

PSY 4910-031: CAPSTONE RESEARCH IN PSYCHOLOGY
MWF 10:00-10:50 in MCD 106
CRN: 27621
SPRING 2015

Professor Contact Information:

NAME: John T. Jones II, Ph.D.
OFFICE: McDonald 220
E-MAIL: Message me through Canvas
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 – 10:00 Monday and Wednesday; 12:00 – 1:30 Tuesday and Thursday

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

I. 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. Prerequisites: Psychology major; senior standing. Course Fees: \$25.00

II. Learning Objectives

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

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

III. 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 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.

IV. Class Policies

A. **College approved absences.** University policy explains in detail what needs to happen if you anticipate being absent from class because of a college-sponsored activity (athletic events, club activities, field trips for other classes, etc. Please read this information and follow the instructions carefully! The policy can be found at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>

B. **Turn off all electronic equipment** before entering the classroom (laptops may be used to take notes only). After the first week of class, if I see you using unauthorized electronic devices of any kind at any time in the classroom (or using a laptop for anything other than taking notes), I will deduct 5% of your total course points for each offense.

C. **Arrive on time.**

D. **Avoid leaving early.** Not only is this distracting to your fellow students, it's distracting to me. I do understand that occasionally people must miss part of a class. **If you intend to do so, please let me know and then sit near the door if possible**, so you can slip out without distracting everyone.

E. **If you have questions, please ask.** You may try to see me after class, but don't get frustrated if there is not time. Best: come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment with me. You are my priority at DSC. We can find a time that works for both of us.

F. **Attendance:** I won't take attendance but attending class is critical to successful learning.

G. **Academic Integrity Policy** is covered in a separate section of this syllabus.

V. Earning Points in the Course

A. **PAPER:** You will complete one 25 page paper. There are three 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: 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. Appendices or other attachments do not count toward the page count of the paper.

The grade for your paper has 5 parts:

Paper Topic (10 points; DUE JANUARY 23rd) - Written statement of your chosen topic with a brief explanation of your approach.

Outline of Main Points (20 points; DUE FEBRUARY 2nd) Full sentence outline of the main points of your paper. For Independent Research papers, the Methods section will include a brief explanation of your approach.

Full Sentence Outline & References (20 points; DUE MARCH 2nd)—Complete full-sentence outline that includes references that support each point. List of your references in APA style is also required.

Draft Paper (50 points; DUE MARCH 30th)—a complete draft of your paper for my review and for peer review.

Final paper (100 points; APRIL 17th)

B. PAPER PRESENTATION: You will present your paper twice.

1. The first presentation will occur in class. This presentation of your paper should be supported by power-point or similar presentation software (50 pts.).
2. In addition, each student will present at an end of semester Capstone psychology conference and poster session. This presentation will be accompanied by a poster that summarizes your paper (50 pts.).

a. Conference and Poster session date: TBD

C. Psychology Senior Challenge. Each student must complete a comprehensive exam (dates are TBD) as a means of self-assessing their learning throughout the program. The exam will be given in the Testing Center and is approximately two hours in length. **Your performance on this exam will not affect your grade in this course in any way.**

D. SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE POINTS:

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|--------------------|-----|
| PAPER | 200 |
| ORAL PRESENTATIONS | 100 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 300 |

VI. Grading Scale

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Percent</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| A | 94% - 100% | C | 74% - 76% |
| A- | 90% - 93% | C- | 70% - 73% |
| B+ | 87% - 89% | D+ | 67% - 69% |
| B | 84% - 86% | D | 64% - 66% |
| B- | 80% - 83% | D- | 60% - 63% |
| C+ | 77% - 79% | F | 59% AND BELOW |

You can convert the points you have earned into a percentage by using the following formula.

$$\text{Points you earned} \div \text{Points possible} = \text{your percentage}$$

VII. Projected Course Calendar

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|---------|--|
| 1/12-16 | Introduction; Discuss Course Format and Project Options |
| 1/14-16 | Project Consultation |
| 1/23 | Written Paper Topic Due |
| 1/26 | Discuss Full- Sentence Outlines |
| 2/2 | Outline of Main Points Due |
| 2/4-12 | Project Consultation |
| 2/16 | <u>Independent Research Project</u> : IRB Forms Due for Review |
| 2/18-27 | Project Consultation |
| 3/2 | Full-Sentence Outline & Reference Section Due |
| TBD | Psychology Senior Challenge |
| 3/16-27 | Project Consultation |
| 3/30 | Draft Paper Due |
| 4/1 | Peer Review Due |
| 4/17 | Final Papers Due; In-Class Presentations Begin |
| 4/20-29 | In-Class Presentations |
| TBD | Final Poster Presentations |

VIII. Other Important Dates and Deadlines

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|--------|--|
| Jan 12 | Classwork Starts |
| Jan 15 | Last Day for Waitlist |
| Jan 16 | Last Day to Add Without Signature |
| Jan 19 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| Jan 22 | Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class) |
| Jan 27 | \$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee |
| Feb 2 | Spring 2015 Associate's degree Graduation Application Deadline |
| Feb 2 | Pell Grant Census |
| Feb 2 | Last Day for Refund |
| Feb 2 | Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade |
| Feb 4 | Courses dropped for non-payment |
| Feb 6 | Last Day to Add/Audit |
| Feb 16 | President's Day |
| Mar 2 | Summer 2015 Bachelor's degree Graduation Application Deadline |
| Mar 2 | Mid-Term Grades Due |
| Mar 6 | Last Day to Drop Individual Class |

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| Mar 9-13 | Spring Break |
| Mar 23 | Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits) |
| Mar 24 | Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits) |
| Mar 25 | Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits) |
| Mar 26 | Summer Registration open to all students |
| Apr 1 | Fall 2015 Bachelor's degree Graduation Application Deadline |
| Apr 10 | Last Day for Complete Withdrawal |
| Apr 13 | Fall Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits) |
| Apr 14 | Fall Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits) |
| Apr 15 | Fall Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits) |
| Apr 29 | Classwork Ends |
| Apr 30 | Reading Day |
| May 1 | Final Exams |
| May 4-7 | Final Exams |
| May 8 | Commencement |

IX: ADMINISTRIVIA

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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.

OTHER IMPORTANT CAMPUS RESOURCES

Disability Resource Center - <http://dixie.edu/drcenter/>

IT Student Help Desk - <http://dixie.edu/helpdesk/>

Library - <http://library.dixie.edu/>

Testing Center - <http://dixie.edu/testing/>

Tutoring Center - <http://dixie.edu/tutoring/>

Writing Center - <http://dixiewritingcenter.com/>

STATEMENT ABOUT DMAIL:

While communication for this class will always be through Canvas, you are required to frequently check your Dmail account. Important college 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. If you do not know your Dmail username or you have forgotten your PIN, visit go.dixie.edu/mydixie and follow the respective instructions.

X. Standards of Academic Conduct

I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. However, in order to ensure that the highest standards of academic conduct are promoted and supported at the University, students must adhere to generally accepted standards. Definitions for some types of academic misconduct follow:

Cheating: Includes but is not limited to the use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; failing to observe the expressed procedures or instructions of an academic exercise; substituting for or impersonating someone else during a test or exam or other fraud; or receiving the content of a test or exam before it is administered.

Plagiarism: Includes but is not limited to the use of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including, but not limited to, representing, either with the intent to deceive or by the omission of the true source, part of or an entire work produced by someone other than the student, obtained by purchase or otherwise, as the student's original work or representing the identifiable but altered ideas, data, or writing of another person as if those ideas, data, or writing were the student's original work.

Inappropriate collaboration or collusion: Includes but is not limited to unauthorized or inappropriate collaboration between students or between a student and any other person when individual work is required.

Multiple Submissions: Includes but is not limited to the resubmission by a student of any work which has been previously submitted for credit in identical or similar form in one course to fulfill the requirements of a second course, without the informed permission/consent of the instructor of the second course; or the submission by a student of any work submitted for credit in identical or similar form in one course to fulfill the requirements of a concurrent course, without the permission/consent of the instructors of both courses.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: Includes but is not limited to knowingly helping another student commit an act of academic misconduct or failing to report another student for academic misconduct.

Coercion Regarding Grading or Evaluation of Coursework: Includes but is not limited to issuing threats or offering favors or bribes toward an instructor to coerce the instructor to change a grade or otherwise evaluate the student's work by criteria not directly reflective of coursework.

Academic dishonesty as defined in policy may be punishable by one or more of the following: a) Receiving a failing grade on the specific assignment where dishonesty was observed; b) Receiving a failing grade in the course; c) Immediate dismissal from this course; and d) Referral to the Academic Affairs Committee which may take actions such as reprimands, placing on probation, suspension, or removal from the University.

In order to complete this course you must sign the SBS Dept. Academic Integrity Policy in Canvas.