

Course Code & No. - Section: PSY 450 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Capstone Course in Psychology (3)
Term & Year: Fall / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 80259

Instructor: Dan Aalbers
Email: daalbers@sierranevada.edu
Office: Second floor cubicle in TCES or in the cafeteria or in the garden when the weather is nice
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 or by appointment

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Location: TCES 215 GCLAS and the Garden

Prerequisites (from Catalog): Psyc 101. Psyc 291
Corequisites (from Catalog): None

Course Description: Course appropriate for psychology majors, interdisciplinary majors with a concentration in psychology, and psychology minors. Required for the concentration in Psychology, this course provides a review and reexamination of the Psychology curriculum. It is tailored to the students' strengths and weaknesses and prepares students for assessment of their knowledge and understanding in the field.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will:

1. Have gained a critical understanding of the major paradigms of psychology.
2. Register, prepare, and successfully pass the MFT in psychology
3. Analyze and document peer reviewed articles related to the field of psychology
4. Be able to prepare a professional presentation.
5. Be able to articulate and critically evaluate the epistemological assumptions that undergird the clashing paradigms of the discipline of psychology.
6. Take great pleasure in completing the last course in their undergraduate career.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes:

14 Study group reports worth 15 percent of your grade
2 Presentations worth 20 percent of your grade
1 Major paper worth 15 percent of your grade
A number of quizzes worth 50 percent of your grade. The exact number will be determined by the number of the students in the class.
You must pass the MFT

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, discussions, presentations, peer-assisted learning, directed group study, demonstrations and videos. This is capstone, we are doing it all.

Required Texts and Materials:

Slife and Williams (1995). *What's Behind the Research*.

One self-selected GRE prep book

Your undergraduate texts. Yes, all of them.

The website: psychclassics.yorku.ca

Attendance

You are adults. The decision to come to class or not is yours. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out **from your classmates** about any announcements, new material, demonstrations, discussions, or in-class assignments. Please note that the majority of the test material will be derived from lecture and discussions and it will not be possible to read the book and take the test. If you do not come to class you will not succeed.

Except in exceptional circumstances -- such as losing an arm in a snowboarding accident -- you are required to attend all exams and to show up for your presentation. Please see the section 'exceptional circumstances' at the end of this syllabus. The consequences that follow from not showing up for your presentation are dire indeed. Dire.

(Not that you would do that.)

Class Requirements

In warm weather we may meet outside. Please come to each class with appropriate clothing, sunscreen and anything else you might need to be comfortable in the forest.

You must spend at least 2 hours a week in group study. You must read. Often. And with great enthusiasm. You must also take a great many quizzes in preparation for the MFT. In this instance, enthusiasm is optional but highly recommended.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the

current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/ Activities	Other
	Introduction, Class Organization		Form book club	
8/18	Historical and Epistemology	Slife Chapt 1		
8/20	History and epistemology			
8/25	History and epistemology	Slife Chapt 2		
8/27	History		Hand in Study Group Reports	
9/1	Neuroscience 1	Slife Chapt 3		
9/3	Neuroscience 2		Hand in Study Group Reports	
9/8	MFT Test			
9/10	Class Reorganization		Hand in Study Group Reports. Hand in self-assessments	
9/15	Sensation perception --			
9/17	Psychometrics --	Slife Chapter 4	Hand in Study Group Reports	
9/22	Personality 1 --			
9/24	Personality 2--	Slife Chapter 5	Hand in Study Group Reports	
9/29	Abnormal			
10/1	Comparative psychology -	Slife Chapter 6	Hand in Study Group Reports	
10/6	Humanistic Psychology -			
10/8	Evolutionary Psychology	Slife Chapter 7	Hand in Study Group Reports	
10/13	Evolutionary Psychology			

10/15	Developmental Psychology 1	Readings	Hand in Study Group Reports	Midterm grades filed with registrar
10/21	Developmental Psychology 2			
10/23	TBD	Readings	Hand in Study Group Reports	
10/28	TBD			
10/30	TBD	Readings	Hand in Study Group Reports / Rough Draft Due	
11/4	TBD			
11/6	MFT 2	Readings	Hand in Study Group Reports	
11/11	Class Reorganization		Hand in self-assessments	
11/13	TBD		Hand in Study Group Reports	
11/17	TBD			
11/19	TBD	Readings	Hand in Study Group Reports	
12/1	TBD			
12/3		Readings	Hand in Study Group Reports	
12/5 –	MFT Exam			
	Final Paper Due			

This is not a final or complete document. The policies, dates, and assignments are subject to change.

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Sustainability

Exceptional circumstances:

1. If you cannot come to the exam or your presentation for any reason, you must call or send me an email within 48 hours of the missed deadline. Please include your name, the course name, a telephone number and time at which you can be reached. If you are unable to call or email during this 48-hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

2. A make-up opportunity will be provided at the end of the term. Missed make-ups must be supported by appropriate documentation (see point 3 below).

3. Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed deadline must be provided at the time of the make-up exam. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed assignment.

____ A. Deadlines missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counselor. The attending Physician's Statement must include (i) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the physician, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e. specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected your ability to study and perform over the period in question.

____ B. Deadlines missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc.

4. The make-up opportunity may take a different form than that of the original exam.

5. I'm sorry to hear about your arm.