before classes begin. Students will then need approval from the course instructor to be added to a course during the first week of classes.*

### Registering for PSYCH 205-Research Methods

Students listed in CAESAR as majoring or minoring in psychology, cognitive science, or music cognition may pre-register for PSYCH 205. Make sure you have the statistics prerequisite or an allowed [substitution](#) before you enroll. You **may not** take both PSYCH 205 and the statistics prerequisite during the same quarter. Your records will be evaluated for

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING IN PSYCHOLOGY



Department advisers are available to talk with undergraduates about requirements, course selections, career choices, and how to plan an undergraduate program that will best prepare you for whatever you might do next. They are also good resources for learning about research opportunities. You should see an adviser to complete your official Graduation Petition, which needs to be filed at the Registrar's Office one year before your expected graduation date (typically in Spring Quarter of your junior year).

**Sara Broaders** (Substitutions, Study Abroad, Transfer credits, Non-standard ways of completing requirements)

**Ben Gorvine** (Substitutions, Study Abroad, Transfer credits, Non-standard ways of completing requirements, Clinical Psychology)

**Ginger Pennington** (Careers in Business)

**David Smith** (First-year students)

**Dan McAdams** (Graduate School and Research)

To make an appointment, call 847-491-5190, stop by the department office, Swift Hall Room 102, or send an email to [psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu)

this requirement and you will be asked to drop the course if you have not completed it. Once regular registration begins, any student with the statistics prerequisite may enroll.

### RESEARCH COURSES REQUIRING DEPARTMENT AND INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION:

#### PSYCH 397-1, 397-2, 398, and 399

A great way to learn more about psychological research is to become actively involved in research activities through PSYCH 399-Independent Study or the two-quarter PSYCH 397-Advanced Supervised Research series. This is especially valuable for students considering graduate study in psychology and it can be an educational and enjoyable experience for others as well.

#### PSYCH 397 and 399

You can count at most 1 quarter of 397-1 or 399 toward the major. You cannot count both courses toward the major requirements. PSYCH 205-Research Methods in Psychology is a prerequisite for PSYCH 397. The second quarter of the Advanced Supervised Research sequence, PSYCH 397-2, fulfills the upper-level research requirement for the psychology major. For more information on 397 and 399, including the differences between them, how they count toward requirements, and tips on finding a research adviser, see our webpage on "[Research for Course Credit](#)."

To enroll in PSYCH 397 or PSYCH 399, download the [application](#), fill it out, and have it signed by the professor with whom you will be working. Then, take the signed application to the psychology department office, Swift 102, and a student-specific permission number will be generated. Please note that you must turn in your application and register for the course through CAESAR **before the last day** to add a class for Winter Quarter, **which is January 10, 2020**.

*\*\*We cannot guarantee that an application submitted on the final day of the add period can be reviewed in time to generate a permission number before the add deadline. Students will need to obtain permission for the late addition of a course from the Dean's Office in this situation\*\**

#### PSYCH 398-Senior Honors Seminar

Students who will take PSYCH 398-Senior Honors Seminar next quarter will require permission to enroll. The course will be set up in CAESAR so that only those on the list provided by Dr. Dan Molden, the Honors Coordinator, will be able to register for the course.

## SPECIAL COURSES FOR WINTER QUARTER 2020

### **Psych 322 (formerly 312): Selected Topics in Neuroscience and Psychophysiology**

Professor Peter Rosenfeld

This course covers a range of topics including human brain wave mechanisms and signals for recognition (memory) as well as other cognitive phenomena, including deception. Also covers biofeedback, neurofeedback, pain and opiate analgesia mechanisms.

### **Psych 350: Topics in Psychology: Psychology and “Weird” Beliefs**

Professor Sara Broaders

Lots of people have beliefs that other people think are just plain weird. Why do people have these beliefs? We'll look at "weird" beliefs within our culture as well as some cross-cultural examples, and try to understand what leads people to develop and maintain these beliefs. Another issue is that one person's "weird" belief may be another person's firmly held conviction. From this perspective, we'll also try to understand which beliefs are rational. Among the topics we may cover are: superstition, parapsychology, conspiracy theories, ghosts, witchcraft, alien abduction, evolution vs. creationism, and repressed memories of abuse. Students will use a wide variety of academic and popular media resources (including empirical research articles, ethnographic descriptions, philosophical arguments, popular press books, and documentary films) to explore the bases for these beliefs and practices.

### **Psych 390: Child Maltreatment**

Professor Alissa Levy Chung

In this class, we will learn about child maltreatment and the context in which it occurs. We will consider the risk factors associated with child maltreatment from the macrosystem to the microsystem (cultural factors, historical factors, social policy, to the proximal issues that inform caregiving). We will examine the consequences of maltreatment across developmental domains and over time. Finally, we will look at prevention and intervention, taking on both clinical and policy lenses. The class will build upon Psych 205, so you will need a reasonable command of research methods to read the assigned articles and to write your research proposal.

## PETITION TO GRADUATE

All Northwestern undergraduates must complete and submit Graduation Petitions **one year prior to their intended graduation date**. The latest to submit the petition is two quarters before you anticipate graduating (e.g., before the end of Fall quarter if you expect to graduate in Spring quarter, and during Spring quarter if you plan to graduate in Fall quarter). To complete your Graduation Petition, set up an appointment with one of the department advisers by emailing [psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu) or see the Undergraduate Program Assistant in the department office (Swift 102, 847-491-5190). Be sure to bring a copy of your CAESAR Academic Requirements report to the meeting with the adviser.

Completing your Graduation Petition on time ensures you are on appropriate graduation lists and that you, your adviser, and the Registrar's Office agree on what requirements you have left to complete. It also provides an opportunity to talk about your experiences in the department thus far and your plans for the coming year and beyond.

You can read more about the petition process, including submission deadlines and access petition forms, on the Registrar's website. A good place to start is the [Registrar's Graduation Page](#).

## UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION (UPA) NEWS

Consider joining the Undergraduate Psychology Association (UPA) at Northwestern, a group of students who share a passion in exploring Psychology! All majors are welcomed to join. UPA sponsors academic, career-oriented, and social events during the school year. The primary goals are to help undergraduates learn more about psychology in a non-classroom setting, foster student-faculty communications, and facilitate the awareness of professional opportunities related to psychology. Come out to one of our upcoming events to learn more and get involved--there will always be free food! Please feel free to check us out at <http://upanorthwestern.weebly.com> for more information or you can visit the [UPA Facebook page](#) (NU Undergraduate Psychology Association). If you would like to be added to the UPA listserv and stay up to date on all things psychology at NU, simply send an e-mail to [upa.northwestern@gmail.com](mailto:upa.northwestern@gmail.com).

## PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS AND CHICAGO FIELD STUDIES

Are you thinking about doing an internship in some area that interests you? Many psychology students do internships for academic credit through Northwestern's Chicago Field Studies program. Internships are available with a wide range of Chicago-area businesses and organizations—organizations focused on mental health, education, and other social services, legal and environmental organizations, financial services, health clinics, start-ups, and market research groups, among others. For more on options for psychology students, including a list of sites where psychology students have interned, see our webpage on [Psychology and Chicago Field Studies](#) and [Chicago Field Studies' website](#).

Getting practical, hands-on experience in fields you find intriguing can help you see links between your academic studies and real-world issues. It is a good way to learn more about which career paths might be best for you. In addition, it can become a valuable credential when you apply for a job or for graduate study. Keep in mind that many work experiences not labeled as “internships” provide similar opportunities and benefits. See our webpage on [Internships and Volunteering](#) for more information and ideas.

### STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE AVAILABLE

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We have created a Canvas course with Statistics Tutorials for Psychology students. The site is open to any student at Northwestern who would like to be able to use the resource. It currently has video tutorials on most of the topics covered in Psych 201-Statistics, some more advanced topics, as well as some videos on using SPSS.

All of our current majors and minors should have already been added to the Canvas site. If you have not been added but would like to access the resources, contact [psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:psych-advising@u.northwestern.edu). Provide your NetID and request to be added to the Statistics Tutorials Canvas site.

## AWARDS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

### The Psychology Department Undergraduate Travel Award

The Psychology Department is happy to announce an award to fund student travel to professional conferences. The Undergraduate Travel Award provides funds to students who are majoring in psychology to support them in presenting their work at conferences. The money can be used to pay for conference fees and travel expenses.

Preference will go to students who are first author on the presentation. Applications will be considered on a “rolling” basis. Please submit your applications via e-mail to Sara Broaders at [s-broaders@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-broaders@northwestern.edu). Put "Undergraduate Travel Award" in the subject line of the email. In the email, please include the following information:

Name

Class (e.g., sophomore, junior, senior) Name of conference

Conference location Dates of conference Title of presentation

Author/s on presentation (in order)

Abstract of conference presentation (250 words or less)

In addition to providing this information, please ask your faculty sponsor to write a brief letter of recommendation describing your role in the research. This letter can be emailed to Professor Broaders as well. Please ask your faculty sponsor to put “Undergraduate Travel Award” in the subject line.

### Funds for Summer Research

It may not even be winter yet, but it is not too soon to start thinking about summer – and about the possibility of spending your summer doing research in our department. Each summer the Psychology Department offers two or more undergraduates a **Benton J. Underwood Summer Research Fellowship**. Professor Underwood was chair of the Psychology department and a distinguished researcher in the field of memory. He worked to establish the fund that makes these fellowships possible.

Acceptance of an Underwood Fellowship implies a commitment to spend most of your summer working on research here at Northwestern with a Psychology professor. Your exact schedule will be worked out with the professor who supervises your research. Both current juniors and current sophomores can apply for this award. However, priority will be given to current juniors. Work on an Underwood project often serves as the foundation for a senior honors project. (Receipt of an Underwood fellowship does not guarantee acceptance to our Honors program.)

If you are interested in doing research this coming summer, you should look into other funding sources, too. All Underwood applicants should also apply for a **Northwestern University Summer Research Grant** from the Provost’s Office. Weinberg College also offers funds for summer research by students. Different funding sources have different selection criteria, and applying to more than one will enhance your chances of receiving an award.

To apply for an Underwood Fellowship, follow these steps:

- Choose a faculty member to supervise your research and talk with him or her about what you will be doing and what your time commitment will be. You should also talk with the faculty member about the need for Institutional Review Board approval for your planned project.
- Prepare an application in which you include (a) a statement describing your plans for this research – this can be the same proposal you submit to the university's grants committee; (b) a copy of your transcript (an unofficial transcript is fine); and (c) information about your general interests in psychology, your relevant course work, your previous research experience, and anything else that you think is relevant.
- Have the faculty member who will supervise your research write a confidential letter of support for your application.
- Get your application and letter of support to Sara Broaders at [s-broaders@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-broaders@northwestern.edu) by **Friday, March 15, 2020**. This is also the deadline for submitting summer grant applications to the University's Undergraduate Research Grants Committee.