

Dr. Bala is a lynchpin in the Psychology department's undergraduate teaching. Her merit evaluations for teaching are among the very highest in the Psychology department.

Her high quality teaching has been shared with many Psychology majors: Given the courses she covers, including Psy 201, Mind and Brain, an introductory course taken by hundreds of students; and Psychology major stalwarts (Psy 305/Cognition; Psy 433/Learning and Memory; Psy 450/Hormones and Behavior); and along with the *number* of courses she teaches in a year, most Psychology undergrads have been included among her students. She is known for her high standards (Dr. Bala holds a strict line on grad inflation), and also her clarity and fairness (students know what is expected of them).

Dr. Bala is a "teacher's teacher" – unlike many faculty who are happy to comfortably settle into teaching the same small repertoire year after year, Dr. Bala seeks out changes in her course line-up, so that her courses are fresh and up to date.

She continually seeks out professional development opportunities to further hone her teaching skills, for example via TEP and the UO's Teaching Academy. She's led the way in the Psychology department by trying new techniques such as flipped classrooms.

Dr. Bala always seeks and models the best practices. As the coordinator for our summer curriculum (which is largely taught by GEs), she has provided guidance and structured the offerings in a way that makes Psychology graduate students better teachers.

Two other aspects of Dr. Bala's teaching record stand out for inclusivity:

1) Dr. Bala has been the leader in Psychology's creation of online courses and developed online versions of both Psy 201/Mind and Brain and Psy 305/Cognition. These courses have attracted successful enrollments and inclusively expand the range of students who can take Psychology by providing flexible opportunities that do not require physically attending classes on campus.

2) In addition to her teaching, Dr. Bala took over leadership of the Psychology department's Peer Advising program in 2014, creating separate programs for statistics and writing tutors in 2017. The Peer Advising program under her leadership has been effective and successful. After noting that the peer advisors lacked diversity, Dr. Bala systematically restructured recruitment procedures to attract and support a more diverse pool of students seeking to be peer advisors. Furthermore, through her own advising of students – renowned across campus! – and via guidance of the student peer advisors, she has proactively steered a broad range of students toward Psychology's unique learning opportunities (e.g., peer tutoring and lab leading programs, research assistant positions, and internships), particularly including students from backgrounds that may have made them initially less familiar with such offerings.