

Proposal Title: PSY 4610 – Philosophical Psychology

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

Current Catalog Description:

PSY 4610 - Philosophical Psychology
3 Credit Hours

Critical analysis of philosophical aspects of current systems of psychology. Particular focus upon assumptions and consequences of various modes of explanation and description. Fall semester.

Proposed Catalog Description:

PSY 4610 - Philosophical Psychology
3 Credit Hours

Critical analysis of philosophical aspects of current systems of psychology. Particular focus upon assumptions and consequences of various modes of explanation and description. Fall semester. Prerequisite: 18 hours of psychology and senior standing (min. 90 credit hours completed) or department head approval.

Rationale:

Primary Instructor: Dr. Ralph Hood. Other departmental faculty, including Dr. Paul Watson, are also qualified to teach this course.

Impact on Other Programs/Departments: None are anticipated.

PSY 4610 Syllabus with proposed changes in [bold/italics] follows.

15-083 (T)

Philosophical Psychology

Psy 4610 Sec. 0; CRN 21887; Holt Hall; Room 211; Tu 2-4:30

Dr. RALPH W. HOOD, JR

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Office Hrs: MTuWThr 7-9A, or by Apt

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Prerequisites: 18 hours of psychology or department head approval.

Required Texts:

Kelly, E. F. & Kelly, E. W. (2007). *Irreducible mind: Toward a psychology for the 21st. century*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Internet version (Esalen or U. Virginia Meyers, F. W. (1903). *Human personality and its survival of bodily death, 2vols*. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

Course Synopsis: This course is a critical evaluation of largely conceptual issues that plague contemporary psychology. The framing of the course is in terms of the distinction between first person and third person descriptions of human experience and William James' search for a White Crow (e.g. Locke's Black Swan argument) that he claimed to have found in what modern psychology calls anomalous events.

Assignments:

- Prepare six, short (2-4) page reaction papers related to topics which will be assigned during class. Papers should include application of concepts and research related to the assigned topic with appropriate reference to the literature. Papers are assessed on basis of critical use of text, coherence, and originality.
- The final project is a 10-12 page paper for which students may conduct an empirical study, or perform a literature review on a topic of interest related to the conceptual issues covered in the course content.
- All papers should be prepared in APA style and include appropriate citations and references. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font with 1 inch margins.

Grading: 6 mini reaction papers reacting to lectures/reading (40%); class participation (20%); final project (paper/survey/interview) 40%. [*Indicates date mini-paper handed out/due next class period]

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Understand the complex conceptual issues plaguing the practice of modern psychology.
- Read and interpret the professional literature related to the psychological sciences.
- Effectively communicate the results of research in the psychological sciences.

ADA 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 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall <http://www.utc.edu/disability-resource-center/>.

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/counseling-personal-development-center/index.php>.

Sequence of Lecture Topics/Assigned Readings

January	Lecture/Discussion	Relevant Text Readings (In Kelly & Kelly)
07	Intro to course:	Why the White Crow?
14*	Survey of anomalous experiences	Introduction
21	The consciousness debates	Chapter 1 (Hard but do not give up!)
28*	Why Meyers/James?	Chapter 2
February		
04	Psychophysiology: Why death?	Chapter 3
11*	What events can be remembered?	Chapter 4
18	Altered States of Consciousness	Chapter 5
25*	Out of Body & Near Death Experiences	Chapter 6
March		
04	Genius and Madness	Chapter 7
11	Spring Break	
18*	Genius and Madness (cont)	Chapter 7
25	Mysticism	Chapter 8
April		
01	Mysticism (cont)	Chapter 8
08*	Toward a new psychology	Chapter 9
15	Last day of class	Final Paper Due

Note: All papers posted on Blackboard on *date. All papers are to be handed in at beginning of class period on due date. Due date is next class period after *.