Psychology

Updated May 2013

The Psychology program at Haverford is designed to help students understand the evolutionary, biological, cognitive, individual difference, social, and cultural processes underlying affecting, behavioral, and cognitive experiences in humans. It further aims to integrate this understanding with opportunities to collaborate on research projects that span a wide range of approaches to scientific psychology. We emphasize research and the scientific approach to psychology because we believe that a liberal arts education and informed participation in the real world require a critical understanding of how scientific methods can (and cannot) be applied to human behavior.

The introduction to the discipline begins in Psychology 100 (Foundations of Psychology). Psychology 100 covers the different perspectives represented in the department’s curriculum and serves as a gateway course for students interested in advanced work in psychology. We plan to offer three sections of this course in Fall 2013 and three sections in Spring 2014. Although sections will vary slightly depending on the particular perspective and style of the instructor, the general syllabus and goals are similar across all sections of the course. Students who have completed high school coursework in psychology and received a 4 or 5 on the psychology AP exam should consult with faculty in the Psychology Department about beginning directly in 200-level courses.

Haverford Psychology faculty for 2013-2014:

- **Marilyn Boltz**, Professor. Cognitive psychology; time perception, the psychology of music and language.
- **Rebecca Compton**, Professor. Cognitive neuroscience; neuropsychology of emotion and attention.
- **Seth Gillihan**, Visiting Assistant Professor. Clinical psychology, neuroscience approaches to psychopathology.
- **Elizabeth Gordon**, Visiting Assistant Professor. Clinical psychology, social anxiety, evolutionary psychology.
- **Mary Ellen Kelly**, Visiting Assistant Professor. Biological psychology, neuroscience.
- **Benjamin Le (chair)**, Associate Professor. Social psychology; closeness and commitment in interpersonal relationships.
- **Jen Lilgendahl**, Associate Professor. Personality psychology; self and identity formation, narrative life-history. (on leave 2013-14)
- **Sarah Shuwairi**, Visiting Assistant Professor. Sensation and perception, vision and cognition, developmental psychology.
- **Thomas Wadden**, Visiting Professor. Health psychology and obesity.
- **Shu-Wen Wang**, Assistant Professor. Clinical psychology, cross-cultural psychology, Asian-American mental health.
Requirements for a Major in Psychology at Haverford

The psychology major has three components:

- A breadth component, whereby students learn about the different approaches to psychology.
- General training in conducting and evaluating research. Psychology 200, Experimental Methods and Statistics, teaches students the basic principles of research design and the evaluation of data. This course is a prerequisite for all other research courses.
- Discipline-specific research training. 300-level lab courses provide students with hands-on experience designing experiments and collecting data in specialized areas of the discipline. The lab courses develop skills that are then applied to the year-long senior research project.

Specific major requirements are as follows:

- Psychology 100, Foundations of Psychology (offered in multiple sections each semester). This course serves as a gateway to all of the 200-level courses in the major.
- Psychology 200, Experimental Methods and Statistics. Should be taken in the sophomore year (especially for students planning to study abroad in the junior year) or in the first semester of the junior year.
- Six additional psychology courses beyond the introductory level, with at least one each from each of the following three areas: biological psychology (e.g., 217, 260); cognitive psychology (e.g., 213, 220, 238, 260); and social and personality psychology (e.g., 209, 215, 224, 225, 242, 325, 335). Courses at BMC can also be used to satisfy these requirements (see catalog).
- Two half-credit 300-level laboratory courses (e.g., 309, 313, 315, 320, 324, 342, 360).
- Senior Research Tutorial. Typically a year-long empirical project, usually conducted in collaboration with one or more other psychology majors advised by a professor in the department.

Requirements for a Minor in Psychology at Haverford

- Psychology 100, Foundations of Psychology.
- Five additional psychology courses beyond the introductory level, with at least one course in two of the following areas: biological; cognitive; and social and personality psychology.

Program of Study in Neuroscience

Students with an interest in neuroscience should consider the bi-college interdisciplinary Neuroscience Minor. Students who are interested in neuroscience are advised as follows:

- Consider beginning introductory work in psychology and biology, and/or consider enrolling in Haverford Psych 217 (Biological Psychology) or BMC Psych 218 (Behavioral Neuroscience) or BMC Bio 202 (Intro to Neuroscience).
- For students wishing to pursue graduate work in neuroscience, consider additional coursework in the natural sciences (e.g., chemistry, physics, math, computer science).
- Consult with Rebecca Compton (rcompton@haverford.edu), bi-co program coordinator, for questions about the neuroscience minor program.