

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY
Department of Psychology
Course Syllabus

Course: University Seminar (1 credit hour)

Catalog # 09.100.22

Fall 2009

Web: WWW.LEITZEL.COM

Office: McCormick 2123

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Course Schedule: M W 4:30-5:20 pm (Through 10-21-09)

Office hours: MW 10:20-11 am & 12-1pm, F 10:20am-12noon

Course Description:

Promotes a successful transition to college life for new freshmen through the presentation of critical information about the university's academic program. This section is specifically for psychology majors.

Learning Objectives

1. To familiarize students with the goals and objectives of the general education program as stated in the course catalog through relevant activities.
2. To provide students with information and skills to promote retention.
3. To provide students with study skills, critical thinking skills and organizational skills to promote academic success.
4. To foster a respect for each other and for cultural diversity.
5. To introduce skills that foster career development.
6. To facilitate the identification and adaptation of effective life management skills.
7. To promote lifelong learning.
8. To provide information about the range of career options in the field of psychology along with the necessary preparation.

Students will demonstrate their attainment of these learning objectives during class discussions, on their written assignments, and on exams and quizzes.

Required Text: 1. Ellis, D. (2009). *Becoming a Master Student (12th ed.)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance

Attendance is required for all class meetings; one absence is allowed without penalty. Exceeding one absence will result in a reduction of your attendance/participation grade, one point off per absence beyond the first (I also track late arrivals and count each two as an additional absence). You remain responsible for any material presented or announcements that are made in class, even if you are not present. Since exam items will be taken from both the textbook for the course and material not in the book that either I or our guest speakers present during class, it is in your best interest to be present for class. Participation is also an important part of your attendance/ participation grade.

2. Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will cover all material from the assigned readings and topics discussed during class (including guest speaker presentations) as well as any films or videos we watch in class. Make-up exams will only be administered in the event of a student illness, family member death, or official University activity. If such circumstances prevent you from being present for an exam, you should contact me as soon as it is clear that you will not be present for the exam. You should contact me to schedule a time to take a make-up exam prior to the class meeting following the exam. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a grade of zero for the exam in question. Only under truly extraordinary circumstances will more than one make-up exam be allowed for any student during the semester.

3. Career paper

Each student will investigate a specific area of psychology that they are interested in pursuing as a career. If you have no idea of what specific area you are interested in at this point, you should use this assignment to explore an area you think that you might be interested in. A good place to start this assignment is <http://www.apa.org/topics/psychologycareer.html>. The paper will involve researching the details of the specific area of psychology, including necessary preparation and possible employment settings as well as meeting with your advisor and another psychology department faculty member whose interests are most directly related to the area you are investigating. The career paper is due on or before 10-28-09 at 4:30 pm.

4. Quizzes/Assignments

There will be a number of quizzes and assignments, at least a couple of brief in class quizzes (they may be announced or unannounced) based on the assigned readings and other brief writing assignments and activities. Details of these assignments and activities will follow.

5. Journal entries

Since research evidence clearly indicates that actively working with the material one is studying results in greater retention, I am requiring that you complete the journal entries contained within all of the assigned readings in the textbook. On or after the date that a journal entry should have been completed, I may ask you to turn in a given journal entry. These will be marked as either acceptable or unacceptable

Evaluation/grading

Attendance/participation	20 points	Quizzes/Assignments	20 points total
Exam #1	15 points	Career paper	15 points
Final Exam	20 points	Journal entries	10 points

Grade Ranges

A = 90-100 B = 80-89.99 C = 70-79.99 D = 60-69.99 E = <60

All of the PowerPoint presentations for the lectures will be available via my website, simply go to the page for this course and click on the appropriate chapter. There is also a link to the textbook publisher's homepage for our textbook, on this site you will find a lot of information that will be useful to you for this course.

Course Schedule (subject to modification)

Tentative course schedule (subject to change, any changes will be discussed in class) exact exam date for the midterm will be announced in class, this schedule provides the approximate, but not exact date. Under the topic listing "J#" denotes a journal entry that should be completed by the date listed.

Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
8-31	Course overview, introductions	
9-2	Making transitions (J1, J2) No class 9-7 Labor Day	Introduction
9-9	Time (J6, J7)	Chapter 2
9-14	First steps (J3, J4, J5) Guest speaker - Ms. M. Theresa Bloskey, Student Support Services	Chapter 1
9-16	Time management lecture – process/discuss time logs	
9-21	Memory (J8, J9) Guest Speaker – Dr. William Harrar, Director Counseling and Human Development Center	Chapter 3
9-23	Reading (J10, J11) Guest Speakers – Ms. Carol Barnett, Career Services & Ms. Patricia Weinhofer, Academic Advisement	Chapter 4
9-28	Class meeting- in library – 2 nd floor Classroom-Computer Lab – rm. 243 Presentation by Ms. Katie Yelinek, Coordinator of Government Documents	
9-30	Exam #1	
10-5	Cover exam Notes (J12, J13, J14)	Chapter 5
10-7	Tests (J15, J16, J17, J18, J19) Reading/summarizing a psychological journal article	Chapter 6 Handout
10-12	Thinking/Communicating (J20, J21, J22, J23, J24, J25)	Chapter 7 & Chapter 8
10-14	Health (J31, J32, J33, J34, J35)	Chapter 11
10-19	Diversity (J26, J27, J28) Guest Speaker – Senior Psychology Majors Matt Fleming & Jessalyn Klein	Chapter 9
10-21	Final Exam	