Independent Study in Advanced Research (PSY 475)
Section 001
Stephen F. Austin State University
Spring 2020

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Office Hours:

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<th>Monday</th>
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Required Reading:
Student will read at least 15 peer-reviewed research articles, which will be obtained by the student through PsychInfo.

Course Description:
Individual research on a topic agreed upon before registration by a student and supervising faculty member. In this section of the course, students will review, summarize, and organize literature into a 15 minute professional-level research presentation, which will be presented to a small group of faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites: Advanced standing and consent of instructor.

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.

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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>Mastery</td>
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<td>4. The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.</td>
<td>Advanced</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 (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, the student will be expected to participate in discussions based on readings and project work with the professor during regularly scheduled meetings, independently find and review research articles related to topic, and develop a written report or verbal presentation that summarizes findings. The student will be evaluated on the quality of project related work, and on the report summarizing the research.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
The student should plan to complete work independently and should plan on meeting with Dr. Pearte to briefly discuss progress on at least a monthly basis. If the student should need additional meetings, they can be scheduled as needed; the student should understand that he or she is responsible for asking for individual meetings with Dr. Pearte.

GRADING POLICY
25 Points for participation in discussions with the professor throughout the semester
25 points for participating in lab meetings
25 points for generating presentation
25 points for delivering presentation
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

You can maximize the benefits of this course by completing readings in addition to the ones assigned by Dr. Pearte. This will enhance your experience and the specialized knowledge that you are expected to develop in this course. I also encourage you to ask questions, both to foster our one-on-one discussions and to ensure that you have an understanding of your chosen research topic.

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/.

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.

If at any point during the semester you are concerned about your grade, you are encouraged to talk with Dr. Pearte as soon as possible.