• Woo-kyoung Ahn, DUS
• Senior mentors
  – Cathy Zhu
  – Kina Zhou
  – Laura Perdomo
  – Michael Berry
Senior Requirements

Majors are required to earn two course credits from courses numbered **PSYC 400–499**.

At least one of these course credits must be taken during the senior year, for which a student must write a substantial final paper (a minimum of 5,000 words) and receive a letter grade, which excludes PSYC 490-495 that can only be taken Pass/Fail.

### Course Descriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400-489</td>
<td>Senior Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>493</td>
<td>1 credit, independent research (P/F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>495</td>
<td>0.5 credit, independent research (P/F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>499</td>
<td>Senior Essay (&gt; 5,000 words), only for seniors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
493: Pass/Fail tutorial (1)
495: Pass/Fail tutorial (0.5)
499: senior essay

Taken any year

1. senior seminar
2. 493
3. 495, 495
4. senior seminar
5. 493
6. 495, 495
7.

Taken during Senior Year and Substantial Writing through this course

senior seminar
senior seminar
senior seminar
499
499
499
499, 499
BS vs. BA degree

- BS degree
  - Must conduct *empirical research* through Psyc 499
  - Strongly encouraged to complete stat and research methods requirements before the senior year
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<tr>
<td>493: Pass/Fail tutorial</td>
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**any year**

**Senior Year / Essay**

**BS degrees; options 4-7 only**

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<tr>
<td>4. senior seminar</td>
<td>499</td>
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<td>5. 493</td>
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<td>6. 495, 495</td>
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</table>
# BA Degree

(most choose 1-3)

## Senior Year / Essay

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<th>Senior Year / Essay</th>
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</table>

### Notes:

- 493: Pass/Fail tutorial (1)
- 495: Pass/Fail tutorial (0.5)
- 499: senior essay
## Neuroscience Track

### any year

1. senior seminar  
2. 493  
3. 495, 495  
4. senior seminar  
5. 493  
6. 495, 495  
7.  

### Senior Year / Essay

- senior seminar  
- senior seminar  
- senior seminar  
- 499  
- 499  
- 499  
- 499, 499  

All of these 400-level courses must have neuroscience content.
### Neuroscience Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any Year</th>
<th>Senior Year / Essay</th>
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All of these 400-level courses must have neuroscience content.
Distinction

• Same requirements except
• The senior essay must be submitted 1 week before the last day of class in the term you’re taking the course for senior essay
• The senior essay will be graded by the advisor and the second reader
• Must receive an A or A-
• If a senior essay is to be written in a senior seminar, you need the instructor’s permission beforehand.
pre-registering for senior seminars

• Early May this year
• Everybody who enters is guaranteed one senior seminar (either Fall or Spring)
• Read DUS email carefully, and make choices by the due date
How to choose your senior thesis topic

• Something you are interested in / enjoy
• Useful for your career
• Fits with your senior thesis advisor’s research interest / expertise
• Any other?
• What kinds of projects are typical for a senior thesis in psychology, or what are some examples of projects that students have done in the past?
• Read sample senior theses (Angier / Crowder awards)
  – Available online under senior requirements
How to find advisor for 493, 495, 499

• Through courses
• Research opportunities
• Faculty web page
• Ask current seniors
• Do your HW before contacting them
Subject: senior essay advisor

Hello Professors,

I still need to find a senior essay advisor. Will one of you just agree to be my advisor because I can't find anybody else and the form is due tomorrow.

Thanks,

[Name Redacted]
Hi Professor Santos,

Would you agree to be my senior essay advisor?

I am really interested in the evolutionary origins of the human mind by comparing the cognitive abilities of human and non-human primates. I have always wanted to work with non-human primates (in captivity and in the field) incorporating methodologies from cognitive development, animal learning psychology, and cognitive neuroscience.

Let me know if you have senior essay slots available.

Thanks!
**Laurie R. Santos**

Assistant Professor (Ph.D. 2003, Harvard University)

Lab Page, Personal Home Page

**Research Interests**

My research explores the evolutionary origins of the human mind by comparing the cognitive abilities of human and non-human primates. It provides an interface between evolutionary biology, developmental psychology and cognitive neuroscience. My experiments focus on non-human primates (in captivity and in the field) incorporating methodologies from cognitive development, animal learning psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. My research examines the following broad questions: what domains of knowledge are unique to the human mind? Given that human infants and non-human primates both lack language, what similarities and
Is it better to do the thesis during the fall or spring semester?
When your advisor is not a faculty member in Psych department

• Do not assume they know the requirements (e.g., 2\textsuperscript{nd} readers) or deadlines.

• Set the deadline for the first draft early on and make sure to receive comments.