

# Department of Psychology

*Note: PSYC 1013 and 1023 Introduction to Psychology are normally prerequisites for all other psychology courses.*

## Minor in Psychology

Students who wish to obtain a Minor in psychology are required to complete PSYC 1013 & 1023 Introduction to Psychology, and 12 additional credit hours in psychology.

## Major in Psychology

1. Specific requirements:
  1. A minimum of 36 credit hours in psychology is required for a major
  2. PSYC 1013 and 1023
  3. PSYC 2013 and 2023 - both must be taken in 2nd year
  4. at least two 3 credit-hour psychology courses at the 3000 level
  5. at least one 4000 level seminar course in Psychology
2. at least 6 credit hours from the following division:

*FUNDAMENTALS Division:*

- 2013 Introduction to Statistics
- 2023 Introduction to Research Methods
- 3053 Qualitative Research in Psychology
- 3933 Advanced Statistics
- 3943 Perception

- 2153 Biological Psychology
- 2163 Drugs and Behaviour
- 2193 Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience
- 3113 Hearing
- 3123 Visual Perception
- 3153 Advanced Biological Bases of Psychology
- 3173 Memory and the Brain
- 3423 Motivation and Emotion
- 4173 Seminar in Neuropsychology
- 4193 Seminar in Cognitive Psychology

*CLINICAL Division:*

- 2253 Psychology of Personal Growth
- 2643 Abnormal Psychology (CRIM 2643)
- 2653 Abnormal Child Psychology



## Honours in Psychology

Students who are interested in pursuing graduate study in Psychology are advised to complete the Honours BA program. This program provides greater breadth and depth in the substantive and methodological areas of Psychology. Although not a requisite for advanced study in psychology, many universities strongly recommend the completion of an Honours degree and Honours thesis as an important part of preparation for graduate study in Psychology. In addition to meeting the general norms of the University for an Honours degree, students who wish to take the Honours B. A. program in Psychology must meet specific regulations of the Psychology Department.

The Department of Psychology offers courses leading to the BA (Honours) degree. Faculty can provide expertise in the substantive areas of cognition, neuropsychology, history of psychology, human development, child development, social psychology, social cognition, clinical psychology, personality, quantitative and qualitative methods, and psychometrics.

Students who wish to complete an Honours degree in Psychology normally apply to the Department Chair by January 31 of the academic year before one plans to begin the Honours program. At this time, students apply, in writing, describing their probable area of focus for the Honours thesis project. Usually, students accepted to the Psychology Honours program will have a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher for the last 60 credit hours (in all courses, including those taken in the Winter term in which they are applying). Given the workload of the Honours Program, students with a cumulative GPA lower than 3.7 are encouraged to seek the advice of the Department Chair before applying.

Successful applicants will normally meet the following criteria:

- a. completion of Psyc 1013 and Psyc 1023 (or their equivalents);
- b. completion of Psych 2013 and Psych 2023 (or their equivalents), with a minimum grade of B and no grade lower than a C+ in any Psychology course;
- c. completion of Psyc 3933 and Psyc 3943 (or their equivalents), with a minimum grade of A- and no grade lower than a C+ in any Psychology course;
- d. indication of interest in pursuing a research-based graduate degree, or a career involving research skills, following graduation from St. Thomas University;
- e. indication that two or more full-time faculty members in the Psychology Department have expressed interest in supervising the student in a thesis project.

*Important: Students planning to apply to the Honours Program must discuss a course plan that adequately prepares them for the Honours thesis, and subsequent career goals, as early as possible in their program, with either the Department Chair or some other full-time faculty member.*

- i. Initial interview with full-time faculty members (in the Fall term or in January).
- ii. Letter to the Chair of Psychology by January 31st of the academic year before one plans to begin the Honours program, expressing interest in the Honours program. This letter should include: a) a description of your reasons for pursuing an Honours degree and your general areas of interest, b) indication

- that two or more full-time faculty members in the Psychology Department have expressed interest in supervising you in a thesis project, and c) a summer contact address and telephone number.
- iii. Notification of acceptance into the Honours Program will occur in the late Spring or early Summer. This notification will include the name of your Thesis Supervisor. On receiving the notification, students should contact their supervisor as soon as possible.

*Important note: Some graduate programs require students to write the GRE (General and/or subject test). It is recommended that students consider writing the GRE (General Test) in the summer before their last academic year and the subject GRE (if required) in the fall of their last academic year.*

Students admitted to the Honours program are required to complete an Honours Thesis. Honours Thesis is an independent research project undertaken in collaboration with a full-time Faculty Member who serves as Thesis Supervisor. Topic for Honours Thesis is developed in consultation with the Faculty Supervisor, and the research may employ quantitative and/or qualitative methods. Honours students are required to present orally their completed







This course adopts a biopsychosocial perspective to studying aging. Topics include theoretical models of development, research methods used to study adult development, health and prevention, basic cognitive function and the aging process, higher order cognitive functions, personality, mental health issues and treatment. These biopsychological functions are examined for how they impact older adults as they navigate their social worlds.

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and the particular needs of students.

This course explores ways of generating knowledge in psychology through the interpretation of talk and text. Whereas much research in psychology is rooted in quantitative methods (e.g., involving statistics), this course explores ways of developing knowledge using qualitative methods (e.g., involving interviews or focus groups). Through this course, students will gain hands-on training in asking research questions, developing interview guides, conducting research interviews, and analysis according to three traditions: thematic analysis, grounded theory, and discourse analysis. Prerequisite: Psyc 2023 or permission of the instructor.

This course will examine the many facets of hearing. The purpose is to expand upon some of the topics covered in PSYC 2113 (Sensation). Topics may include mapping the auditory cortical fields, the coding of sound, and plasticity, learning, and cognition. Prerequisites: PSYC 2023 & 2113, or permission of the instructor.

This course examines the many facets of visual perception. The purpose is to expand upon some of the topics covered in Sensation and Perception with an emphasis on key theoreti



This course will encourage students to critically examine the diverse factors that contribute to how sexuality is conceptualised and represented. Multiple perspectives, including cultural, psychosocial, and biological, will be considered. Possible topics include sexual orientation, varieties in sexual development and expression, attraction, and psychological perspectives on sex as a commodity. Prerequisites: PSYC 2183

A survey of the application of principles of respondent and operant conditioning derived from laboratory and clinical settings. Behavioural and cognitive-behavioural research on the use of these principles in various settings (e.g., home, schools, institutions) will be discussed. Prerequisite: PSYC 2213.

This course will review a variety of topics within health psychology, including stress, coping and health, pain, chronic illness, the physician-patient relationship, and health care, as well as the impact of various behaviours such as smoking, drinking, and exercise on health status.

This course will examine theories of human memory and information processing with emphasis on contemporary research in the field. Topics to be covered include short-term memory and long-term memory, encoding and retrieval processes, forgetting, implicit memory, amnesia, autobiographical memory, and memory across the lifespan. Prerequisite: PSYC 2263 or permission of the instructor.

This course provides exposure to major current issues in the study of social behaviour. Prerequisite: PSYC 2413

This course is intended as a general introduction to the properties and determinants of motivated behaviours and emotional states. Topics include physiology of motivational systems (e.g. hunger, thirst), the role of cognition in emotion, and the structure and mechanisms of emotion. Prerequisite: PSYC 2023.

This course focuses on examining human connection to nature. The course includes in-class and outdoor experiential learning components. Topics may include: the role of nature in relation to health and psychological well-being, social and community aspects of human-nature interaction, and a critical examination of nature-oriented therapeutic approaches. Pre-requisites: PSYC 2023 (Intro to Research Methods)

Industrial and Organizational (I/O) Psychology is an area of psychology focused on acquiring and applying knowledge of human behaviour in work contexts. In this course students will be introduced to the theories, methods, findings, and applications of industrial and organizational psychology. A comprehensive list of I/O topics will be covered using lectures, readings, class activities and assignments. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013 and 2023, or permission of the instructor.

A survey of the principles and theories of counselling and psychotherapy, especially as methods of facilitating individual change. Major attention will be given to the various theories and the theoretical behaviour systems on which they are based. Attention will also be given to the goals, techniques, and the philosophy and concepts of each theory. Prerequisite: PSYC 2643.

A study of the developmental changes which mark human behaviour during the second decade of life. Physiological, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects of these changes will be explored from an ontogenic point of view. Factors affecting assumptions of sex roles will be considered. Prerequisites: PSYC 2613 and 2623, or permission of the instructor.

The course investigates both normal and abnormal influences that pose challenges to the individual and social functioning of middle-aged and older adults. Topics of study include such relatively common events and transitions as menopause, retirement, relocation, loss of spouse, caring for an ailing parent or spouse, as well as such pathological changes as depression, substance abuse, terminal illness, and dementia. Emphasis is placed on changes in response to these influences and on the individual's coping strategies. Prerequisite: PSYC 2673.

This course examines the medicalization of madness and its social, scientific, and political significance. The basic tenets of the biomedical approach to abnormality will be reviewed along with the psychiatric classification system of mental disorders. In addition to considering the therapeutic efficacy and scientific merit of this approach, the course will also explore the sociopolitical dimensions of madness and psychiatry's links to the pharmaceutical and insurance industries. Prerequisite: PSYC 2643 Abnormal Psychology or permission of the instructor.

This course examines current theories and research on the development of language in children. Topics may include the nature of language, the biological basis of language development, the development of different components of language (phonology, semantics, syntax, pragmatics), language development in special populations, and childhood bilingualism. Prerequisites: PSYC 2613 and 2623, or permission of the instructor.

This course is intended as a general introduction to psychological testing and assessment. The primary objective is to familiarize students with the main varieties of psychological tests together with the theoretical rationale behind their development. Special attention will be given to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of assessment procedures. Consideration will be given to ethical questions involved in testing, as well as technical issues in test construction. Prerequisite: PSYC 2013 and 2023.

The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and the particular needs of students.



sexual identities, sexual pleasure, constructions of sexuality knowledge, and media and sexuality. Prerequisites: PSYC 2023 and 2183, or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2263: Advanced Topics in Cognitive Neuroscience

This course explores advanced topics and research in cognitive neuroscience. Topics covered may include the neural basis of memory, decision-making, attention, language, executive function, consciousness, and disorders of those processes. Open and unanswered questions in cognitive neuroscience will be explored. This course will also help prepare students considering graduate and/or professional study in psychology, neuroscience, or biomedical fields for future studies. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013, 2263, one of either 2153 or 2193 (NB: Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience) and one of 3153, 3273, 3173 (NB: Memory and the Brain), or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2264: Applications of Behavioural and Cognitive-Behavioural Principles

This course deals with the application of behavioural and cognitive-behavioural principles to areas of self-management and client management. The focus will be on applications of behavioural and cognitive-behavioural techniques to improve the quality of life and to manage behaviour. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013, 2023, and 2213, or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2265: Psychological Science and the Legal Process

Psychological science impacts on most aspects of the legal process and psychologists are increasingly being asked to participate by providing knowledge to this system. This seminar course examines the application of psychological science to the justice system. Topics may include reliability of eyewitness testimony, repressed memories and the courts, children as eyewitnesses, psychological disorders and their effects on witness reliability. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013, 2023 and 2233, or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2266: Behavioural and Cognitive-Behavioural Psychology

A detailed examination of the assumptions, theory, and research in behavioural and cognitive-behavioural psychology. Prerequisite: PSYC 2013, 2023 and 2213, or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2267: Psychology and the Internet

This course examines the psychological interface between the individual and the Internet. This course may explore such issues as online relationship development and cybersex, self-presentation and impression formation, cyberbullying, Internet addiction, virtual reality and virtual societies, website design and effect, Big Data, health informatics, tele-health, and online technology in education. The emphasis will be on a broad understanding of how people understand, experience, and use the Internet while being affected by it. Pre-requisites: Psychology 2013, 2023, or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2268: Advanced Topics in Cognitive Psychology

Advanced exploration of theoretical and empirical work in one or more areas of cognitive psychology. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013, 2023 and 2263, or permission of the instructor.

#### PSYC 2269: Advanced Topics in Personality Psychology

Advanced exploration of theoretical and empirical work in one or more areas of personality psychology. Topics of discussion may include: personality across the lifespan, normal versus abnormal personality traits, biological approaches to the study of personality, prediction of stress, and the use of personality in the workplace. Prerequisite: PSYC 2313, or permission of the instructor.



The content of this course changes from year to year to reflect the special strengths of faculty and the particular needs of students. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013 and 2023, or permission of the instructor.

Attention will be given to familiarization with methods of assessment, theories of origin, and remedial programs for learning-disabled children. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013 and PSYC 2023, or permission of the instructor.

A course of independent study under supervision of the Psychology Department which affords the student the opportunity to pursue an in-depth study of an area of interest through special reading or research projects. Arrangements may be made by agreements with members of the staff and approval of the Chair. 6 or 3 credit hours, depending upon the project. Prerequisites: PSYC 2013 and 2023, or permission of the instructor.

The student will conduct an individual research project with guidance from the Department. Some classes will be held to acquaint Honours candidates with problems in research design. PSYC 2013, 2023, 3933, and 3943 are prerequisites. A minimum grade of B is required in each of these courses.

*NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.*

## University of New Brunswick Courses

Courses offered at the University of New Brunswick are also open to students at St. Thomas University when permission of both Departments has been given. Students are cautioned that such permission is only given if (a) the course offered at UNB is not offered in a given year at St. Thomas, or (b) the students' schedules cannot be reorganized to allow them to take the course offered at St. Thomas. Students should be aware that some UNB courses (e.g. 2203 Child Development) may cover topics in one 3 credit hour course that are covered in greater detail in two 3 credit hour courses at STU. Students should enroll in these UNB courses only if they will not be enrolled in any 2000, 3000, or 4000 level courses at STU on these topics.