STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Description

Course Description: This course orients and prepares students for entry into advanced level study of psychology. It provides an overview of the field and guides students in the development, honing and application of critical thinking, research and writing skills necessary for successful completion of the Master of Arts in Psychology graduate degree. This course must be taken during the student’s first term.

Course Scope:

This course orients students to the University, their graduate program, the University learning system, essential resources such as the APUS Online Library, and the general field of psychology. It is designed to support academic progress and preparation for successful completion of the graduate program.

Objectives

Graduate learners successfully completing this course will:

1. Analyze key issues in the larger field of psychology.
2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool
3. Examine career opportunities in psychology
4. Assess methods of developing and pursuing threads of investigative inquiry related to the discipline of psychology
5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research
6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Outline

Week 1:

Course Learning Objectives

1. Analyze key issues in the larger field of psychology.
2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and
4. Assess effective methods of developing and pursuing threads of investigative inquiry related to the discipline of psychology

5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research

6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

Week 1 Forum

**Week 2:**

Course Learning Objectives

1. Analyze issues in the larger field of psychology.

2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool

3. Examine career opportunities in psychology

5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research

6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

PEER-REVIEW ARTICLE SUMMARY

Week 2 Forum

**Week 3:**

Course Learning Objectives

1. Analyze key issues in the larger field of psychology.

2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool

3. Examine career opportunities in psychology

4. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research

5. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

WHAT PSYCHOLOGISTS DO Paper 1

Week 3 Forum

**Week 4:**

Course Learning Objectives
2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool

5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research

6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Week 5:

Course Learning Objectives

1. Analyze key issues in the larger field of psychology.
2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool
3. Examine career opportunities in psychology
5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research
6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

WHAT PSYCHOLOGISTS DO Paper 2

Week 5 Forum

Week 6:

Course Learning Objectives

1. Analyze key issues in the larger field of psychology.
2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool
5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research
6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

Week 6 Forum

Week 7:

Course Learning Objectives

2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool
5. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research
6. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

LITERATURE REVIEW PAPER

Week 8:
Course Learning Objectives

1. Analyze key issues in the larger field of psychology.
2. Investigate the holdings of the University Online Library relevant to the program of study as a research and course-related learning tool
3. Examine career opportunities in psychology
4. Apply sound discipline related methods of gathering, critiquing and writing about peer reviewed research
5. Apply APA style and writing skills appropriate for graduate level work

Assignments

Week 8 Forum

Evaluation

General Assignment Requirements
Students engaging in graduate studies are held to rigorous standards. Graduate students are expected to exhibit advanced level critical thinking, ability to synthesize multiple sources of information, high caliber writing skills and academic integrity in all course activities. Concerning forum discussion assignments, learners will engage with the instructor and peers through rich responses to their posts. To motivate engaged discussion, posts are expected to be on time with regular interaction throughout the week. All posts should demonstrate masters-level writing skills. To promote vibrant discussion as we would in a face to face classroom, formatted citations and references are not required. Quotes should not be used at all, or used sparingly. If you quote a source in your work, an APA formatted citation and reference should be provided; however, this is not required for successful completion of forum posts.

With the exception of forum posts and any other assignments so designated by the course instructor, assignment submissions completed in a narrative essay or composition format may not be written in first or second person (“I” or “you”). Written paper assignments must follow the citation and reference rules established by the American Psychological Association (APA), must be in size 12 Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with 1” margins on all sides of the page and must include a cover page with the following centered vertically and horizontally: Student Name, Date of Submission, Assignment Title, Course Number and Name, and Professor Name.

When reporting on what one reads in any published source, including the course text, providing the source(s) used is required. Failure to do so in both the body of and in a References list attached to the end of the assignment submission and to properly quote very sparingly used verbatim content constitutes plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism, regardless of intent, will result in an assignment score of zero with no option for revision and resubmission for the first incident and course failure for any additional incidents. The website http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/ is an excellent, easy to understand resource for APA style formatting and source citation. APA formatting guides are also included in the classroom Resources folder.

Scholarly, peer-reviewed journals must be used for assignment completion. Unless instructed to do so for specific assignments, students may not use commercial websites as the basis for completion of course work. Encyclopedia websites, such as Wikipedia or Encarta, dictionaries, About.com and other article summary sites, blogs or opinion slanted news media outlets may not be used for any writing assignment.

COURSEWORK

Forums: Due Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8
Weekly dialogs with classmates will be based on engagement with assigned course readings and/or related multi-media and will take place in the online classroom on threaded Forums. A set of topical instructions for each dialog will be posted on its respective Forum weekly by the professor. While designed to promote lively discourse within a community of fellow learners, the dialogs are academic in nature and require a scholarly
orientation, with students supporting their perspectives with source citations both in the post body and references at the end formatted in APA style.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLE SUMMARY: Due Weeks 2 and 6
Students will complete two separate reviews of an evidence-based, peer-reviewed journal article on an important issue in psychology selected from among pre-approved topics. Min page length for each summary is 3 pages.

What Psychologists Do: Due Weeks 3 and 5
During Weeks 3 and 5, students will select 3 professional psychology sub-specialties from a list provided by the professor and submit an investigative report paper covering required information obtained from the American Psychological Association website and one other web source related to the sub-specialties selected. Min page length for each paper is 3 pages.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: Due Week 4
Students will complete a published Literature Review Paper on a topic in psychology that is related to a selected classmate article summary posted on the Week 2 Forum. An annotated bibliography of the 6 to 8 articles used for this paper is due at the end of Week 4 or the course term.

LITERATURE REVIEW PAPER: Due Week 7
Students will complete a Literature Review Paper 15 pages in length and focused on a topic in psychology that is related to a selected classmate article summary posted on the Week 2 Forum. This paper will include summaries and critiques of the 6 to 8 articles annotated in the Annotated Bibliography assignment.

REFLECTION PAPER: Due Week 8
Students will complete a Reflection Paper focused on questions reviewing the course activities and assignments over the past seven weeks. Minimum paper length is 5 pages.

NOTE: Developing the skills applied in completion of the above assignments and the formation of a learning community are essential for success in the Master of Arts in Psychology program. Support in the form of guidance and grading feedback is offered in this orientation course with the expectation that students will carry skills forward and apply them to future program courses in which require engaging in rigorous learning experiences and meeting high standards of writing.

Grading:

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Materials

Book Title: Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Psychological Issues, 19th ed- expanded
Author: Edwin Gantt and Brent Slife
Publication Info: McGraw-Hill
ISBN: 9781259431616

Book Title: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Ed
Author: American Psychological Association
Publication Info: American Psychological Association
ISBN: 9781433805615

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework in the Psychology Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact your instructor before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and
assignments. Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.

**Turn It In**

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

**Academic Dishonesty**

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

**Submission Guidelines**

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc.) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc.). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student’s responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

**Disclaimer Statement**

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

**Communicating on the Forum**

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, you are strongly discouraged from waiting until the due date to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree”, even if wordy and thus, meets the length requirement, is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each other as colleagues. Hateful, aggressive, or hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.

**Quizzes and Exams**

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your assessments.
University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

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