Independent Study in Psychology (PSY 475)
Stephen F. Austin State University
Spring 2019

Instructor: Scott Alan Hutchens, Ph.D.
Department Psychology
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Office Hours: TBD

Required Reading:
The student will work with the instructor to build a collection of relevant research articles.

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.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES or PLOs
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.

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<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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<td>1. The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>2. The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>4. The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.</td>
<td>Mastery</td>
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<td>5. The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES or SLOs
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 with the professor during scheduled meetings. Students will be evaluated on the quality of participation and a 10-page research report (excluding title page and reference pages) completed during the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Students must be punctual and meet with the instructor for scheduled meetings. Failure to do so will negatively affect the students’ participation points.

GRADING POLICY
20 Points for participation in discussions with the professor throughout the semester
80 points for performance on 10-page research report (excluding title page and reference pages)
100 Points

Grading Scale
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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, Policy A-9.1
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/](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.