

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

These courses are intended for students who wish to gain knowledge and experience in an area of psychology through independent study. Students are responsible for finding a faculty advisor for their course, and registration includes the faculty mentor's section number. All application forms are available in the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office, and on the Psychology Departmental website. Students should always check with a Psychology Advisor to determine if courses will count for their concentration requirements. For questions, please contact the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office (1343 East Hall) at [psych.saa@umich.edu](mailto:psych.saa@umich.edu) or (734) 764-2580.

**Credit Guidelines:** For each credit hour, you should spend at least 3 hours working on the course each week (i.e., 3 credits = 9 hours and 4 credits = 12 hours a week). For Spring or Summer half-terms, 6 hours of work per week for each credit hour is required.

### Research and Practicum Courses

*A maximum of 6 credits of independent Research and Practicum courses may be counted toward the Psychology and the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science concentrations. A maximum of 3 credits of independent Research course work may be counted toward the Neuroscience concentration.*

#### **PSYCH 322 Field Practicum in Research Techniques (1-4 credits)**

This course offers an introduction to research. Completion of an introductory psychology course and at least sophomore standing are recommended. Requires academic components (e.g. paper, reading list). These credits do not count towards concentration hours. Fulfills the experiential lab requirement in the Psychology concentration (if 3 credits taken during one term) but not the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science concentration. LS&A Experiential. Graded Credit/No Credit. (BS).

#### **PSYCH 326 Faculty Directed Early Research (1-4 credits)**

The student works with the faculty on research as directed by the instructor. The faculty mentor must have a description of the planned work on file in the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office, renewed annually. The description must include information about the assignments included in grading. Students must have completed a breadth course with a minimum grade of "C." Fulfills the experiential lab requirement in the Psychology (if 3 credits taken during one term), and the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science and Neuroscience concentrations (if at least 2 credits are taken during one term). May be repeated. LS&A Independent. Letter graded (A-E). (BS).

#### **PSYCH 328. Research Lab (1 credit)**

Concurrent participation in a Psychology lab and one breadth course completed. May be elected four times for credit. LS&A Experiential. Graded Credit/No Credit. (BS).

#### **PSYCH 404 Field Practicum (1-4 credits) and PSYCH 405 Field Practicum in a University Setting (1-4 credits)**

Students may arrange to work as an intern or volunteer in an agency where psychological practice may be observed and utilized. Students must arrange the placement and contact a faculty member. The faculty member develops an academic component (e.g. paper, reading list), and has regular contact to monitor progress. It is recommended that the student have completed a psychology breadth course. Credits may not be counted in a concentration plan in Psychology or Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science. Fulfills the experiential lab requirement (if taken for 3 credits during one term) in the Psychology, but not the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science, concentration. PSYCH 404 may be repeated for a total of 8 credits; PSYCH 405 may be repeated for a total of 4 credits. LS&A Experiential. Graded Credit/No Credit.

#### **PSYCH 422 Faculty Directed Advanced Research for Psychology (1-4 credits)**

Students may undertake more independent research under the direction of a faculty member. Junior standing is recommended, with one breadth course completed, and prior research experience. The student must complete an individual proposal approved by the faculty member, and then by the Committee for Undergraduate Studies before registering. Requires a final paper, a copy of which must be submitted to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office before a grade is issued. Only one section of this course may be taken within the same semester. Fulfills the experiential lab requirement (if 3 credits taken during one term) in the Psychology, the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science, and Neuroscience concentration (if at least 2 credits are taken during one term). May be repeated. LS&A Independent. Letter graded (A-E). (BS).

#### **PSYCH 428 Senior Thesis: Research in Psychology (2-4 credits)**

The primary focus of the Senior Thesis is the development of a research plan in collaboration with a sponsoring faculty member. Eligibility is limited to students who have a concentration GPA of 3.5 or better. This requires a student research proposal that is approved by both the faculty member and the Committee for Undergraduate Studies before registering. Students will be expected to participate in two semesters of academic course work (conducting and analyzing research), submit a final thesis, and present a poster at the Annual Research Forum. Students should have already completed STATS 250 (350) and a research course, or have extensive research experience. Fulfills the experiential lab requirement (if 3 credits taken during one term) in the Psychology and the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science concentration. A second term with a completed thesis fulfills the lab course requirement for the Psychology or for the Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science concentrations. By petition, it may fulfill LSA's Upper Level Writing Requirement. May be repeated for up to 8 credits. LS&A Independent. Letter graded (A-E). (BS).

#### **PSYCH 424 Senior Honors Research I (2-4 credits)**

The primary focus of Senior Honors I is the development of a research plan in collaboration with the sponsoring faculty member. Students must apply to the program with a faculty sponsor, meet with the honors advisor, and be accepted into the Honors Program before registering. Students will be expected to participate in two semesters of academic course work (conducting and analyzing research) through enrolling in Psych 426 in a later term. Students should have already completed STATS 250 (350) and have extensive experience with research. Fulfills the experiential lab requirement (if 3 credits taken during one term) in the Psychology, the Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science, and Neuroscience concentrations. May not be repeated for credit. Letter graded (A-E). (BS).

#### **PSYCH 426 Senior Honors Research II (2-4 credits)**

The primary focus in Senior Honors II is the completion of the honors research project, culminating in the final accepted thesis and poster presentation at the year-end Annual Research Forum. Students must have completed PSYCH 424. Fulfills the lab course requirement for the Psychology or for the Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science and Neuroscience concentrations. Fulfills LSA Upper Level Writing Requirement. May not be repeated for credit. Letter graded (A-E). (BS).

### Independent Study Courses

#### **PSYCH 200 Independent Study in Psychological Issues (1-4 credits)**

This course allows a student to focus on a psychological issue of personal interest, under the supervision of a faculty member. Completion of an introductory psychology course or a first year seminar is recommended. This course will not count toward the Psychology, Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science or Neuroscience concentrations. This course cannot be used to fulfill the lab requirement for these concentrations. This course may be taken for a maximum of 4 credits. Letter graded (A-E).

#### **PSYCH 420 Faculty Directed Advanced Tutorial Reading (1-4 credits)**

Students can explore a topic of interest in psychology under the direction of a faculty member. It is recommended that the student be of at least junior standing, and must have completed one breadth course. The student must have a proposal approved by the faculty member and then reviewed by the Committee for Undergraduate Studies before registering. Requires a final paper, a copy of which must be submitted to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office before the grade is issued. Only one section may be taken within a semester. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. LS&A Independent. Letter graded (A-E). (BS)