

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 2215S  
Date of Senate Approval 01/22/15

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 15 (PSYC):                   Add PSYC 355, new Lab Course in Psychology;  
Add PSYC 355 as a Psyc laboratory option to the Psychology  
major and minor**

**Effective Date: Fall, 2015**

**1. Add:    On page 256, new course, PSYC 355:**

**355    Psychology of Family Violence (4)**

Examines theoretical explanations for the presence of violence in American families. Critical emphases include research on the prevention and intervention of child abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault, and an examination of how culture and gender impact family violence. Laboratory activities will vary by semester and will be designed to increase students' comprehension and application of course content. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 201. See department chair.

**2. Delete:** On page 252, item I under Major in Psychology:

- I. Required courses in the major—36 hours, including: PSYC 100, 201, 202, 412; three courses from PSYC 200, 208, 214, 216, 290; two courses from the following 4-hour lab courses: 329, 334, 342, 343, 347, 362; 6 additional hours of non-laboratory courses at the 300-400 level.

**Add:** On page 252, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major—36 hours, including: PSYC 100, 201, 202, 412; three courses from PSYC 200, 208, 214, 216, 290; two courses from the following 4-credit lab courses: 329, 334, 342, 343, 347, 355, 362; 6 additional hours of non-laboratory courses at the 300-400 level.

**3. Delete:** On page 252, item III under Minor in Psychology:

- III. one course from PSYC 329, 334, 342, 343, 347 or 362 for the 4-credit laboratory course requirement;

**Add:** On page 252, in place of deleted entry:

- III. one course from PSYC 329, 334, 342, 343, 347, 355 or 362 for the 4-credit laboratory course requirement;

**Impact:** This new Psyc lab course will be taught primarily by Dr. Heather Ulrich, our first-year assistant, and it represents one of her areas of expertise. She has been teaching it as a Special Topics course for the past three semesters, and it has been well-received by students as a welcome addition to our lab course menu, which continues to be too restrictive for our students' preferences.

Barring staffing changes or complications, we expect this course will be taught at least once per year and not more than twice. This will consume up to one-fourth of Dr. Ulrich's teaching load as we had expected. No changes in staffing or requests for resources will be necessary to add this course to the Catalog.

**Rationale:** In 2011-12 the Psychology Department began requiring PSYC majors to complete two 4-credit hour lab courses in PSYC, compared to one previously. Our objective was to reinforce students' understanding of and appreciation for psychology as a lab science and to provide additional class time for teaching critical thinking and writing skills more deliberately.

This change in major requirements prompted a need for the department to develop 4-6 new lab courses to replace labs lost when faculty retired. Last year APC approved the conversion of two non-lab courses into lab courses, and we added 1 non-lab, 300-level elective. Consequently we have a total of 6 labs and 10 non-lab courses in the AY14-15 Catalog, and most are filled to capacity whenever offered.

Our pattern of offering lab courses has been too haphazard and restrictive in topics to meet the expressed interests of our students, and it has been difficult to offer double sections of a lab course unless it is highly popular. We need to add at least one more lab course to our curriculum to meet demand for enrollment and provide some semblance of choice for students. The course being proposed is timely in content, has a proven record of high interest for students, and is consistent with a mainstream undergraduate curriculum in psychology in the United States.