

Proposal Title: PSY 4120 – Advanced Seminar in Psychological Processes

Proposed Change: This proposal is to change the prerequisites for this capstone course.

Current Catalog Description:

PSY 4120 - Advanced Seminar for Psychological Processes
3 Credit Hours

A comprehensive review of the field as summary experience, especially for senior major students planning to enter graduate study. On demand. Prerequisite: 18 hours of psychology or by department head approval.

Proposed Catalog Description:

PSY 4120 - Advanced Seminar for Psychological Processes
3 Credit Hours

A comprehensive review of the field as summary experience, especially for senior major students planning to enter graduate study. Prerequisite: 18 hours of psychology and senior standing (min. 90 credit hours completed), including PSY 2020 or by department head approval.

Rationale: The addition of senior standing as a prerequisite better reflects PSY 4120's status as a capstone course building on a solid foundation of courses in the psychological sciences. With one of its primary goals being the preparation of students for graduate school, this capstone course requires a thorough understanding of Research Methods.

Primary Instructor: Dr. Amanda Clark. Other department faculty are also qualified to teach this course.

Impact on Other Programs/Departments: None are anticipated.

PSY 4120 Syllabus with proposed changes in [bold/italics] follows.

15-083 (R)

ADVANCED SEMINAR FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

Fall 2014 CRN 42370

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays ... 10:00 to 10:50am ... Holt 204

Course: PSY 4120, CRN: 42370
Title: Advanced Seminar for Psychological Processes
Credit: 3 hours
Professor: Dr. Amanda Clark, Holt 350-H, Amanda-Clark@utc.edu
Office Hours: Mondays – 11:30 to 12:30pm and by appointment
Prerequisites 18 CH in Psychology, *including PSY 2020 (to be added)*

COURSE DESCRIPTION and GOALS

FROM THE CATALOG: A comprehensive review of the field as summary experience, especially for senior major students planning to enter graduate study.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Integrate information and research from the subfields of psychology to address issues related to human behavior, cognition, and emotion.
- Read, interpret and apply psychological research published in academic journals.
- Formulate and clearly express, orally and in writing, hypotheses, appropriate review of literature, and analysis of research, supported with evidence and examples as well as logically consistent and fully developed argument.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Each week we will be focusing on a different contemporary topic in psychology. For the most part, I will give a general lecture regarding that topic on Mondays while Wednesdays and Fridays will be reserved for your individual class presentations on the journal articles / book chapters that we will discuss as a class. **Your participation in class discussions is imperative to the success of this course. As such, your attendance in class is mandatory. If you do not attend class on 1 presentation day you will be deducted 2 pts from your thought paper for that week. If you do not attend both presentation days you will be deducted 3 pts from your thought paper for that week.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In-Class Participation	8 %
Weekly Thought Papers (2% per week, lowest of 12 is dropped)	22 %
Class Presentation	15 %
Research Proposal: Annotated Bibliography	10 %
Final Paper	15 %
Assessments (15% each)	30 %
	<hr/>
	100 %

Weekly Thought Papers

Each week you must read the selected literature by the time you come to class on Wednesday. Each Wednesday you will submit a thought paper wherein you write about those pieces of literature. The purpose of these papers is not to summarize the readings, but instead to document your thoughts and reactions to the readings. A helpful guide for writing these thought papers (from the University of Toronto) is linked on Blackboard. Please be certain to read it before you write your first thought paper!

Research Proposal & Annotated Bibliography

For this portion of the course you will submit an annotated bibliography (due on October 27th) and a research proposal (due on December 1st). The purpose of this is to provide you with an opportunity to develop a hypothesis regarding a topic that you personally find interesting and design a study that could be used to test it. This proposal will build on prior research as such you will first submit an annotated bibliography with summaries of 8 scientific peer-reviewed journal articles. Informed by these sources you will then write a 7 to 10 page research proposal that will include an introduction and literature review, a method section (including proposed analyses), an anticipated impact and limitations section and a reference section.

Assessments

There will be two assessments, each worth 15% – one held in class on October 22nd and the other to be held on December 1st, the last day of our class. These assessments will be *non-cumulative* (i.e., once material has been covered on one test, it will not be examined again). Assessments will consist of both multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. Please be sure to arrive at class on time before a test (ideally, a little early) and bring a couple of soft-lead pencils with you. Answer every question on the assessment even if you have to guess (there is no penalty for guessing). *NOTE:* These assessments are very difficult to reschedule, so rescheduling and/or re-weighting will **ONLY** be done for an individual in the event of a legitimate problem, which requires documentation from the Dean of Students (e.g., a doctor's note).

Policy on Late Assignment: Thought papers, annotated bibliography and research proposal will be collected at the beginning of class. ***Absolutely, no late assignments will be accepted.***

COURSE RESOURCES

Course Readings

You will read a variety of academic articles and book chapters each week. I will post a link to the article/chapter on UTC Online. In addition to these readings, I recommend that you have a first year Psychology textbook as a resource. The actual text you use is up to you.

Course Website

You can find the course website on Blackboard (<http://bb4.utc.edu>). At this site you will find links for each week's readings (when available), any relevant PowerPoint slides and other helpful information. This is also where your grades will be posted following each test.

Communication

To enhance student services, the University uses your UTC email address for all communications. Please check your UTC email on a regular basis. If you have problems with accessing your UTC email account, contact the Call Center at 423/425-4000.

Accommodation Statement

Attention: If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric vision, hearing etc) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 435-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall.

Counseling Center Statement

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or <http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>

Honor Code Pledge

I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I exert every effort to insure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and the I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- Avoid being disruptive or disrespectful to your classmates.
 - Be on time for class and do not leave class early.
 - The structure of this course means that every one of your classmates will be presenting at some point. Be respectful of this. There will be no talking during student presentations. If you are asked to participate in class by a classmate– you will. You will not be rude to your fellow classmates during their presentations – if so, you will be removed from class, excused from presenting yourself and given a score of 0.
 - Turn off all electronic devices before the start of class – this includes cell phones and iPods.
 - Use computers in class for only class-related activities. Checking email, playing games, chatting on MSN etc... is distracting for you and the students sitting behind and around you.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>DATES</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>
Aug 18, 20, 22	Introduction to the Class & How to Succeed
Aug 25, 27	<i>ATTITUDES</i> – cognitive dissonance
Aug 29, Sept 3, 5	<i>CONNECTION</i> – theory of mind
Sept 8, 10, 12	<i>ATTACHMENT</i> – parenting
Sept 15, 17, 19	<i>LOVE</i> – falling in love and staying that way
Sept 22, 24, 26	<i>MONEY</i> – the psychology of money
Sept 29, Oct 1, 3	<i>MOTIVATION</i> – being driven
Oct 6, 8, 10	<i>RISK</i> – why we do crazy things
Oct 13, 15, 17	<i>LAW</i> – eye witness testimony
Oct 20	<i>Fall Break – No class</i>
Oct 22	Test One
Oct 24	<i>Proposal Work Day – No class</i>
Oct 27	Annotated Bibliography DUE
Oct 27, 29, 31	<i>THE BRAIN</i> – neurons and traumatic brain injury
Nov 3, 5, 7	<i>ADDICTION</i> – prevention and treatment of substance abuse
Nov 10, 12, 14	<i>ANXIETY</i> – post-traumatic stress disorder
Nov 17, 19, 21	<i>SENSE AND INTEGRATE</i> – synaesthesia
Nov 24	<i>Let's Sum It Up...</i>
Nov 26, 28	<i>Thanksgiving Holidays – No class</i>
Dec 1	Test Two & Research Proposal Due