Problems in Development  
PSY 475 Section 091 * Summer 2011  
Class Meetings Mondays 12:30PM  
Stephen F. Austin State University

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Instructor: Andrew M Terranova, Ph.D.
Department: Psychology
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Office: ED Room 215K
Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Individual research on a topic agreed upon before registration by a student and supervising faculty member. Prerequisites: Advanced standing and consent of instructor. In this section of the course, students will study development in adolescence, and how current research on development can inform public policy; specifically, whether adolescents who commit serious crimes should be treated as adults.

TEXT AND MATERIALS


PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES or PLOs (What should I learn with a degree in Psychology from SFA?)
PLOs are broad goals regarding the knowledge and skills that students should develop through their coursework in Psychology. The Psychology Program has 5 program learning outcomes, which are all addressed to some degree in this course. These PLOs are listed below.
**Program Learning Outcomes**

| 1. | The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology. |
| 2. | The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation. |
| 3. | The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. |
| 4. | The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues. |
| 5. | The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science. |

**Proficiency Level**

- Advanced
- Mastery

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES or SLOs (What should I learn from this course?)**

By the end of this course, students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues as evidenced by their ability to...

- Describe how psychologists think, how they do research, and what the results of the research mean.
- Critically analyze findings and theories
- Utilize American Psychological Association (APA) style.
- Critically analyze real-world situations in terms of psychological ideas and principles.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

For credit in this course, students will be expected to participate in discussions based on readings and project work with the professor during regularly scheduled meetings. The students will be evaluated on the quality project related work, discussions about assigned readings, and on a paper summarizing the research and reading completed during the course.

This is a Writing Enhanced Course, thus there are some specific requirements for this course that are required for all writing enhanced courses. These requirements are...

1. Each student will write a minimum of 3000 words or 10 pages throughout the semester.
2. The course will include instruction in discipline-based writing among its objectives.
3. Each student will be required to revise and re-submit at least one assignment during the term.
4. Out-of-class writing assignments will count for a minimum of 20% of the course grade.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance to weekly meetings is required. Excessive absences will directly affect a student’s grades because the student will miss graded discussions and will not be able to conduct the required research project related duties (e.g., data collection, coding, analysis, etc.).

**GRADING POLICY**

25 Points for attendance to meetings
25 Points for participation in discussions with the professor throughout the semester
50 points for performance on a page paper
100 Points
A 10 Point Grading Scale Will be Used

A = 90-100% of Points  
B = 80-89% of Points  
C = 70-79% of Points  
D = 60-69% of Points  
F = 60% of Points or Less

Posting Grades: Grades will be discussed between the professor and student during regularly scheduled meetings.

A guiding principle in this (and any) course is to READ EARLY and READ OFTEN. You will maximize the benefits of this course by finding and completing your readings as soon as possible. I also encourage you to ask questions, both to foster our one-on-one discussions and to ensure that you have an understanding of the chosen research topic.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, Policy A-9.1 (Don’t cheat because bad things will happen!)

This course adheres strictly to the University’s policy on academic integrity. Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54). Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities. To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Changes in Course Requirements. The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus and course requirements as necessary. Students are responsible for keeping up with all syllabus changes.