

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3814S

Date of Senate Approval 1/23/14

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 26

Delete PSYC 313, Psychology and Law, and replace it with PSYC 343, a 4-hour Psychology Lab Course

Effective Date: Fall, 2014

1. Delete: On page 254, the entry for **PSYC 313:**

313 Psychology and Law (3)

An examination of the behavior of participants in the legal system through the use of psychological concepts, methods and research findings. Specific topics include forensic psychology, policing, insanity and competence, the psychology of the jury, evidence and eyewitness testimony, criminal behavior, the psychology of punishment and treatment, and the rights of special populations within the legal system. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 201. See department chair.

Add: On page 254, in place of deleted entry:

343 Psychology and Law (4)

An examination of the behavior of the participants in the legal system with an emphasis on psychological theory and research related to criminal law. Topics include the psychology of policing, evidence and eyewitness testimony, suspect identification, criminal behavior, forensic assessment, jury behavior, and punishment. Lab activities will vary by semester and opportunity, but in general the lab component will be designed to increase students' comprehension and application of course content. No credit given to students who have credit for PSYC 313. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 201. See department chair.

Impact: PSYC 343 will replace the deleted PSYC 366 (*Psychology of Close Relationships*) as a lab course option in our menu, requiring the simultaneous deletion of PSYC 313 (*Psychology and Law, 3-credit hours*). PSYC 343 will be taught by the same faculty member who teaches 313, and we do not anticipate difficulty staffing the new course. Because the instructor of record has an administrative reassignment, we would prefer to insert "see department chair" for course offering patterns at this time. Departmental resources will be allocated to the development of a new course preparation as needed.

The conversion of PSYC 313 to PSYC 343 requires the addition of a new 300-level, non-lab course, which we are also proposing. This new non-lab course will be taught by a new assistant professor, and no significant changes in staffing or resources are expected as a result, beyond the usual resources required for new course preparation.

Rationale: As a result of a curriculum revision that ended in 2009, the Psychology Department increased the number of required four-credit hour, lab courses for majors (from one to two lab courses), prompting a need for the faculty to develop additional lab courses for our students. We have been operating with a menu of six lab courses thus far, but trends in enrollment data for lab courses suggests we need to add one additional lab over time, and replace any lab courses deleted from the already-existing menu. Because PSYC 366 is being deleted, it must be replaced by another lab course.

Similarly, PSYC 313 will be replaced by another 300-level course in our non-lab options. We currently have a menu of ten 300-level, non-lab courses in the major, which are filled to capacity every semester. We anticipate the addition of 1-2 new non-lab courses in the near future, reflecting the expertise and interests of our new assistant professor and a hire expected by the fall of 2014.