

# **Capstone Research in Psychology**

**PSY4910**

**Spring 2013**

**Dr. Patrick Stark (you can call me Patrick)**

**Lecture meets T, Th, 1:00-2:15pm McDonald 104**

**Office: McDonald 211**

**Phone: 879-4634**

**Office hours: M,W, 11:00 or by appointment**

**Email: pstark@dixie.edu**

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## **Social Science Course 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 as measured by the presence of an attitudinal frame of reference which would be displayed in written or oral activities.

## **General Outline of the Course**

### **Course Summary**

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.

### **Course Expectations**

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 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.

## **Student Responsibilities**

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is strongly recommended and more or less expected. This can be a pretty tough course and skipping class is not going to make it any easier. Besides, if you skip class you can't participate and participating is half the fun of the course.

**Office Hours:** I encourage you to come and see me during office hours if you have any questions at all about the material or your project. I'm also available if you have any questions about or want to discuss psychology, neuroscience, the meaning of life, how to get into graduate school or anything else of an academic nature, or climbing. I'm always available to talk about climbing.

## **Course Objectives and Outcomes**

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:

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

## **Assignments**

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### **Paper Project**

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

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Option 4: Internship and paper**

For this option, you will identify an internship site and volunteer a minimum of 25 hours throughout the course. In addition, you will write a paper applying four concepts in psychology to your experience. Your paper should include at least 15 citations from scholarly journals or books.

### **Option 5: 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. Please refer to the Class Schedule below for deadlines for each part.

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

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

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

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

**Final paper** (100 points)

## 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.

## Article Presentation and Discussion

Each student will select an article from the [Classics in the History of Psychology](#) website to present during a class meeting. We will hold a lottery the second day of class to choose articles and presentation dates. If you miss class that day the professor will choose an article and presentation date for you.

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:

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

The article presentation will be worth 50 points.

## Grades

There are 450 points possible: 250 points for the paper, 100 points for the paper presentation, and 50 points for an article presentation.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>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

## Academic Dishonesty and Conduct Statement

As stated in the DSC Student Handbook; “Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated at Dixie State College (Academic Discipline Policy, 3.34)” including cheating, and plagiarism. These acts of academic dishonesty are strictly prohibited. The instructor has the right to all means of academic discipline outlined in the Academic Discipline Policy: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>

## Accommodations

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone (435) 652-7516.

## Tentative Course Schedule

**Note:** This schedule is very tentative and designed only to give you a rough idea of where we will be throughout the semester.

Date		Topic	Due
Jan	8	Course Introduction	
	10	Project Consultation	
	15	Project Consultation	<b>Paper Topic</b>
	17	Project Consultation	
	22	Project Consultation	
	24		
	29		
	31		
Feb	5		
	7		
	12		
	14		<b>Paper References</b>
	19		
	21		
	26		
	28		
March	5		
	7		<b>Paper Outline</b>
	12	<b>Spring Break</b>	
	14	<b>Spring Break</b>	
	19		
	21		
	26		<b>Paper Draft</b>
	28		
April	2		
	4		
	9	Project Presentations	
	11	Project Presentations	
	16	Project Presentations	<b>Final Paper</b>
	18	Project presentations	
	23	Final Presentations	