

Department of Psychology

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Professors:	Dietrich, Arne; Harb, Charles
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Lecturers:	Awaida, May A.K.; Ayoub, Mona; ^P Boydjian, Maral; Ghossainy, Maliki; Tayim, Nathalie
Instructors:	^P Atoui, Mia; ^P Bassil, Margaret; ^P Ghanem, Lama; ^P Naffah, Hala; ^P Nakhle, Pascale
Professor Emeritus:	Kazarian, Shahe

The Department of Psychology offers programs leading to a BA degree in psychology and to an MA degree in psychology.

BA in Psychology

Mission Statement

The discipline of psychology is dedicated to increasing the scientific understanding of behavior and mental processes at the intrapersonal, interpersonal and group level, and to the application of that understanding to enhance the functioning of individuals, groups, and society. In line with this mission, the undergraduate program in Psychology has a threefold mission: to advance and transmit knowledge related to the nature of psychological processes and functioning, to provide a strong foundation in the basic knowledge and skills necessary for research in psychology, and to sensitize students to the applications of psychology in the wider community. This mission embodies the main elements of AUB's mission, which are to foster freedom of thought, respect for diversity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and civic engagement.

Requirements for a BA degree in Psychology

Admission to the Psychology program requires a grade of B (or 75) or more in PSYC 101 or PSYC 201, a minimum grade of B (or 75) in ENGL 204, and an overall average above 2.7 (or 75) for transfers. Meeting the minimum requirements for joining the Psychology Department does not guarantee acceptance. Transfer to Psychology from other departments within the university is academically competitive and requires departmental approval. Students admitted as sophomores directly into the program must score a 75 (or B) in PSYC 201 and ENGL 204 as well as maintain a minimum average of 70 (or 2.2) in their psychology courses by the end of their third regular term at AUB. Students seeking to be readmitted to the program after being dropped must meet transfer requirements. For purposes of meeting departmental admission requirements, students are not permitted to take PSYC 101 or PSYC 201 more than twice. While completing PSYC 101 qualifies a student to meet one of the admission requirements to the major, 100 level courses will not be counted towards a major requirement. Prospective majors who obtain a grade below D (or 60) in PSYC 101 or PSYC 201 will not be permitted to

^P) Part-time

take the course a second time for the purpose of meeting the departmental admission requirements. Requirements for majors include PSYC 101 or PSYC 201, PSYC 280, PSYC 282, PSYC 284, and PSYC 288. In addition to these required courses, the student must select eight courses from the following categories: Category 1 (3 out of 5 are required, but all can be taken for credit)(9): PSYC 210(3), PSYC 212(3), PSYC 214(3), PSYC 215(3), and PSYC 216(3); Category 2 (3 out of 5 are required, but all can be taken for credit)(9): PSYC 220(3), PSYC 222(3), PSYC 224(3), PSYC 226(3), and PSYC 229(3); Category 3 (the remainder are electives)(6): PSYC 230(3), PSYC 232(3), PSYC 234(3), PSYC 235(3), PSYC 236(3), PSYC 237(3), PSYC 238(3), PSYC 239(3), PSYC 240(3), PSYC 290(3), and any course in Category 1 and 2 that has not already been chosen.

In addition to these required courses, the student must complete 3 credits in Quantitative Thought numbered 200 or above. Also required are 6 credits in Natural Sciences. A biology course is recommended.

The requirements for a BA degree in Psychology are 90 credits for students entering the department at the sophomore level, including 39 credits in the major. The distribution of university requirements is as follows:

University General Education Requirements

English Communication Skills (6 cr.), Arabic Communication Skills (3 cr.), Humanities (12 cr.) including 6 credits from CVSP, Natural Sciences (6 cr.), Social Sciences (3 cr.), and Quantitative Thought (3 cr.). Also note that the Social Science must be an approved General Education course from outside the major.

A minor in psychology requires 15 credits: PSYC 101 or PSYC 201, PSYC 280, and three electives from PSYC 210–240. A minimum cumulative average of 2.7 (or 75) is required.

A cognitive science minor (suspended as of Fall 2020-21) requires 18 credits (suspended as of Fall 2020-21): PSYC 237 is required. PSYC 237 cannot be counted as a psychology course for the purpose of this requirement. The remaining 15 credits must be chosen from the following courses: BIOL 240, 243, 244, CMPS 200, 211, 276, 287, EDUC 215, 221, ENGL 227, 228, 232, 284, 294, PHIL 211, 220, 221, 222, 223, 257 or 258 (but not both), PSYC 210, 222, 224, 226, 229, 280, on condition that the 15 credits chosen span at least three disciplines. A student may choose a special topics course not listed above (e.g., 290 course codes), provided the topic is within the purview of cognitive science, upon approval of the course coordinator. For single major students, only 3 credits of the 15 credits taken for the minor may count toward the major.

For double major students, 6 credits taken for the minor may count toward the majors, with no more than 3 credits per major. Students are encouraged to take PSYC 237 early in the minor.

Course Descriptions

PSYC 101 Freshman Introduction to Psychological Science 3.0; 3 cr.
A survey of the principles and concepts of modern psychological science. Emphasis is placed on critically examining empirical research investigating human behavior and mental processes. *Students who take this course cannot get credit for PSYC 201. Every term.*

PSYC 201 Introduction to Psychological Science 3.0; 3 cr.
 A survey of the principles and findings of modern psychological science. Emphasis is placed on critically examining empirical research investigating human behavior and mental processes. *Students who receive credit for PSYC 101 cannot receive credit for PSYC 201. Every term.*

PSYC 210 Lifespan Developmental Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course on psychological development from the prenatal period to late adulthood. *Students who receive credit for EDUC 225 cannot receive credit for PSYC 210. Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Every term.*

PSYC 212 Social Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course on the scientific study of how individuals think, feel, and behave in regard to other people, and how individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are affected by other people. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually*

PSYC 214 Adult Abnormal Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to the research, history, and theories of abnormal behavior in adults and a critical examination of the definition, classification, prevalence, etiology and treatment of adult abnormal behavior. Topics covered include anxiety, post-traumatic stress, depression, mania, borderline personality, substance abuse, schizophrenia, and sexual abnormalities. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Every term.*

PSYC 215 Child Abnormal Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to the psychological disorders of childhood and adolescence, including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorders, autism, mood and anxiety disorders. The course begins with an understanding of abnormal behavior and proceeds to cover symptomatology, the major theories of causality, and treatment interventions. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Every term.*

PSYC 216 Personality Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to the research, theories, and measurement of personality with a critical examination of the influence of personality on behavior. The course surveys biological, psychodynamic, trait, humanistic, behavioral, social learning, and cognitive perspectives to the understanding of human personality and their application to individuals and organizations. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 220 Psychology of Learning and Behavior 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course on the principles of learning and behavior. The psychology of learning, or behavioral psychology, introduces students to the psychology of learning and behavior analysis by examining the classical and operant (instrumental) conditioning paradigms from an experimental perspective. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 222 Behavioral Neuroscience 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to the neural basis of the mind and behavior. The course surveys the structure and organization of the human brain and examines how complex behavior and mental processes arise from it. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Registration for PSYC 222 is not open to Biology students who may register for the cross-listed course, BIOL 243. Annually.*

PSYC 224 Sensation and Perception 3.0; 3 cr.

A course on how humans sense and perceive the environment. Topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of the sensory systems, types of stimuli affecting sensory systems, higher perceptual processing, and current knowledge and theories of our perceptual abilities. The course also emphasizes the relationships between perceptual processes and other higher cognitive functions. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 226 Cognitive Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to human cognitive processes, including perception, attention, memory, language, imagery, categorization, problem solving, reasoning and decision-making. These cognitive processes are examined with regard to human brain functioning. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 229 Cognitive Neuroscience 3.0; 3 cr.

An advanced course on the underlying neural mechanisms of higher mental function. Topics include brain systems implementing memory, language, decision-making, control of action, social cognition, emotions, creativity, cultural evolution, consciousness, cognitive control and brain-computer interfaces. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 230 Clinical Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to the history and development of the science and practice of clinical psychology with a critical examination of training models, approaches to clinical problems, methods of assessment, choice of empirically validated interventions, prevention strategies and career opportunities. The course surveys clinical and research activities (assessment, therapy, and consultation), settings (clinical, hospital, school, court, and private practice), and professional issues (roles, ethics, and laws). *Prerequisite: PSYC 214 or PSYC 215. Annually.*

PSYC 232 Health Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to the field of health psychology with a critical examination of the biopsychosocial model of health and the ecological model of health outcomes. The course explores the impact of five systems on individual health outcomes: the individual (including physiology), the family/ community, physical and social environments, healthcare systems and health policy. A variety of infectious diseases and chronic illnesses will be used to illustrate the roles of these systems in explaining health. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 234 Positive Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.

An introduction to the history and development of the scientific study of positive experiences, positive traits, and positive institutions with a critical examination of the field's theoretical and philosophical assumptions, methods of assessment, and applications to promote personal growth and fulfillment. The course surveys such topics as personal strengths, optimism, resilience, gratitude, forgiveness, humor, love, sexual intimacy, emotional intelligence, happiness, life satisfaction, and the ability to create positive environments. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 235 Political Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 This course draws on the social psychological literature of intergroup relations, introducing the students to individual and group-based approaches to the study of intergroup relations, as well as political psychological research in the Arab world. *Pre-requisite: PSYC 101/201. Annually.*

PSYC 236 Culture and Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 The course aims to sensitize students to the importance of culture in psychological processes, and focuses on indigenous, cultural, and cross-cultural psychological theories and findings. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 237 Introduction to Cognitive Science 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of cognitive science which involves research about the workings of the mind from the fields of psychology, linguistics, philosophy, education, computer science, neuroscience, anthropology, engineering, and others. The course aims to provide students with an appreciation for the range of disciplinary perspectives and methods, and the applications of cognitive science to everyday life. *Annually.*

PSYC 238 Applied Behavior Analysis 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) or Behavior Modification, which is concerned with evidence-based applications of behavioral principles to a wide range of socially and clinically important problems. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Occasionally.*

PSYC 239 Psychology of Trauma 3.0; 3 cr.
 An introductory course aimed to examine the experience and impact of trauma on children and adults. The theories of trauma will be reviewed including the developmental, cognitive, and neuroscience models of trauma and memory. The course will also cover the cultural and sociopolitical considerations of trauma as well as evidence-based treatments and post-traumatic growth. *Pre- or co-requisite: PSYC 214 or PSYC 215. Occasionally.*

PSYC 240 Special Topics in Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course that provides a general overview of an area of psychology that is not normally covered by the department's offerings. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Annually.*

PSYC 280 History and Systems of Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 A course that examines the philosophical foundations of psychology. There is special emphasis on the historical development of scientific conceptions of human behavior and mental processes in the context of contemporary psychological systems. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. Every term.*

PSYC 282 Research Design in Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 This course is the first part of the required research sequence for students majoring in psychology. It provides students with a solid foundation in the basic quantitative research methods and design, addresses ethical issues and validity in psychological research, and introduces students to statistical analyses that will be needed for PSYC 284, PSYC 290, and other research-related courses. *Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or PSYC 101. For Psychology majors only. Every term.*

PSYC 284 Statistical Analyses in Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 This course is the second part of the required research sequence for students majoring in psychology. It introduces the student to univariate, bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses in psychological research and combines lectures and computer Lab sessions. *Prerequisites: STAT 201 or STAT 210 and PSYC 282. Every term.*

PSYC 288 Undergraduate Seminar in Psychology 3.0; 3 cr.
 A review of significant research in major areas in psychology. *Prerequisites: PSYC 282 and senior standing. Prerequisite: PSYC 284. Every term.*

PSYC 290 Undergraduate Research Project in Psychology
 3.0; 3 cr.
 This course requires students to plan, conduct, and write up a full empirical study. The course is meant to build upon and further develop the research and data analysis skills acquired in the required research sequence courses. *Prerequisites: PSYC 282 and PSYC 284 or consent of department. A minimum grade of B (or 75) in both PSYC 282 and PSYC 284 is required. Annually.*

PSYC 298 Directed Study in Psychology 3–6 cr.
 A tutorial course offered to psychology students with an average of 85 or above in their major at the beginning of their senior year. This tutorial consists of independent research, original creative compositions, or directed reading, and includes the presentation of a report or thesis on the work. Students with averages lower than 3.7 (or 85) may be admitted to directed study at the discretion of the department. *Offered on request.*

39 Credits in PSYC¹

Modes of Analysis	English and Arabic (9)	Humanities (12)	Social Sciences (39)	Natural Sciences (6)	Quantitative Thought (3)	Social Science Outside Major (3)
Lecture Courses (9+12+39+6+3+3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required Arabic course (3) Required English courses: ENGL 203(3), 204(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required credits in the humanities: 12 credits including 6 credits from CVSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required PSYC courses (15): PSYC 101(3) or PSYC 201(3), 280(3), 282(3), 284(3), 288(3) and eight courses from the following three categories (24): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1 (3 out of 5 are required (9): PSYC 210(3), 212(3), 214(3), 215(3), 216(3); Category 2 (3 out of 5 are required (9): 220(3), 222(3), 224(3), 226(3), 228(3) and PSYC 229 (3); Category 3 (two electives) (6): PSYC 230(3), 232(3), 234(3), 236(3), 240(3), and 290(3), and courses in Category 1 and 2 not already chosen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two natural science courses (3) numbered 200 and above. (A BIOL course is recommended.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required: STAT 201 or STAT 210 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required: (3)
Seminar (3)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required (3): PSYC 288(3) 			
Laboratory (6)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required (3): PSYC 282(3), 284(3) 			
Research Project (3)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required (3): PSYC 212(3), 214(3), 216(3), 226(3), 220(3), 232(3), 240(3), 282(3), 284(3), 290(3) 			

1) Plus 18 free elective credits