

Some Guidelines for SPR-2010 Preregistration

Preregistration for Spring 2010 is just around the corner! You should start setting up your course schedule now with planned alternatives so you will be ready to enroll when your window for registration opens and have a ready replacement if you find that your first choice is unavailable. Here are a few guidelines for psychology courses:

New Course

Psychology of Art (01:830:250) is a new course number that does not yet appear on Degree Navigator. However, it will count as a psychology elective.

Lab Courses

Under the current requirements, a lab course is required to declare the major. Under the old requirements a lab course is required to complete the major. Do not delay taking a lab course!!

First, let me point out that a couple of our lab courses are unrealistically popular. Although it might be preferable to take a lab in your area of strong interest, all of our labs have a common thread: They take you through a set of background literature, experimental design, data collection, data analysis, and formal write-up of the results. Graduate admissions committees either don't care which lab you have taken or perhaps even view more positively the fact that an applicant has some background in a different area of the discipline. The important thing for psychology majors is to complete a lab as early as possible. If you still desperately yearn for that favorite lab, there is no restriction against taking it as a *second* lab course later.

Here are some things you need to know about enrollment in lab courses:

All lab courses. All 1-credit lab courses require completion of the associated 3-credit lecture course. If you have already completed the lecture course or are taking it the current semester, you may register for the lab via the normal WebReg process. You may also take the lab concurrently with the lecture course, but an extra step is required because the WebReg computer will balk when you try it. If you wish to take the lab at the same time as the lecture course, register for the lecture course first so it is on your schedule, then send me the specifics about the lab section(s) that fits your schedule and I will ask the scheduling office to place you into the course. All of the labs have a strictly limited number of seats. There will be a few seats available via special permission and I will also maintain waiting lists. Send all inquiries to advisor@psych.rutgers.edu.

830:314 Physiological Psychology Lab. Students wishing to enroll in this lab must meet with Prof. West in person to discuss the lab and receive a special permission number. If you have already completed the lecture course, simply go ahead and enroll via WebReg. If you plan to take the course concurrently, you will need to email the SP# to advisor@psych.rutgers.edu along with the lab section information so I can have the scheduling office place you into the course.

830:341 Abnormal Psychology Lab. This lab course has a special prerequisite in that students must have completed the lecture course (830:340) with a grade of B+ or better. All registration for this lab is by special permission number to the following procedures: When your window for registration opens (I will not process early requests) send an email to advisor@psych.rutgers.edu indicating the section that you wish to enroll in (you may rank order the two sections if both fit your schedule). Make certain that you do not have a scheduling conflict with another course; this will take you out of the queue. If you meet all of the criteria and a seat is available, I will place you into the course. The seats will be filled as fairly as possible on a first-come first-served basis coupled with total credits completed. If a seat is not available, I will place you on a waiting list.

Core Courses

A few seats are reserved for very special circumstances (e.g., graduating seniors who need a specific course and have a scheduling conflict). Send requests for special permission to advisor@psych.rutgers.edu.

All Other Courses

For all other courses, enrollment is on a strictly first-come first-served basis. Because of budgetary constraints, we cannot offer as many sections as we would like, so we expect many of our courses to fill quickly. In most cases, when a course is filled, it is filled to capacity and there is nothing that the instructor can do. Please try to be as flexible as possible in your course selection. We will all need to exercise patience as we struggle through these difficult times.

Bonita Griffith and I, along with other staff members in our undergraduate offices, will do our best to help you resolve any registration problems. I will be scheduling extra walk-in advising hours and keeping a close watch on your emails to advisor@psych.rutgers.edu

Professor Hamilton
Director of Advising