



# Capstone Research in Psychology

Instructor:  
John Pugliese, Ph.D.

PSY 4910 — Section 01 — CRN 44524

Fall 2013

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (435) 879-4634  
**e-mail:** pugliese@dixie.edu

**Office:** 211 McDonald

**Office Hours:**  
MWF — 1 pm to 3 pm,  
TR — 1 pm to 3 pm,  
or by appointment

## Required Textbook

*The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2009). 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

## Important Dates

Classwork Starts	20 Aug
Last Day to add without a signature	23 Aug
Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)	28 Aug
\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee	3 Sep
Last day for a refund, Pell Grant census, Last day to drop without receiving a "W" grade	9 Sep
Courses dropped for nonpayment	10 Sep
Last day to Add/Audit	13 Sep
Graduation application deadline for Fall 2013	1 Oct
Last day to DROP classes	14 Oct
Graduation application deadline for Spring 2012	1 Nov
Last day for complete withdrawal	8 Nov
Classwork ends	6 Dec
Final Exam (12:30pm to 2:30pm)	9 Dec

## Course Description

Fulfills Psychology Capstone requirement. Requires consolidation of information, skills and knowledge learned throughout students' undergraduate studies, particularly in the Psychology core and research areas, to conduct independent research to further develop their understanding of Psychology as a science.



**Lecture:** Monday—Wednesday—Friday @ 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM

**Prerequisites:** Psychology major; senior standing.

**Course Fees:** None

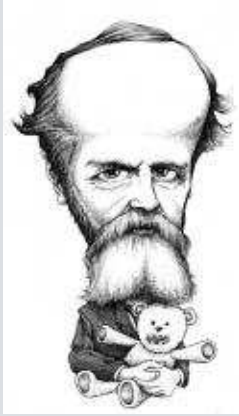
## Succeeding in this Course

This course will operate on the philosophy that active engagement with material fosters quality learning. There will be ample opportunity for in-class discussion with the entire class. Students are expected to read as-assigned articles prior to class and be prepared to participate in class to maximize the learning experience. Throughout your involvement in the course you should be utilizing what you have learned about specific issues in your psychology courses to contribute to discussion on assigned articles and

discussions of manuscripts. The provided course calendar indicates when topics will be covered; however, please allow for some flexibility in the schedule. Course announcements may be posted on Canvas.

**Attendance.** There is no attendance policy for this course, other than for administrative purposes. However, absences may result in lost learning opportunities which may impact your final grade.

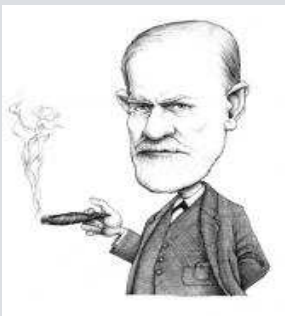




William James

"Education survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten."

- B.F. Skinner



Sigmund Freud

## Social Science Program Objectives

As an outcome of taking courses in the Social Science program, students shall:

1. Demonstrate the ability to examine human behaviors in a structured and organized way as a means of understanding the human condition. Measured by examination and/or oral and written reports.
2. Demonstrate the ability to recognize the ideas, people and events that are generally thought to be important by social scientists. Measured by examination and/or oral or written reports.
3. Develop a perceptual frame of reference based on social scientific knowledge. Measured by the presence of an attitudinal frame of reference which would be expressed in written or oral activities.
4. Exhibit concepts of critical thinking and scientific methodology in examining human behavior. Measured by the presence of an attitudinal frame of reference which would be displayed in written or oral activities.

## Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is for students to demonstrate and integrate their knowledge and skills in psychology. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the major theories, concepts, empirical findings and history of psychology.
2. Demonstrate understanding of basic research methods in psychology and be able to apply and evaluate those methods.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in using the scientific approach to solve problems in psychology.
4. Demonstrate an ability to apply psychological principles to behavior and mental processes.
5. Demonstrate an ability to utilize their knowledge and skills in psychology in a variety of professional settings.
6. Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in written and oral presentations in accord with APA style.

## Academic Integrity

Dixie State University is committed to the highest standard of academic integrity. Dishonest conduct is unacceptable. Students must take all exams independently (without the help of others, except for appropriate disability services). No notes or

books are to be used when taking exams. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and/or plagiarism, may result in immediate dismissal from the course and a failing grade.



2003 Dave Coverly

## Classroom Conduct

As a university college student you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and mature fashion. Please exhibit respect for your fellow classmates and myself, by turning off cell-phones and arriving on-time. A student who infringes on the rights of others or who in any way disturbs the orderly conduct of academic functions may be subject to probation, suspension, or dismissal. Physical or verbal abuse of any

person, theft of or damage of University property, unauthorized entry to University facilities, disruption of teaching or administration, misuse of University documents, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University is grounds for such disciplinary action.

For further information regarding student responsibilities related to academic integrity and student conduct, please refer to the following DSU policies, which can be viewed at

<http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html>

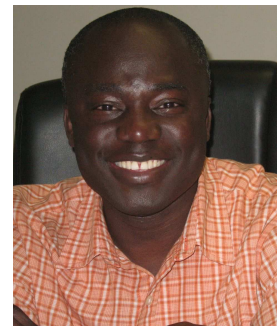
<http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

**“Please exhibit respect for your fellow classmates and myself, by turning off cell-phones and arriving on-time.”**

## Students with Disabilities

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to

receive services or accommodations. DRC is located in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.



Baako Wahabu



"While you are experimenting, do not remain content with the surface of things."

-Ivan Pavlov



## Paper

There will be one 25 page paper worth 250 points. There are five paper options:

- 1) Independent Research paper (up to 4 authors);
- 2) Literature review (up to 2 authors)
- 3) Applied project paper (up to 2 authors)
- 4) Psychobiography

## Paper Presentation

All papers will be presented in class (see syllabus) and during an end-of-semester psychology conference and poster session. Each presentation is worth 50 points for a total of 100 presentation points.

**Final Presentation:** Friday December 9, 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

## Article Presentation and Discussion

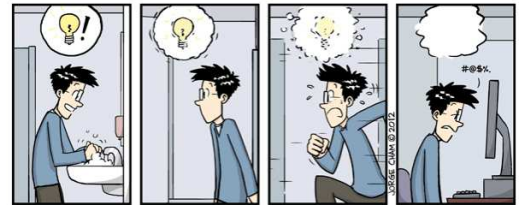
Each student will select an article in consultation with the professor to present during a class meeting. As the presenter, you will be required to facilitate discussion of the article. As a discussant, you will be required to contribute to the discussion in a meaningful way. The goals of the discussion are for students to:

1. demonstrate what they have learned in psychology;
2. use critical thinking skills to critique the information;
3. demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge to real-world situations; and
4. integrate the information within the broader context of psychology.

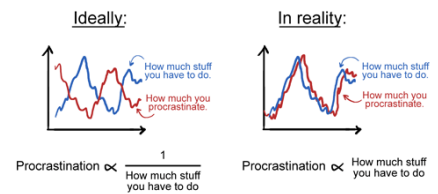
**The article presentation will be worth 50 points.**

# Projected Course Calendar

8/19	Introduction; Format of course;
8/21	Discuss project options/Article Presentations
8/23 –8/28	TBA
<b>8/30</b>	<b>Project Consultation; Written paper topic due</b>
9/2	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>
9/4-9/27	TBA
<b>9/30</b>	<b>Project consultation; References due</b>
10/2-10/9	TBA
10/11	<i>Semester Break</i>
<b>10/14</b>	<b>Project consultation; Paper outline due (see description on page 7)</b>
10/16-11/1	TBA
<b>11/4</b>	<b>Paper due—Peer review</b>
11/6-11/13	Project consultation
<b>11/15</b>	<b>Paper due</b>
11/18	Project consultation
<b>11/20-11/22</b>	<b>Presentations; Final paper due</b>
11/25	Project presentation session
11/27-11/29	<i>Holidays</i>
12/2	Project presentation session
12/4	Project presentation session
12/6	Final Presentations
12/9	Final Presentations—12:30pm to 2:30pm

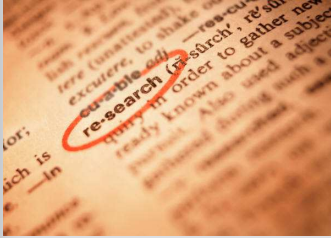


## Procrastination

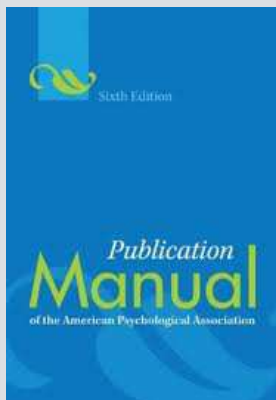


JOSIE CHAM © 2012

JOSIE CHAM © 2010



**"All papers must follow the guidelines as set forth in the APA Publication Manual. Papers must include a cover page, abstract and references."**



## Paper Options

### Option 1: Independent Research Project

Up to four students may collaborate in designing and conducting scholarly research. Each student will be required to contribute at least one research question to the study, and each student will be the first author on their individual paper. The paper will follow the guidelines for empirical research in the APA Manual, and should include a minimum of 15 scholarly citations.

### Option 2: Literature Review

Up to two students may conduct a literature review on an identified topic. The goal of the review is to critically evaluate the research. Your paper should follow APA guidelines for a Review article. This paper should include at least 20 scholarly citations. A literature review will be 25 pages per person.

### Option 3: Applied Project

For this option, up to two students will identify an application for the knowledge gained in your psychology courses. You may write a grant for a real or hypothetical project, or develop materials to use in a real or hypothetical setting. Your paper will consist of a literature review and the text portion of the grant, or the protocol or manual for your project. Your paper should contain a minimum of 15 citations from scholarly journals or books. Applied projects will be 25 pages per person.

### Option 4: Psychobiography

For this option, you will identify a person of interest and use psychological theories and research to analyze an aspect of their life and/or work. Your paper should include at least 15 citations from scholarly journals or books.

## Paper Requirements

All papers must follow the guidelines as set forth in the APA Publication Manual. Papers must include a cover page, abstract and references. The text of the paper should be no less than 20 pages, double-spaced using 12 point Times New Roman font. The paper length is exclusive of appendices or other attachments.

### The grade for your paper has 5 parts:

**Paper topic** (15 points; DUE SEPTEMBER)—written statement of your chosen topic with a brief explanation of your approach.

**References** (35 points; DUE OCTOBER)—an initial list of your references with a short description of the purpose of each resource in your own words.

**Paper outline** (50 points; DUE OCTOBER) —a complete outline of your paper incorporating your resources.

**First draft** (50 points; DUE NOVEMBER)—a complete draft of your paper for peer review.

**Final paper** (100 points; DUE NOVEMBER)

## Grading

There are 400 points possible including 250 points for the paper, 100 points for the paper presentations, and 50 points for an article presentation and discussion facilitation.

	<u>Grade Points</u>
A	372—400
A-	360—371
B+	348—359
B	332—347
B-	320—331
C+	308—319
C	292—307
C-	280—291
D+	268—279
D	252—267
D-	240—251
F	239 or less

**Policies for Absences Due to College Related Functions.** For students, such as student athletes, who travel as official representatives of the college, absences due to college functions will not negatively affect the student's grade. The student is required to provide the instructor with a schedule of days that will be missed and will be required to negotiate any scheduled work ahead of time with the instructor.

### Social & Behavioral Sciences Department

McDonald Building  
225 South 700 East  
St. George Utah 84790

If you need to contact us  
please call  
(435) 879-4221  
or fax us at  
(435) 656-4032.



### Campus Resources

Disability Resource Center - [dixie.edu/drcenter](http://dixie.edu/drcenter)  
IT Student Help Desk - [dixie.edu/helpdesk](http://dixie.edu/helpdesk)  
Library - [library.dixie.edu](http://library.dixie.edu)  
Testing Center - [dixie.edu/testing](http://dixie.edu/testing)  
Tutoring Center - [dixie.edu/tutoring](http://dixie.edu/tutoring)  
Writing Center - [dixie.edu/english/dsc\\_writing\\_center.php](http://dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php)

### Dmail

You are required to frequently check your Dmail account. Important class and university information will be sent to your Dmail account, including DSU bills, financial aid/scholarship notices, notices of cancelled classes, reminders of important dates and deadlines, and other information critical to your success at DSU and in your courses. To access your Dmail account, visit [go.dixie.edu/dmail](http://go.dixie.edu/dmail). If you do not know your Dmail username or you have forgotten your PIN, visit [go.dixie.edu/mydixie](http://go.dixie.edu/mydixie) and follow the respective instructions.