



# SWIFT THINKING

## UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

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### PLANNING FOR SPRING 2019

A table showing our course offerings for [Spring 2019](#) 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.

### Pre-registering for Spring Courses

The Psychology Department will offer pre-registration through CAESAR for most of our Spring 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 Spring 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.

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### 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.*

## UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING IN PSYCHOLOGY



All department advisers are available to talk with undergraduates about major and minor requirements, course selections, study abroad, 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 in our department. 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).

The department advisers to see for specific issues are:

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

**Ben Gorvine** (Substitutions, Transfer credits, Clinical Psychology)

**Ginger Pennington** (Careers in Business)

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

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)

## Registering for PSYCH 205-Research Methods

Students listed in CAESAR as majoring or minoring in psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience, 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 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 April 3, 2019**.

*\*\*We cannot guarantee that an application submitted on the final day of the add period will be accepted\*\**

## 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. Sandra Waxman, the Honors Coordinator, will be able to register for the course.

## SPECIAL COURSES FOR SPRING QUARTER 2019

In Spring 2019, the Psychology Department will offer a number of courses on special topics, including: PSYCH 315-Special Topics: Identity and Motivation; PSYCH 316-Special Topics: Thinking and Reasoning; PSYCH 357-Advanced Seminar: Cooperation, Helping, and Prosocial Behavior; PSYCH 357-Schizophrenia Research; and PSYCH 358-Advanced Seminar: Creative Problem Solving and the Brain. The topics, course descriptions, and prerequisites for these courses are listed below:

### **Psych 315: Special Topics: Identity and Motivation**

Professor Mesmin Destin

The discussion-based course focuses on the connection between conceptions of the self and goal-oriented motivation, with particular attention devoted to the influence of social, structural, and cultural forces. The first segment of the term will cover classic theoretical work concerning the self and identity. Next, we will consider the relevance of a variety of social influences on identity and motivation. Finally, the course will close with a survey of contemporary identity-based intervention research and practical applications relating to trends in social inequalities, including education and health. Prior completion of an introductory or higher level course in Psychology is required to enroll.

### **Psych 316: Special Topics: Thinking and Reasoning**

Professor Lance Rips

This course examines how people reason about everyday objects and categories. Readings include theory and experimental research on this topic in cognitive psychology, philosophy, and linguistics. Assignments engage students in research in this area. Prerequisites: One course in cognitive psychology, cognitive science, philosophy, linguistics, or computer science.

### **Psych 357: Advanced Seminar: Cooperation, Helping, and Prosocial Behavior**

Professor Daniel Molden

If people did not possess some basic concern for the welfare of others, it would not be possible to develop or sustain the complex societies in which we currently live. However, within these societies, individuals, groups, and corporations often encounter a wide variety of opportunities and temptations to pursue their own personal goals, aspirations and achievements at the expense of the larger social good. What then determines when people will resist versus give into these temptations? Where do people's concerns for others come from in the first place, and what types of experiences nurture versus suppress these concerns? In this course we will explore these questions by reviewing the decades of research on prosocial behavior performed by economists, evolutionary biologists, and social psychologists. Prerequisite: PSYCH 205.

## **Psych 357: Advanced Seminar: Schizophrenia Research**

Professor Vijay Mittal

Students will learn about psychosis, survey popular research approaches, and design research proposals for hypothetical projects. In this class we will learn about major areas of cognitive, emotive, and behavioral dysfunction in schizophrenia as well as related psychotic disorders. We will also survey the most recent developments in the field of intervention, as well as biomarker development in high-risk and premorbid periods. The course will focus heavily on learning about relevant research methodology including eye tracking, motor assessment, psychophysiology, cognitive assessment, and neuroimaging (other modalities will be examined as time permits). This will involve reading about the methodologies and joining the class on a series of field trips to Northwestern Labs (Evanston and Downtown) that are currently employing these approaches. Prerequisite: PSYCH 205.

## **Psych 358: Advanced Seminar: Creative Problem Solving and the Brain**

Professor Mark Beeman

This course will examine how the brain creatively solves problems, with a particular focus on sudden insight – the Aha! or Eureka! moment. We will explore this specific topic in depth, as a model for cognitive neuroscience methods and theoretical approaches. We will link to other topics, potentially including attention, mental illness, intuition, complex language processing, and visual perception (gestalt). The course will be taught in a mix of lecture, student presentations, and experiment design and data collection, depending on the enrollment. Prerequisite: PSYCH 205.

## **DIVERSITY COMMITMENT**

In light of recent events in our department, we have updated our [diversity statement](#) as a forceful reiteration of our departmental values, intended to make it clear that we value diversity, mutual respect, and full inclusion of members of historically marginalized and oppressed groups -- and that we reject pseudoscience supporting or justifying the oppression of marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Going forward, our vetting process for potential visiting scholars will make all reasonable efforts to exclude any individuals whose research contradicts these values.

We are currently planning a series of public events addressing biases in scientific research, the nature and limits of academic freedom, and related topics. Please check our website regularly for updates about these events.

Please be aware that the visiting scholar whose presence has precipitated the current concern among our students and faculty does NOT have any role in undergraduate education. He is not teaching any courses, supervising or working with any students on research projects, collecting any data from participants at Northwestern, or attending any meetings or events with undergraduate students.

## 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](#).

### STATISTICS TUTORIAL RESOURCE NOW AVAILABLE

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We have a Canvas course with Statistics Tutorials for Psychology students. The site is open to any student at Northwestern who would like to use the resource. It currently includes 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.

### 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! Students from 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 listserve 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.

## AWARDS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

### Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Grants Program

URG offers Academic Year Grants (up to \$1000) and Summer Grants (\$3500) to undergraduates pursuing independent research projects. The deadline for Summer Grants is Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. More information is available from the [Office of Undergraduate Research](#). Under faculty supervision, URG winners immerse themselves in novel scholarly projects in the laboratory, the library, or the studio, on campus and around the world. All undergraduate students are eligible for these grants. The [application can be found here](#).

### The Psychology Department Undergraduate Travel Award

The Psychology Department has 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 listed as first author on the presentation. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Please submit your applications via e-mail to Professor Sara Broaders, Director of Undergraduate Studies, at [s-broaders@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-broaders@northwestern.edu). Put "Undergraduate Travel Award" in the subject line of the email. In the email, 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's not too soon to start thinking about summer – and about the possibility of spending your summer doing research in our department. Each year the Psychology Department offers one 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, but 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.
- Send your application and letter of support to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Sara Broaders at [s-broaders@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-broaders@northwestern.edu) by Friday, March 15, 2019. This is also the deadline for submitting summer grant applications to the University's Undergraduate Research Grants Committee.