

Drinking water and cups in the kitchen.

- Woo-kyoung Ahn, DUS
- Senior mentors
 - Luca Eros
 - Elizabeth Kitt
 - Makana Williams (NS track)
 - Annie Xu
- <http://psychology.yale.edu> → undergraduate
→ advising-information

400-489 : Senior Seminars
493 : 1 credit, independent research (P/F)
495 : 0.5 credit, independent research (P/F)
499 : Senior Essay (> 5,000 words), only for seniors

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.

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

Taking two 499's

- Must write a >5,000 word paper at the end of each 499.
- Each paper should have >5,000 words that are unique in content.
 - Paper 1 (introduction, methods), Paper 2 (results, discussion)
 - Paper 1 (introduction, methods), Paper 2 (introduction, methods, results, discussion)
 - Paper 1 (introduction, Experiment 1), Paper 2 (Experiment 2, general discussion)

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

493: Pass/Fail tutorial (1)
495: Pass/Fail tutorial (0.5)
499: senior essay

any year

**Senior Year /
Essay**

BS degrees; options 4-7 only

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------|
| 4. | senior seminar | 499 |
| 5. | 493 | 499 |
| 6. | 495, 495 | 499 |
| 7. | | 499, 499 |

493: Pass/Fail tutorial (1)
495: Pass/Fail tutorial (0.5)
499: senior essay

BA Degree

(most choose 1-3)

any year

Senior Year /
Essay

1. senior seminar

senior seminar

2. 493

senior seminar

3. 495, 495

senior seminar

4. senior seminar

499

5. 493

499

6. 495, 495

499

7.

499, 499

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

any year

Senior Year /
Essay

BS degrees; options 4-7 only

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------|
| 4. | senior seminar | 499 |
| 5. | 493 | 499 |
| 6. | 495, 495 | 499 |
| 7. | | 499, 499 |

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

- Will be open probably next week, and due before the spring break
- Everybody who enters is guaranteed one senior seminar (either Fall or Spring)
- Read DUS email carefully, and make choices by the due date
- Will be told about which seminar you are in during the spring break.

How to choose your senior thesis topic

- Something you are interested in / enjoy
- Useful for your career
- Read sample senior theses (Angier / Crowder awards)
 - Available online under senior requirements
- Fits with your senior thesis advisor's research interest / expertise

How to find advisor for 493, 495, 499

- Through courses
- Research opportunities
- Faculty web page
- Ask current seniors
- Do your HW before contacting them

Start early

- Contact lab the semester before you really want to start (e.g., if you want to start in the spring, contact at the end of the fall, in the fall, contact mid-summer). The Professor may respond that you need to check back in at the start of the semester, but at least you are on their radar and can setup a meeting as soon as the semester starts.
- Tutorial forms are due before your schedule is due.

The day before the tutorial form is due...

“I had 5 emails today (I am not making this up), asking if I could meet tomorrow between 2:15 and 2:30 (ok I made that up but it was close to the truth) to sign their forms.



As if I am just sitting here in my office with nothing to do waiting for them to show up.”

Do your HW before contacting them

- Make sure you are stating why you are interested in *that specific* lab when asking to be a part of the lab.

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[Redacted]

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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,

[Redacted]

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To: laurie.santos@yale.edu 

Subject: senior essay advisor?

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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!

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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

Other tips in searching for tutorial advisors

- When emailing a professor, make sure to call them by their correct name. When they email you back, respond.
- Understand that labs differ in what they will allow undergrad RAs to do. Some will insert you in a project, some will let you design and run your own project. Decide what is important to you and be upfront about that when applying.

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., 2nd readers) or deadlines.
- Set the deadline for the first draft early on and make sure to receive comments.